

shares her mantra that has proved to be a game changer in getting through tough moments LEISURE | P2

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 294 I www. orissapost.com

NATIONAL | P9 **BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | JANUARY 24, 2025**

train tragedy in which 12 people

lost their lives

prices by up to ₹32,500 across various models from February 1

BUSINESS | P11

World champion D Gukesh becomes the highest-ranked Indian chess player, at fourth, in the latest FIDE rankings

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

NCLAT relief for Meta

New Delhi, Jan 23: The

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

Thursday stayed the five-year

ban imposed by Competition Commission of India (CCI)

on data-sharing practices be-

tween WhatsApp and Meta for

advertising purposes, offering a breather to the tech giant.

Meta welcomed the NCLAT's

decision to grant a partial stay

on the CCI's order and said it

steps, our focus remains on find-

ing a path forward that supports millions of businesses that de

pend on our platform for growth

and innovation as well as provid

ing high-quality experiences that

people expect from WhatsApp, a Meta spokesperson said. In No

vember, the CCI imposed a penal-

ty of ₹213.14 crore on social media

major Meta for unfair business

ways with respect to the WhatsApp

privacy policy update done in 2021

had challenged this order before

the NCLAT, which is an appellate

authority over the orders passed

by the CCI. In its 156-page order,

the CCI had November 18, 2024

directed Meta to cease and desist

from anti-competitive practices.

been asked to implement cer-

tain behavioural remedies with-

in a defined timeline to address

the anti-competition issues.

According to that CCI order, Meta and WhatsApp have also

Meta Platforms and WhatsApp

"While we will evaluate next

will evaluate next steps.

AGENCIES

Kapil, Remo, Rajpal get threat mails

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jan 23: The Mumbai police have registered a case after threat mails were sent to people from the entertainment industry, including comedian Kapil Sharma, actor Rajpal Yadav and choreographer Remo D'Souza, an official said Thursday.

The Amboli police registered an FIR after a mail was sent from a person named "Vishnu" to actor Rajpal Yadav December 14 last year. The mail threatened to harm the actor, his family and comedian Kapil Sharma, the official said.

"We have been monitoring vour recent activities, and we believe it is imperative that we bring a sensitive matter to your attention. This is not a publicity stunt or an attempt to harass you," the email said, asking them to "treat this message with the utmost seriousness and confidentiality"

Preliminary inquiry suggest ed that the mail, sent from the mail ID 'don99284@gmail.com', was sent from Pakistan, the police official said, adding that the investigation into the matter is underway.

Meanwhile, choreographer Remo D'Souza and singer and stand-up comedian Sugandha Mishra have approached the Oshiwara police station with similar complaints, he added.



New York: Spanish-language musical crime film written and directed by Jacques Audiard Emilia Pérez has led Oscar nominations, which were revealed Thursday. The film scored 13 noms, setting a record for a non-English-language film. That surpasses the previous record holders, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and Roma, which each earned 10. Following Emilia Pérez were The Brutalist and Wicked, which tied with 10 noms apiece. A Complete Unknown and Conclave followed with eight mentions each. All five of those



BLAZE RAGES: Emergency vehicles at the scene of the Hughes fire in Castaic, a northwestern neighbourhood of Los Angeles, California. Firefighters fought to maintain the upper hand on a huge and rapidly moving wildfire that swept through rugged mountains north of Los Angeles and resulted in more than 50,000 people being put under evacuation orders or warnings

Man kills wife, boils body parts in pressure cooker

In a ghastly reminder of one of the most bizarre and gory murders in Bhubaneswar that shook the country in 2013, an ex-serviceman in Telangana allegedly killed his wife following a fight and boiled her chopped body



the complaint. The police, which took up the probe into the missing complaint, scanned the footage of CCTVs in front of the house. They did not find any visuals of Madhavi leaving the house while the suspicious movements of Guru

CCPA notice to CM: Little mention of Apple, Ola, Uber Netaji's legacy in books

AGENCIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: The Central **Consumer Protection Authority** (CCPA) has issued notices to tech giant Apple Inc and cab aggregators Ola and Uber following consumer complaints about software performance and pricing disparities, Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said Thursday.

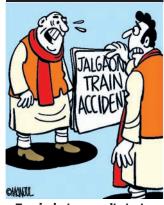
Apple has been asked to re

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, Jan 23: Despite the fact that the British had acknowledged Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Fauj cut short their rule in India, unfortunately the legacy of the great patriot finds little mention in books on India's freedom struggle, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Thursday. Majhi made this remark after inaugurating the three-day Parakram Diwas celebrations organised by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Ministry of Culture at Barabati Fort in Cuttack, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter. Though the country has been celebrating Parakram Diwas since 2021, this is the first time that the event is being held in Cuttack, Netaji's birthplace. "Odisha and Cuttack are proud of Netaji, who emerged as a great nationalist and a true patriot," Majhi said. Expressing concern about the limited discussion on Netaji in Indian history books, Majhi said, "The British and some historians acknowledge that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Fauj had abruptly brought the colonial rule to an end. It is unfortunate that there is little men-



films will compete for best picture with Anora, Dune: Part Two, I'm Still Here, Nickel Boys and The Substance. **P2**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Tragic, but we can't start a campaign against rumours... it might make us lose elections

parts in a pressure cooker before disposing of those in a lake to destroy evidence last week. In the Bhubaneswar incident, retired Army doctor Somnath Parida had killed his wife. Ushasree Samal. in a fit of rage. Parida, then 78, later cut her body into 300 pieces. which were found stuffed in small tiffin boxes around 19 days after the crime. According to psychologist Wanlop Pivamanotham and criminologist Natee Jitsawang, murderers, who dismember their victims, often have professional experience or childhood trauma.

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Jan 23: A 45-yearold man allegedly killed his wife, dismembered her body and boiled the parts in a pressure cooker before dumping the remains in a lake last week, police said. According to police sources,

Guru Murthy and Venkata Madhavi, 35, from Prakasam district

of Andhra Pradesh had been living in a rented house in New Venkateswara Nagar Colony in Jillelaguda under Rangareddy district with their two children for the last five years.

Police said they took up the investigation after Madhavi's mother Subbamma lodged a complaint January 18 that she was missing. According to the complaint, Madhavi had left the house after a fight with her husband. Guru Murthy, an ex-serviceman employed as a security guard, had accompanied Subbamma to

Meerpet police station to lodge

Sydney, Jan 23: The rare un-

Murthy were recorded.

Police grilled Guru Murthy, who initially tried to mislead the investigators but finally admitted to his crime late Wednesday night. However, the police are not entirely depending on the statement of the accused for the probe as he gave incoherent answers to some of the questions. Pending recovery of body parts, cops were yet to formally arrest Guru Murthy.

The accused reportedly shared shocking details of his brutal act. The couple had an argument January 16 when the children were away. In a fit of rage, the accused hit her head with a heavy object resulting in her death. To dispose of the body, he cut it into pieces with a chopper. He then put the pieces in a pressure cooker and boiled those. The accused later packed the pieces in plastic covers and threw those in a nearby lake, police said. Different police teams were working to gather clues both from the house and the lake.

spond to technical issues report ed by iPhone users after a recent software update. "The department, after examining consumer grievances, has issued a notice to Apple through the CCPA, seek ing a response on the matter,' Joshi said in a social media post A survey by LocalCircles revealed that 60 per cent of iPhone users experienced service problems, with call failures being the most significant issue

Separately, Ola and Uber have been served notices concerning allegations of differential pricing based on users' mobile operating systems. "As a follow-up to the earlier observation of apparent #DifferentialPricing based on the different models of mobiles (#iPhones/#Android) being used, Department of Consumer Affairs through the CCPA has is sued notices to major cab aggregators #Ola and #Uber, seeking their responses," Joshi said in a social media post.

Sydney's stinky corpse flower captivates thousands

tion of Netaji's legacy in books on India's freedom struggle.'

Majhi further highlighted Ne taji's dedication to the nation saying, "Netaji refused to serve under British rule even though he was selected for the coveted Indian Civil Services. He pre ferred the path of struggle for India's freedom and met Mahat ma Gandhi in Mumbai in 1921 The rest, as they say, is history.

"Netaii's death remains a mys terv despite his outstanding con tribution to the freedom struggle Let us pledge to build a 'devel oped India, developed Odisha inspired by Netaji's ideals," Maihi said. The CM emphasised the importance of educating future generations about Netaji's life and his connection to Cuttack.

After arriving in Cuttack Majhi visited Netaji's birthplace at Odia Bazar, where he paid floral tributes to the stat ue of Netaji and attended an art exhibition.

Won't tolerate disruptions in House by Oppn: Speaker

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 23: Ahead of the Budget session of the Odisha Assembly scheduled to begin next month. Speaker Surama Padhy Thursday said that the House will not tolerate disruptions or obstructions by Opposition members.

Padhy, who recently attended the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference at Patna, said there is a need to maintain discipline in the Assembly.

"The House will welcome constructive suggestions from Opposition members, but not tolerate disruptions or obstructions by Opposition members,"

Padhy told reporters here on the sidelines of a function.

furling of an endangered plant She said the Opposition parthat emits the smell of decaying ties should play a constructive flesh drew thousands of devoted role and provide suggestions fans to a greenhouse in Sydney during the session. However, the Thursday where they joined House will not tolerate any ruckthree-hour lines to experience us or obstruction. The third sesa momentous bloom - and a frasion of 17th Assembly will begin grance evoking gym socks and February 13 and conclude April rotting garbage. 5. Chief Minister Mohan Cha-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tall, pointed and smelly, the corpse flower is scientifically known as amorphophallus titanum - or bunga bangkai in Indonesia, where the plants are found in the Sumatran rainforest.

But to fans of this specimen, she's Putricia – a portmanteau of 'putrid' and 'Patricia' eagerly adopted by her followers who,

naturally, call themselves Putricians. For a week, she has graced a stately and gothic display in front of a purple curtain and wreathed in mist from a humidifier at the Royal Sydney Botanic Garden.

Her rise to fame has been rapid. with up to 20,000 admirers filing past for a moment in her increasingly pungent presence. No corpse flower has bloomed at the garden for 15 years.

A SLOW BLOOMER There are thought to be on-

ly 300 of the plants in the wild and fewer than 1,000 including those in cultivation. The corpse flower only blooms every 7-10 vears in its natural habitat.

"The fact that they open very rarely, so they flower rarely, is



obviously something that puts them at a little bit of a disadvantage in the wild," said garden spokesperson Sophie Daniel, who designed Putricia's kooky and funereal display. "When they open, they have to hope that another flower is open nearby, because they can't self-pollinate.'

Putricia's flower was spotted in December when she was just 25 centimetres high. By Thursday, she was 1.6 metres tall.

During the day, her flower spike slowly opened like a pleated skirt around a majestic central tuber, the yellow-green outer curling to reveal a burgundy centre.

PUTRICIA-MANIA BUILDS

As excitement grew in Sydney about the unfolding bloom, gar den staff installed crowd barriers giving the Victorian greenhouse the air of a rock concert. Fans trod a red carpet to view Putricia from behind velvet ropes in a display inspired by Queen Vic toria's funeral, the Rocky Horror Picture Show and the oeuvre of the late director David Lynch.

Inside, fans took selfies and leaned in for a sniff - a more perilous prospect as Putricia's odour developed. People inhaled the 'slaughterhouse' stench and cancelled their dinner plans said Sydney Morning Herald science reporter Angus Dalton.

"I am sickened," he added. "I am in awe."







ran Maihi, who also holds the

Finance portfolio, will table the

Budget for 2025-26 February 17.

sembly will have a total of 28

business days as per the pro-

visional calendar. An all-party

meeting will be held before the

commencement of the session.

The Budget session of the As-









DICAPRIO, SCORSESE IN TALKS FOR THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY

Hollywood veteran Martin Scorsese and star Leonardo DiCaprio are revisiting *The Devil* in the White City, the long-gestating feature adaptation of Erik Larson's 2003 true-crime nonfiction book. The film is in an early stage of development and does not have a script.

OSCARS TO HONOUR LA AS 'CITY OF DREAMS'

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences sent a letter to members ahead of Oscar nominations that said the ceremony will honour Los Angeles as the "city of dreams" and the heart of the film industry.



FORTUNE **Forecast**

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You are very sensitive, and some people will disturb your peace of mind today. However, getting irritated will only make matters worse. Reflect in isolation what may be at the root of the problem. Ganesha says it is closer to you than

vou think.

TAURUS

Today, says Ganesha, you will are likely to encounter someone who is bent upon provoking and getting on your nerves. You are urged not to retaliate and do things unbecoming of your good nature. Keep calm and unruffled. Respond and behave in a manner befitting your better nature. Do not allow the other to spoil your composure, your graciousness.

GEMINI

You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today. You will have to waste a lot of time in fulfilling the demands made by those around you. However, the more demands you fulfill, the more their expectations vill rise, says Ganesha



The day is very favourable, says Ganesha, You will feel a sense of joy and happiness with your valuable possessions. You may fall into love or have a strong romantic ties with someone. A great time for lovers. Ganesha foresees chance of having new contacts and ties.

Your entire day will be spent at work. Those working in large corporations will have to fulfill heightened expectations from their superiors. Housewives will need to tackle other work, apart from their daily chores. It is an important day for you, says Ganesha

VIRGO

You will stay away from part-nership ventures. Ganesha says you have the ability to control large-scale projects on your own. You have leadership qualities, and will be able to coordinate team work and direct your colleagues to get the required amount of work from them.

Ganesha says you will put everything aside to pay more attention to your outward appearance and your beauty as you will be more aware about it. People will get attracted to your beauty today. You will be able

to share your own ideas and thoughts with

IFFB: DAY II

'The jungle belongs to Adivasis, not Maoists'



Marathi film director Chattrapal Ninawe responding to an audience question while FSB president Subrat Beura looks on

Bhubaneswar, Jan 23: A series of captivating short films and engaging discussions Thursday here at the Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra (GKCM) Odissi Research Centre marked the second day of the 14th Indian Film Festival of

power.

Bhubaneswar (IFFB) organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB). The day's screen-

ings began with three thought-provoking short films. Jooyein by Vindhya Gupta told the story of Roshni, a girl whose world begins to unravel when she discovers a personal secret, leading her to make a desperate pact with an ostracised classmate. Shashwat Dwivedi's Bobby Beauty

Parlour explored human connections and friendship in a small-town beauty salon, blending humour with social commentary. Bonita Rajpurohit's If You Know, You Know tackled modern-day struggles, particularly in friendships and

self-acceptance. The retrospective segment featured Girish Kasaravalli's Tai Saheba, a poignant film that the event.

PEANUTS

reflected the struggles of a matriarch torn between tradition and her personal desires, showcasing the complexities of aging and

In the post-lunch session, the audience was captivated by Berlinale award-winner Ghaath, a Marathi thriller by Chhattrapal Ninawe, which deals with the tense relationship between an undercover Maoist, a cop, and a tribal woman in the jungles near Nagpur. In the interaction with audience Ninawe, who hails from the Halba-Koshti indigenous community, said, "The jungle belongs to the Adivasis, not the Maoists. All relationships are based on trust, and that is the perspective I want-

The day concluded with the quirky dark comedy

grown English daily Orissa POST, and Odia daily Dharitri are the print media parterns of

Emilia Pérez leads Oscar nominations

New York: Spanish-language musical crime film Emilia Pérez, written and directed by Jacques Audiard, has led Oscar nominations. which were revealed Thursday.

The film scored 13 noms, setting a record for a non-English-language film. That surpasses the previous record holders, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and Roma, which each earned 10.

Following Emilia Pérez were The Brutalist and Wicked, which tied with 10 noms apiece. AComplete Unknown and Conclave followed with eight mentions each.

All five of those films will compete for best picture with Anora. Dune: Part Two, I'm Still Here, Nickel Boys and The Substance. Coralie Fargeat, who directed the latter film, was the only female to be nominated in

Anuja earns a nod

ndian cinema celebrates another Oscar nomination as *Anuja*, a sho Oscar nomination as *Anuja*, a short film backed by Priyanka Chopra and Guneet Monga, secures a coveted spot in the Best Live Action Short Film category at the 2025 Academy Awards. The film follows the titula Anuja, who works in a garment factory in Delhi alongside her sister Palak, portrayed by Anaı hag. When she is faced with a life-altering decision, the responsibi ity of her family's future rests heavi on her young shoulders.

the best directing category, and also scored a writing nom, while star Demi Moore landed the first Oscar nom of her career, as did Isabella Rossellini for Conclave.

Karla Sofía Gascón, the Spanish-born star of Emilia Pérez. was nominated for best actress, making her the first openly transgender performer to be so honoured. Audiard picked

up two noms for the film, for best director and best adapted screenplay, while Zoe Saldaña landed a supporting acting nom for her performance. Wicked's noms included

acting noms for Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, while The Brutalist landed mentions for director Brady Corbet, who also shares a writing nom with Mona Fastvold, and for stars Adrien Brody, Felicity Jones and Guy Pearce.

Other acting nominees include Sebastian Stan and Jeremy Strong for The Ap prentice, Timothée Chalamet and Monica Barbaro for A Complete Unknown, Ralph Fiennes for Conclave and Colman Domingo for Sing Sing, among others. Strong will compete in the same category as his former Succes-



nominated for A Real Pain. Among the studios, Netflix leads with 16 noms.

Sam's mantra to beat odds

Chennai: Actress Samantha has shared a simple and powerful mantra that has proved to be a game changer for her with her fans.

The popular actress, who is rated as one of the top heroines in the Tamil and Telugu film industries, Thursday shared on Instagram her mantra to get through tough moments.

In a post titled, 'Gratitude and Delight', she wrote, "I've been practicing this little ritual for the past two years, and it's what's got me through some of my toughest moments. It's simple but powerful: taking a moment to appreciate where I've been, where I am, and what lies ahead. I know it sounds squishy but it really isn't and there's enough data to prove that it helps.

The actress encouraged her followers to write down three things that people were grateful for. "If writing comes naturally to you, jot down three things you're grateful for today — they don't have to be big, just honest. But if writing feels hard or forced, that's okay too. Try saying it in your head or sharing it with someone you trust. Sometimes, just sitting with a quiet "thank you" in your heart is

also enough." IAN

Taapsee's career changing moment

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu recently reflected on the pivotal moment in her career when a brief yet impactful role in the 2015 film Baby helped shape her trajectory in the industry.

On the occasion of the film's 10th anniversary, the actress shared that the 7-minute sequence in the film was a turning point, leaving a lasting impact that changed the direction of her career for the better.

Reflecting on her iconic 7-minute appearance, Taapsee shared, "Dear actors, the number of minutes doesn't matter, the impact you leave with what vou do in those minutes... matters :). 7 minutes that changed the direction of the tide for me FOR

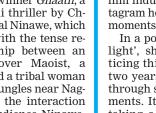
truly, Naam Shabana." After her standout role as Shabana in Baby, Taapsee took the character to new heights in the 2017 released film Naam Shabana, where her action-packed performance earned widespread acclaim. The 37-year-old actress is also

known for her roles in films like Pink alongside Amitabh Bachchan and Mission Mangal, where she starred opposite Akshay Kumar.

Taapsee Pannu will next be seen in the upcoming action-thriller Gandhari, where she plays a fierce on a relentless mis sion to rescue

her abduct ed child





ed to bring to the film."

Dead Dead Full Dead by Pratul Gaikwad, which explored life, death, and the surreal nature of existence. State's only home-

sion co-star Kieran Culkin,

their views and from their experiences.

SCORPIO

You are ready to take up the challenges that life has to throw at you. Thanks to the confidence within you, which gives you power to fight it out against all odds. Even if you take up a mammoth task, you are bound to succeed today, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

The day begins on a bright note and you decide to flaunt your sunny side up, foresees Ganesha. At home front, sharing of work with your partner will keep the home atmosphere peaceful and harmonious. Both of you discover a joy is cleaning and cooking together.

CAPRICORN

Practical and creative, you are able to utilise your talents in the best possible manner.

You will smartly solve family issues, with out favouring or hurting anybody, says Ganesha. You'll like to play the role of a peace maker, as it gives you satisfaction from within. Also, you will love to help others as much as you can.

Be it about solving financial issues or concerns about income, money matters will keep your mind occupied through out the day. You will have a gala time with your friends later on the day, predicts Gane-sha. Not that you don't value your friends, but today, you will realise how important you are for one another.

PISCES

You are fond of traveling and are always looking for an excuse to set off. Hence it comes as no surprise if you pack your bags and decide to embark upon a journey on a whim today. It is a much needed break too, from the daily stresses of earning a livelihood. While you are seeking solitude, you will take your friends and relatives along with you on the trip, says Ganesha.

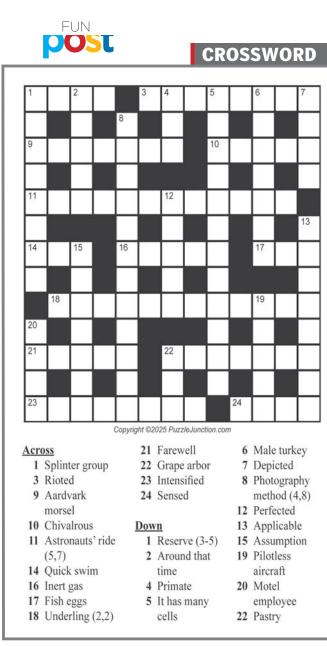


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

GOOD. Yours

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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	8	3				5	
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3			6		8		9

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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E		Μ		U		R		0		Ν		1	
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1		А		Ν		F		Е		R		А	
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4	8	3	6	2	5	7	9	1
1	5	6	4	7	9	2	8	3
5	4	1	3	8	2	9	7	6
3	7	8	9	4	6	1	5	2
6	9	2	7	5	1	3	4	8



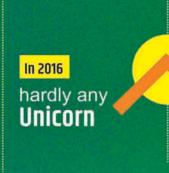


P3

9 VEB 5 of **Startup India Monumental Achievements, Non-stop Progress**









48% of startups now have at least one woman director



17.2 Lakh+ direct Jobs created across various sectors





OrissaPOST

FRIDAY | JANUARY 24, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown



Missing Navy official seen at AP rly station

Bhubaneswar/Berhampur. Jan 23: A 26-vear-old Navy official who has been "missing" since Sunday, was last seen disembarking from a train at the Ichchapuram railway station in Andhra Pradesh, and leaving the premises in an autorickshaw, a police officer said.

The Navy official, Sourav Kumar Patra, left his hometown Berhampur in Odisha's Ganjam district to join duty at a Naval unit in Kerala's Kochi in the early hours of Sunday.

His family could not contact him since then and registered a complaint with the police Wednesday

During the investigation, the police found that the official deboarded a train at Ichchapuram railway station in Andhra Pradesh the same day.

"CCTV footage showed the Navy official Sourav Kumar Patra stepping out of the train at the station and boarding an auto-rickshaw later," the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Town Police Station, Berhampur, Soubhagya Swain, said.

After verification of the CCTV footage, the police found

Workshop on NEP ends

Bhubaneswar: A three-day workshop on implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 ended at the Regional Institute of Education here Thursday. Ten groups discussed key aspects, including curriculum frameworks, dropout reduction teacher training, and digital education. Suggestions included introducing Sishu Vatika by 2025, developing Odishaspecific textbooks, and improving ICT in higher secondary institutions. The workshop emphasised creating a single State Curriculum Framework (SCF) reflecting Odisha's cultural diversity and drafting a vision document on the state's educational legacy

WFATHER

	n.	
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.4°	28.8°
Min Temp	16.6°	16.1°
Humidity	87%	92%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAS Fog/mist in the and mainly cle sky later	e morning	Ž



out that he was leaving the Ichchapuram railway station on his own. He safely boarded the autorickshaw from the railway station Sunday, the police officer said.

Preliminary investigation indicated that he might have returned to Berhampur and thereafter. left for Bhubaneswar in a bus, the police officer said, adding that his voter ID card was found from the over-bridge at Lanjipalli in the city. He also left his laptop at home.

"We have seized all and verified his call detail records (CDR)," Swain said.

Patra's uncle Amulya Kumar Jena said the Navy official did not reach Kochi.

Police said two cases have been registered in the incident, one at Berhampur Town Police Station and another with the Government Railway Police (GRP) Station in Berhampur. Patra joined the Indian Navy

in 2019 and was working in the communication section at the Naval base in Kerala's Kochi, his family said Wednesday.

He had come home last month to attend a marriage ceremony, his brother Sameer said. According to Sameer's complaint, Sourav Patra left home early Sunday (January 19) morning and took a train to Visakhapatnam. He was supposed to catch a flight to Kochi at 12.30 pm from there.

His phone was switched off soon after he left home Sunday morning, Sameer said.

After getting no information about his whereabouts, the family lodged a missing complaint with the Berhampur Town police station Wednesday.

The missing official's family has urged the police and the Indian Navy to trace Patra as soon as possible



startup companies, specialising in marine biotechnology, aquaculture, and tourism, reflecting state's growing prominence in the blue economy landscape.

IN FULL SWING: Parade rehearsal for Republic Day at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Joining on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati

blue economy vision. With an extensive coastline of over 400km, Odisha is poised to play a significant role in advancing India's maritime sector, she

said. Union government's depart-

KIIT hosts int'l conference on blue economy said. "Marine ecosystems pro vide an economic engine that includes fisheries, tourism, and biotechnology, contributing bil lion annually.

OP PHOTO

PSA scientific secretary Parvinder Maini, BRIC-ILS di rector Debasish Dash and KIIT TBI CEO Mrutyunjay Suar also shared their perspectives on the occasion.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta said, "Blue economy encompasses a range of activities, including fisher ies, aquaculture, and tourism This conference is a step toward shaping Bharat's own growth model by utilising marine resources sustainably," he said.

The Vice Chancellor KIIT-DU Prof. Saranjit Singh also attend

National road safety week raises awareness in Odisha

Volunteers engage the public in safety campaigns across City to tackle road accidents and promote responsible driving



RESHMI YADAV, OF

Bhubaneswar, Jan 23: Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Khurda (NYK), in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Traffic Commissionerate Police, observed National Road Safety Week 2025 to address the alarming rate of road accidents in Odisha, where 5,000 lives are lost

annually. Held from January 19 to 23, the event mobilised 500 volunteers at key locations

across Bhubaneswar, includ-

ing Gohiria Square, Madan-

pur Square, KIIT University

Square, Patia Square and other.

street plays, and slogans to

emphasise critical safety issues

like the dangers of drunk-driv-

ing, the importance of wearing

helmets, and adopting cautious

NYK state director Shivaji

Murlidhar Kharat, emphasised

driving habits.

Volunteers used placards.



the key to road safety. Drivers must remain alert and cautious at all times," he said, adding that youth play a vital role in tackling issues like drunk-driving and non-compliance with safety gear.

The initiative was overseen by district youth officer Vipin Kumar, with support from Suvendranath Sahoo and Kulamani Mallik. The programme aimed to foster collective responsibility for road safety and

Reports indicate that road ac-

cidents claim over one lakh lives

annually in India, with Odisha

contributing to more than 47.000

factors

over-speeding, drunk-driv-

ing, and mobile phone use.

The campaign underscored

the urgent need for safe driv-

ing practices to combat these

preventable tragedies

include

fatalities in the last decade.

Key

reduce the loss of lives.

heritage and resources. It also showcased work of 50 **Mo Buses' collision** in City leaves 4 hurt

POST NEWS NETWORK

tainable growth.

across the globe.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 23: An in-

ternational conference on Blue

Economy at KIIT University

was organised here Thursday,

focusing on potential of marine

ecosystems in advancing sus-

Held in collaboration with

Bhubaneswar City Knowledge

Innovation Cluster (BCKIC),

BRIC-ILS and IIT Ropar, the

event saw over 800 partici-

pants including policymakers,

researchers, and students from

The event was marked by

insightful discussions, exhibi-

tions, and a renewed focus on

BHUBANESWAR: Four people were iniured in a vehicle pile-up. involving two Mo Buses and two cars, in Bhubaneswar Thursday morning, police said. The accident occurred around 8.30 am on the Raimahal Square-Master Canteen Road when a state-run Mo Bus (EV bus) applied sudden bakes as a scooter came in front of it at a crossing, they said. Another Mo Bus (diesel Midi bus), which was behind, hit it as it couldn't apply brakes on time. Subsequently, this bus was hit by a car, which was struck by another car from behind. they added. "A scooter suddenly came in front of my bus. So, I had to apply the brakes to save it. My bus was moving slowly but the other bus was speeding and hit r

bus from behind," said the driver of

the EV bus. Four passengers who

were injured in the accident were

admitted to the Capital Hospital.

a police officer said. The buses

and the first car suffered severe

damage, while the last vehicle's

Meanwhile, a statement issued by

the Capital region Urban Transport

(driver) of the diesel Midi bus has

been suspended for not keeping an

adequate distance from the EV bus.

damage was lesser, he said.

(CRUT) said that the captain

leveraging Odisha's maritime Parida emphasised the state's ment of Science and Technolstrategic importance in India's ogy secretary Rajesh Gokhle ed the event. Entrepreneurial brilliance on display at OUTR E-Summit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 23: The Entrepreneurship Develop ment Cell (ED-Cell) of Odisha University at Technology and Research (OUTR) organised here the E-Summit 2025 January 21 and 22, bringing together academicians, industry leaders and aspiring entrepreneurs to promote innovation and entrepreneurial excellence.

The event featured distinguished guests, including KIIT TBI head Amaresh Panda, uni

vate Limited founder Anup

Paikaray, Plantery founder

Abhishek Mohapatra and Y3X

founder Subham Jena engaged

participants during the 'Invest



		VARIATIO		
RSES	SENSEX	76520.38 23205.35	•	115.39
BOU	NIFTY	23205.35	4	50.00
ENCY	DOLLAR	86.47	4	0.06
CURR	EURO	90.07	¥	0.16
SES	GOLD	₹ 79,3 75	¥	₹160
BOUR	SILVER	₹ 79,375 ₹ 90,648	¥	₹1292

.ASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By this Affidavit No.2571, Dt.26.11.2024 I, Kamal Lochan Saha, S/o- Ram Ranjan Saha, Vill.- Saradha, P.O./P.S.- Karanjia, Dist.-Mayurbhanj. My actual name is "Kamal Lochan Saha" mentioned in my all official documents. But my son OM SAHA his Passport No.N7052005 my name wrongly mentioned as "Kamal Saha" instead of "Kamal Lochan Saha". Both are same & one person.

'100-Day Intensified Campaign' aimed at targeting 20 high mortality districts in the state by actively screening and diagnosing TB cases among vulnerable population

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 23: The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department of Odisha has intensified its efforts towards eliminating tuberculosis (TB) through a focused and collaborative approach. As part of this initiative, a

'100-Day Intensified Campaign' was launched December 7, 2024 targeting 20 high TB mortality districts in the state.

The campaign is aimed at reducing both TB incidence and mortality by actively screening and diagnosing TB cases among vulnerable population.

The 20 target districts include Bolangir, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Ganjam, Jagatsingpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, and Sundargarh.

As of January 21, 2025, nearly 60 per cent of the vulnerable population-including previous TB patients, household contacts of TB patients, people with malnutrition. diabetics. individuals living with HIV, elderly persons (over 60 years), smokers, and alcoholics-has

TB cases have been diagnosed across these 20 districts.

In line with the ongoing campaign, Health and Family Welfare Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathy S and Mission Director of the National Health Mission (NHM) Brundha D held

a meeting with the Collectors of the 20 campaign districts to review the progress, address challenges, and discuss further action points for improving outcomes.

During the meeting, it was resolved that district authorities should conduct weekly reviews of campaign activities to assess the quality of interventions and ensure effective results. The Panchayati Raj department was advised to provide additional nutritional support to active TB patients under the PMTBMBA scheme using the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) budget. Strengthening collaborations

with NGOs, corporates, and other stakeholders as Ni-kshay

Mitras is expected to ensure a comprehensive approach to TB care, including nutrition and social support for patients.

Districts lagging behind were urged to take immediate correc tive actions to address gaps and ensure the campaign remains on track.

The campaign has garnered significant support from vari ous sectors, including government, civil society, and other stakeholders, all working together towards achieving a TB-free Odisha.

The H&FW department remains committed to eliminat ing TB in the state through sustained efforts, strategic collaboration, and robust service delivery.

CON TACI SSIFIED BOOKING AD ISEMEN S OUR

been successfully mapped and

screened for TB. Official sourc-

es revealed that a total of 4.668

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347. Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



Odisha intensifies campaign to eliminate tuberculosis

versity vice-chancellor Bibhuti Bhushan Biswal, Ranjan Ku-Up' session. The summit also mar Pradhan, and Students' sported competitions such as Welfare dean Jibitesh Mishra. Pitch War. IPL Auction. B-Plan. Entrepreneurs like Cocoand Marketeer. drawing enthuboards founder Aryaman Das, siastic participation from stu-Newrup Tech Solutions Pridents across Odisha.

The closing ceremony featured Bhubaneswar-based textile firm Cedrafil director Mukesh Nayak, as the chief guest, with winners honoured

by training and placement officer Bibhu Prasad Das, Sudhanshu Shekhar Sahu and Ranjan Kumar Pradhan

The event showcased the university's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship and will definitely encourage aspiring scholars and entrepreneurs in the years to come.

state



NHRC ultimatum to MoH&FW Secy

Keonjhar, Jan 23: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a final reminder to the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), urging the submission of action taken reports (ATRs) by March 1. The NHRC in the order issued January 22 warned that failure to comply would compel it to invoke its powers under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The ultimatum comes after

failure of the MoH&FW in submitting the requisite report despite repeated directions and a subsequent reminder. The NHRC had previously addressed the complaint of human rights activist and senior advocate Radhakanta Tripathy, who highlighted the suffering

2 HELD FOR SETTING FIRE IN FOREST

R Udayagiri: Forest officials Wednesday arrested two persons on charges of illegally chopping trees and setting a fire in a forest near here in Gajapati district. The accused were identified as Thomas Bhuan and James Badraita of Paribheta village. The accused were arrested after Paralakhemundi DFO S Anand, over a tip-off, directed forest ranger Uma Shankar Bisoi to crackdown on such activities. Accordingly a team led by ranger Bisoi comprising foresters Santosh Sahu, Bijay Moharana, and Mojesh Sabar, forest guard Priyanka Dalabehera and other para-staff conducted a raid and arrested the two persons. A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in the court. They were remanded to the judicial custody after the magistrate rejected their bail pleas



of the public due to inadequate functioning of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and district hospitals across various Indian states

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Jan 23: The principal

and an economics lecturer of

Abhimanyu Samantsinghar

Degree College in Bari, under

Jajpur district, have been sus-

pended following allegations of

attempted sexual assault on a

girl student inside classroom.

The incident sparked unrest

among students, leading to es-

Jajpur Sub-Collector Anshu-

man Satapathy issued the sus-

pension order Thursday, citing

dereliction of duty and actions

taken without prior approval

based on a report by the Bari

calating tension on campus.

no report has been received by the commission. Tripathy's complaint cited deaths among vulnerable pop-The apex rights body, in its

Despite repeated reminders,

ulations due to poor healthproceedings dated June 13, care infrastructure, a lack of 2024, directed the Secretary of staff, and insufficient medical resources. He requested the the MoH&FW to submit an ATR within four weeks. However. NHRC to intervene and ensure the report was not submitted. that their basic human rights A follow-up directive was isare protected by improving sued December 5, 2024, giving healthcare services. His recomthe ministry an additional four mendations included improving

Principal, lecturer suspended

over rape bid on girl student

Raut and lecturer Bidyadhar

Dhal were reportedly abscond-

ing without authorisation,

prompting the disciplinary ac-

tion. The order specifies that

during their suspension, both

of them must report at their pri-

mary workplace at Gopaband-

hu Choudhury Degree College

at Ramachandrapur in Bari,

and must not leave the premis-

es without official permission.

death hunger strike by the

survivor and her mother en-

tered the second day on the

college premises. Jajpur SP

Yashpratap Shrimal and MP

Meanwhile, the fast-onto-

staffing at PHCs, CHCs, and district hospitals, implementing electronic attendance for staff. preventing private practice by government doctors by providing them Non-Practicing Allowance (NPA), ensuring transparent transfer and promotion processes, and establishing super-specialty hospitals every 100kms with National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH) accreditation.

The NHRC, acknowledging Tripathy's complaint, had initially directed the ministry to submit an ATR by 10 July, 2024. In the absence of any response, the commission issued a second directive December 5, 2024. The final reminder has now been is sued with a deadline of March 1 for the submission of the report, failing which the NHRC may take further action.

the spot and tried to placate

The allegations date back to

January 6, when lecturer Dhal

allegedly tried to sexually as-

sault the student in the class-

room. The victim filed a formal

complaint with the Bari police

station January 15. However,

with no immediate action taken

by the police, the victim attempt-

ed self-immolation January 20

on the college premises, further

Following the complaint, an

FIR (16/2025) was registered

at Bari police station. Inves-

tigations into the matter are

intensifying the situation.

the agitators Thursday.

Hanging bodies of lovebirds recovered

WE ARE READY TO

DEAL WITH

TRUMP

Kalimela: Two lovebirds committed suicide by hanging from a tree near a hill in Tumkimadka village under Gamphakonda panchayat and Kalimela police limits in Malkangiri district, police said Thursday. The matter came to the fore Thursday as police recovered the bodies from a jungle. The deceased duo belongs to Gamphakonda panchayat, sources said. Police said the duo might have taken the drastic step three to four days back as they registered a case and launched an investigation, Kalimela IIC Chandrakanta Tandi said. A scientific team from Koraput was pressed into service as the deceased girl's father lodged a complaint at the Kalimela police station. Sources said that the lovebirds went to see Makar fair at Bhejangiwarda village but did not return home. Family members searched for them but failed to trace them. Family members were informed of their suicide at around 2pm Thursday afternoon. They rushed to the jungle and found their decomposed bodies hanging. It is suspected that they have commit ted suicide over love affair

Sundargarh Collector reviews industry safety

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 23: Sundargarh Collector Manoj Satyawan Mahajan convened a meeting Thursday at the district headquarters to review safety and security protocols across industries and mining operations in the region. The meeting followed a major industrial accident at Dalmia Bharat Cement Limited in Rajgangpur.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

The meeting brought together owners of industries and mines operating across the district to assess safety, security, and worker facilities on their premises. The administration's delayed action in addressing these concerns drew mixed reactions, with some expressing relief that the issue was finally receiving attention.

During the meeting, Mahajan emphasised the importance of prioritising workers' safety. "Ensuring the safety and security of employees is vour foremost responsibility. and any negligence on this front is unacceptable," he said. Mahajan also highlighted the importance of maintaining discipline, instructing owners to ensure that no worker enters the premises in an inebriated state. He urged all industries to conduct regular safety drills and take cues from the Rourkela Steel Plant, which conducts such drills routinely.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Ashutosh Kulkarni took a firm stance, reminding partic ipants of their responsibilities 'Providing compensation or a job to a victim's family doesn't absolve you of your duties Your responsibility extends far beyond that," Kulkarn said. He also underscored the need for adequate facilities as mandated by the Factory Act. including basic amenities and on-site healthcare, and called for monthly reports on safety drills to be submitted to the concerned government departments.

CMANJUL



Superintendent of Police (SP Nitesh Wadhwani cautioned against withholding informa tion during emergencies. "Sup pressing facts leads to spread of misinformation, as we saw recently. Sharing accurate in formation during such times is crucial," he said.

The meeting highlighted the district administration's renewed focus on ensuring industrial safety, as it urged stakeholders to take preventive measures to avoid mishaps in the future.

IIC. Principal Sudhir Kumar Rabi Narayan Behera visited ongoing. Marginal increase in croc population in Bhitarkanika

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Jan 23: The Bhitarkanika National Park, a Ramsar wetland site in Kendrapara district, has reported a marginal increase in crocodile population as per the findings of the latest census of reptiles.

Though the increase in population is marginal, the rise in the number of reptiles is indicative of the fact that the national park continues to be a safe, congenial habitat for saltwater crocodiles, said Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF), Rajnagar Mangrove (Wildlife) Forest Division. Manas Das.



While 346 adults above 8 feet were counted this time, 348 adult species had been sighted in 2024. Similarly, 164 sub-adult (6 to 8 feet) crocs were found during this year's annual census as against 167 counted in 2024, the official said. The annual crocodile estimation exercise was conducted by 22 teams in 51 segments in the Bhitarkanika National Park and Sanctuary, Gahirmatha Sanctuary and Mahanadi deltaic areas. This year favourable weather conditions resulted in better sightings of crocodiles in the rivers and creeks, he said. The Forest department said that estuarine crocodiles are

33 ALBINO **crocs sighted**

uch to the delight of wildlife lovers, as many as 33 albino crocodiles were ighted by the enumerators during the census in Bhitarkanika. Most of the albino crocodiles, spotted by the enumerators, were less than 15 feet long, an official said. The brackish water bodies of the national park have now emerged as most favourable habitation corridors for white crocodiles. The typical complexion of these reptiles was mainly because of the genetic pignent malformation and mutant variation. Apart from the 33 white crocodiles Bhitarkanika is also the abode of three other white crocodiles, including 49-year-old female albino Gori , 21-year-old albino Mali and 6-year-old albino Sundari, living in captivity in the park's enclosure. The Bhitarkanika National Park has over the years established itself as the country's most preferred abode of the albino estuarine crocodiles.

National park reopens for tourists after census

The Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district reopened for tourists Thursday after remaining closed for nine days, an official said. The national park was closed from January 14 to 22 for the arine crocodiles and migratory birds. Tourists and visitors intending

Shaadi, Utsav ya Tyohar... 🖸 Lijjat Papad Ho Harbarm

While 1,826 saltwater crocodiles were counted this year along the water bodies of the Bhitarkanika river system and Mahanadi deltaic region, the census figure recorded last year stood at 1.811, said the officer.

The growth in crocodile numbers has been mainly reported in hatchlings, yearlings and juvenile crocs. However, the adult and sub-adult crocs of 6 to 8 feet have also reported a slight drop in their numbers compared to last year, he said.

Bhitarkanika should log on to www.ecotourodisha.com and ensure their bookings. To attract tourists from across India and abroad, the Forest department has forest rest house facilities in Dangamala, Agaranasi, Habalikothi, Gupti and Eakakula, said an official. A strict ban has been imposed on the influx of plastic disposables in protected areas and tourists are advised not to carry polythene and litter plastic bottles and other items in the forest. Green protocol will be strictly implemented, said the Forest official.

also found in West Bengal's Sundarbans, having the country's largest mangrove cover. Besides, the mangrove wetlands in Andaman Islands are home to these species, but those cannot match the density and population of crocodiles in wild

habitats of Bhitarkanika. Census was conducted both in day and night hours. Due to favourable climatic conditions such as clear and sunny weather, low day and night tempera-

ture in water and favourable

tide conditions, counting of

crocodiles was hassle-free. The region is crisscrossed by innumerable water inlets, creeks and nullahs. all forming the part of Bhitarkanika river system.



7 PM Surya Ghar beneficiaries from Ganjam to attend R-Day fete in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Jan 23: Seven beneficiaries of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana from Ganiam district will be attending as special guests the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi January 26, an official said Thursday.

The beneficiaries have installed rooftop solar panel under the scheme and made the best use of the government's flagship programme.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana is a central scheme that aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install rooftop solar electricity unit. The households will be able to get 300 units of electricity free every month. They will leave Bhubaneswar January 24 and return January 27, after attending the parade, the official said.

The special guests invited across the country by the Central government to witness the colourful parade are from different walks of life, including



the best performers in different fields and those who have made the best use of various schemes of the government, he said.

"An officer of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy informed me about the special invitation to the parade at New Delhi, after they collected information about the installation of the rooftop solar panel under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana in my house at Gandhi Nagar here," said A Balakrushna (64),

a retired ayurvedic officer. Balakrushna has installed a 3-kw solar system in his house under the scheme with ₹2.25 lakh and availed ₹75,000 subsidy from the Central government. "Now I will apply for the subsidy from the state govern-

Since he installed the system in June last year, he did not pay any electric charge, he claimed. Earlier, he used to pay an average of ₹1,000 per month,

Balakrushna said. Jeetendriya Mopaptra (56) of Kautik Nagar, Goshaninuagaon here, who was also invited as special guest for the Republic Day celebration, said he had installed a 2-kw solar system

on his rooftop in June last year. The cost of the project was ₹1.35 lakh and out of it ₹ 62.000 was the subsidy under the scheme.

The beneficiaries said for the protection of the environment, they have decided to switch over to the solar energy system, which is, according to them, the future source of electricity.

Vijayvargiya slams Cong during Samvidhan **Gaurav Abhiyan lecture**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 23: Kailash Vijayvargiya, Madhya Pradesh Minister for Urban Development and Housing, delivered a sharp critique of the Congress party during a lecture at the Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan in Rourkela, Wednesday. In his nearly 30-minute address, Vijayvargiya accused Congress of disrespecting the Indian Constitution for political gain, contrasting the party's stance with that of the BJP.

Speaking to a packed auditorium at Mayfair Village, Vijayvargiya highlighted what he described as Congress' history of undermining the Constitution. "The Congress has always insulted the Constitution to cling to power or appease specific groups," he said.

He also targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning whether the red book he carries includes an image of Ram, which was part of the original Constitution. "His family has consistently disrespected the Constitution, while the BJP has upheld it," Vijayvargiya added.

Vijayvargiya further accused Gandhi of tarnishing India's image with false claims that Sikhs, Muslims, and Dalits are unsafe in the country. He also criticised Gandhi's stance on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, quoting remarks made by Rajiv Gandhi at the time.



quotations are invited from the eligible bidders for providing housekeeping, hospitality and catering service at Institute Guest House. अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया वेबसाइट www.iopb.res.in देखें /For more details please visit www.iopb.res.in रजिस्ट्रार / REGISTRAR

NOTICE FOR LOSS **OF DOCUMENTS**

is hereby given froi Asish Kumar Parida that, he has applied for loan to LIC HFL. But at present, he has lost the Origina Link Documents i.e. Sale Deed No. 11482003036 dtd. 01/09/2020 and Sale Deed No. 3533 dtd 20/09/1997, which were kept with him and inspite of his best efforts failed to trace the same.

Therefore, notice is hereb given to general public that i anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing documents, he/she has to claim before the LIC HFL AT Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar within 15 days from the date of publication. And after that the documents will lose its legal force and LIC HFL, Bhubaneswar will not be responsible for any claim What-so-ever on the property after 15 days.

Address for Communication LIC HFL, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar B. K. Pattanaik, Advocate Mob. No. 9337395558

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (A Statutory Body of the Government of India) 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003 Ph.: 24695044-47, Fax: 24695048, Website: http://aera.gov.in

NOTICE **Empanelment of Advocate/Law Firm**

Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) invites Airports applications from eligible Advocates/Law firms for defending court case on behalf of AERA before Hon'ble Supreme Court, High Court, Tribuna and other courts of law in India

The details of eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and schedule of fee or empanelment of Advocates/Law Firms are available on the AERA's vebsite i.e. http://aera.gov.in. Corrigendum, if any would be publishe only on AERA's Website

The Notice issued on the website vide F. No. AERA/Legal/Empanelme of Advocates/Law Firm 2020/2023-24 dated 08.03.2024 stands withdrawn and the process of empanelment initiated thereof stands scrapped due to administrative reasons. Therefore, the Advocates aw Firms who have applied in response to above-mentioned Notice lated 08.03.2024 also need to apply afresh and their earlier applicatio eceived will not be considered for empanelment under this Notice.

Eligible and interested Advocate/Law Firm may submit their application orm using link provided on AERA's website in the News and nnouncement Section.

Only online application submitted through this portal will be accepted and no other mode or channel of submitting the application will be considered.

.ast date for submission of Online Application Form is 11.02.2025.

Sd./- (Deputy Chief, AERA) CBC-03112/12/0014/2425



ment," he said.









power post

FOCUS FOREIGN POLICY

Care not for time and success. Act out thy part. whether it be to fail or to prosper. SRI AUROBINDO



Food for Thought

hen governments adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, they pledged to eliminate hunger and poverty. But today, as the SDGs' 2030 deadline approaches, a gulf separates their initial ambition and the reality on the ground. The 2020s are shaping up to be a lost decade for development – and the world's most vulnerable children are bearing the brunt of this slowdown.

The future envisaged by the SDGs is drifting out of reach. In 2030, some 620 million people are projected to live in extreme poverty (defined by the World Bank as an income below \$2.15 per day). Progress toward the eradication of hunger stalled over a decade ago. At the current pace, there will be 582 million people living with chronic undernutrition in 2030 – the same number as a decade ago, when the SDGs were adopted.

This widening gap between ambition and achievement disproportionately affects young people under 18. Children account for around one-third of the global population, but more than half of the world's poor. Currently, 237 million of the 333 million children living in extreme poverty are in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). According to our estimates, based on UN and World Bank projections, that number will increase to 326 million by 2030.

Undernutrition is taking a devastating toll. In the world's poorest countries, around 258 million children are living with hunger 56 million more than in 2015. For these children, hunger is not an occasional source of stress but a grinding reality of daily life. Chronic undernutrition means that millions of children are affected by stunting – one of the major risk factors for impaired brain development. Stunting rates are falling, but at just one-quarter of the rate needed to achieve the SDG targets; they remain over 30 per cent in South Asia and SSA. At the current rate of progress, there will be 36 million more children living with stunting than there would be if the SDG for hunger were met.

Poverty and hunger have devastating effects on educational outcomes and social mobility. Some 84 million children are at risk of being out of education by the 2030 deadline, undermining progress toward universal education. Without an education, adolescents are often forced into work and early marriage, dashing their hopes of a better future. And hunger in the classroom is a powerful impediment to concentration and learning

Too often, discussions about the SDGs descend into futile hand-wringing over disappointing progress. But hand-wringing is a luxury poor and hungry children can ill

afford. They need practical policies that can make a difference in their lives by 2030. To that end, we are advocating a major initiative to achieve universal school meals in the poorest countries, backed by a new global funding mechanism.

Programmes in India, Brazil, and many other countries have shown that providing a meal in school improves nutrition, allows children to learn free from the debilitating effects of hunger, and is the most cost-effective way to reduce child poverty. For the poorest families, a school meal is an in-kind transfer that eases pressure on the household budget, making it possible to keep children in education. As a result, school meals increase enrollment and reduce dropout rates, especially among the poorest children. They also enable children to learn more. Ghana's large-scale school meal programme led to learning outcomes equivalent to an additional year of schooling.

Procurement of school meals has the added benefit of creating economic opportunities for rural communities, where some 80 per cent of the extreme poor live. In Brazil, one-third of the school-meals budget is earmarked for smallholder farmers, linking healthy diets for children to more resilient and sustainable livelihoods. According to research by the Sustainable Finance Initiative of the Free School Meals Coalition, providing another 236 million children in the world's poorest countries with free school meals would cost \$3.6 billion per year until 2030. Much of that funding could come from developing-country governments, but an additional \$1.2 billion annually in outside aid would be needed.



A REALITY CHECK

onald John Trump resumed office of the American President for the second term after a gap of four years. There is a good deal of discussion across the world, certainly in India about the nature of the swearing-in ceremony and the participation of various countries. The media is full of who's who among the attendees, especially who attended and who did not or could not. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is considered to be a close friend of Trump, was conspicuous by his absence. Critics, admirers and a section of media are raising a hullaballoo about Modi being 'ignored' by the swearing-in



in the Capitol Hill. Why was then Modi left out? Was it a deliberate omission by the Trump administration? It could certainly not be an oversight. There could be two possible interpretations. One, in case of India, Trump team stuck to the tradition and did not invite Modi as the Head of Govt. This perspective flies in the face as Modi is supposed to be close to Trump.

The second interpretation is that Modi was purposefully not invited to the inaugural ceremony. This point of view



Any country big or small can ill-afford strategic autonomy. Big powers will not appreciate or accept such positions. Certainly, not Trump who likes to have friends and enemies

merits introspection and investigation as India-America relations are becoming closer or rather should be stronger in view of the emerging geopolitical scenario in Asia Pacific. If we stick to the theory of Modi being ignored, it is in order that the reasons for such eventuality should be identified.

To my mind, three possible reasons pop-up; these are, India's strategic autonomy, New Delhi trashing American agencies on democracy rating etc. and its turbulent bilateralism with Canada in recent times. Let us elaborate on these points as it is time for reality check irrespective of Modi's absence from the ceremony and in view of ascendency of Trump to the high table.

Some of us have been arguing that strategic autonomy, a reformulation of non-alignment, or a euphemism for multi-alignment is not a tenable position in an inter-dependent world. Any country big or small can ill-afford strategic autonomy. Big powers will not appreciate or accept such positions. Certainly, not Trump who likes to have friends and enemies. His team, from his

last term, has openly declared China as a strategic rival, but has not said clearly that India is a friend like Washington treats Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Israel, the UK, Canada and a few other countries. New Delhi is paying a heavy price with its defence purchases to build its deterrence in the name of strategic autonomy.

Interestingly, New Delhi is being paid in its own coin, so to say, as other countries, certainly its neighbours, are balancing their relations between Beijing and New Delhi perhaps in the name of strategic autonomy. Take the case of Nepal. which has been the closest ally of India, Sri Lanka, again the closest to India, Bangladesh, which is balancing India with Pakistan, and Maldives. Pakistan has walked into the Chinese sphere of influence and has almost become a satellite state. Can New Delhi blame the smaller neighbours when it has been doing the same with the US on one hand and China and Russia on the other?

Following the concept of strategic autonomy, India also has erroneously started behaving as a big power. India becoming the fifth largest economy in terms of GDP has perhaps given that premature confidence. Politicians in power are overstating this fact for political purposes. Yet, it is important to realise that India has not arrived at the world stage. A slice of statistics should dispel that misconception.

In terms of per capita GDP, India ranks 142nd. The growth rate, which was 7.8% between 2004 and 2014, has come down to 5.8%. This is not enough to be a developed country and a world power by 2047. Is India the fastest growing economy? Yes, it is, but it has been the second fastest for over 20 years. As the Chinese economy, which was the fastest, slowed down, India became number one.

On relations with Canada, the American government will be very sensitive as they consider it to be their backyard. In fact, Trump, in his inimitable style, has suggested that Canada should become the 51st state of USA. Justin Trudeau who was sparring with Indian leadership has gone. The other party, namely Modi may have also come under Trump's scanner. This is allied with New Delhi consistently trashing American agencies on their comments on Indian governance and democracy. Trump himself was the target of American media, yet he did not go after them.

Modi being left out of Capitol Hill during inauguration may be a trivial political issue. But this important event should prompt the current leadership to rethink on some of the points referred here. Self-introspection and course-correction are necessary for democracy and good governance.

The writer is Professor, NIIS Group of Institutions. **©INFA**

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

DK Giri

FOLLOWING

THE CONCEPT

OF STRATEGIC

INDIA ALSO HAS

ERRONEOUSLY

BEHAVING AS A

AUTONOMY,

STARTED

BIG POWER

Changes needed for success of NEP

e are living in a rapidly changing world, where change is so fast that we can hardly catch up unless we equip ourselves with the latest knowledge. Knowledge being the highest form of power its acquisition is gaining importance with every fleeting second. It becomes, therefore, imperative to generate and gather information and to process the information into knowledge. Conversion of information to knowledge is the essence of education. In our part of the world, problems of this conversion are compounded due to presence of all the Rostovian stages of growth side by side. UNDP in its report on the poverty rate in 2021 stated that notwithstanding the decrease in poverty rate in India from 55.1% in 2005-06 to 16.4% it is still in a group of five countries having the largest number of persons living in dire poverty; the remaining four countries are Pakistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo. Similarly, a 2021 report of NITI Aayog reveals that in Odisha, 29.35% of people are multi-dimensionally poor (poor in healthcare. education and living standard).

Poverty is a big factor keeping people away from education. In fact, the Kothari Commission had acknowledged the fact that social distance between the rich and the poor; educated and uneducated was widening more and more. Besides, the Commission had also realized that the education then in vogue was not in the tradition of the people and therefore, the educated people were alienated from their culture and old values that held society together. The Commission had, therefore, rightly called for reshaping education both in form and substance which could not happen till 2020. Taking cues from Kothari Commission and path-finding suggestions from NEP-2020 about making education effective and productive one can devise a plan for school education to begin with as school education is the gateway to the realm of higher education. For making school education attractive for children. it has to be useful for them as majority of them may enter into the world of work at the end of school education. Simultaneously, it must motivate children going for higher education to be self-reliant and creatively hard working.

To do that the curriculum for school level has to change. The change needed is to have a core curriculum dealing with national and state level ideals and goals and to devote at least 60% of the curriculum to local specific subjects and issues at the village and district levels. To bring in the desired change we have to do away with a common set of textbooks and a common svllabus, and to formulate the core curriculum and level of competencies for different grades at the national and state levels with the help of experts, teachers and members of the community. While handbooks for teachers could be prepared on the basis of the core curriculum and levels of competencies, to help children in acquiring desired competencies in different areas of the curriculum specific study materials could be developed at local level. To test the understanding of students, objective methods for continuous and comprehensive evaluation have to be developed and executed earnestly. To ensure execution, regular monitoring has to be done by the authorities. If these steps are followed meticulously, well deserving students would definitely come

for higher education.

Coming to changes we could think of bringing into the field of higher education, it is essential to know the form of higher education the NEP envisages. NEP aims at making India a super power of knowledge with an equitable



Gordon Brown & Kevin Watkins

AT THE CURRENT PACE, THERE WILL **BE 582 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING** WITH CHRONIC UNDERNUTRITION **IN 2030 – THE SAME NUMBER AS** A DECADE AGO, WHEN THE SDGs **WERE ADOPTED**

Current development assistance falls well below this amount and is hopelessly fragmented. Instead of investing in the development of national programmes, donors throw aid around like confetti, funding small-scale, disconnected projects that often fail to deliver lasting results. Only a small amount of aid - around \$280 million annually - goes toward school feeding, and most of this comes in the form of food aid provided by the United States, which is less efficient and far less effective than buying food from local farmers.

There is an alternative. Global health funds - most notably Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS. Tuberculosis, and Malaria - pool donor resources around a shared purpose, supporting national development plans and raising revenue through three-year replenishments and innovative financing mechanisms

These principles should underpin a new global initiative for school meals. Momentum for change is already building. The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, led by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, has identified school feeding as a priority, while the World Bank has pledged to make it a central plank of a wider strategy to strengthen social safety nets worldwide. More than 100 governments have joined the School Meals Coalition working to achieve universal school-meal provision by 2030, and some countries, including Indonesia, Nepal, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Honduras, have drawn up their own ambitious plans.

Under the leadership of Raj Shah, the Rockefeller Foundation has invested significantly in the School Meals Impact Accelerator, which provides technical support to countries trying to scale up their programs. The Accelerator's initial goal is to reach 150 million children by 2030 – more than double the number currently receiving school meals in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

The challenge now is to bring these initiatives together to expand their reach, making them more than the sum of their parts. A good first step would be to create a clearinghouse through which governments can submit school-feeding proposals and donors can pool and coordinate their funding.

As the final countdown toward the SDGs' 2030 deadline begins, we must develop practical, achievable, and affordable initiatives that can transcend political polarisation and deliver results that remind the world of what is possible. Universal school meals can do just that.

Gordon Brown, a former Prime Minister of the UK, is UN Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of Education Cannot Wait. Kevin Watkins is a visiting professor at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa at the London School of Economics.



Narendra Prasad Das

POVERTY IS A BIG FACTOR KEEPING PEOPLE AWAY FROM **EDUCATION**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

and vibrant knowledge society through a system of education rooted in Indian ethos. To achieve this, the policy desires to nourish creativity and develop critical thinking ability in every student for which as enunciated in the policy, courses of studies should be flexible doing away with artificial compartmentalisation as in the past into Arts, Science, or Business Administration and Commerce. Teachers as facilitators would have to be able to recognise and identify the unique capabilities of every student and guide accordingly. Teachers should therefore engage themselves in research to keep themselves abreast of latest developments in their specific fields and transfer it to students for which there may be two cadres of researchers and classroom teachers with free lateral exchange of the two cadres.

> The writer is a former Principal, BJB College.

Indigenous game

Sir, Kho Kho is a robust and lovely indigenous game as well that has caught people's imagination from time immemorial in the Indian subcontinent in general and India in particular. While the intricacies of the game are familiar to almost every Indian, it may not be out of context to note that speed, stamina, skill and strategy are the cornerstones of a successful Kho kho team. These attributes were on full display in both the Indian men's and women's teams as they emerged victorious in the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup held at New Delhi. That the Indian men remained unbeaten in the tournament, where a galaxy of world teams participated, further validates the game's increasing popularity in India. It is time games like Kho Kho are massively marketed in India to make them interesting to youngsters. More and more domestic tournaments, followed by efforts to include Kho Kho in Olympics, would be steps in the right direction.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Corrective step

Sir, The Supreme Court has given clear directions to investigating agencies and trial courts not to subject people to untenable prosecution and mechanically framed charges in the cases of alleged abetment of suicide. These directions come as a corrective step in wrongful implementation of law. The Supreme Court warned the police that law should not be applied against people only to alleviate the distress of the family of the deceased. The police must ascertain that the accused person's acts comply with the requirements of instigation and that his acts led to the suicide of the deceased. True, a suicide leaves the family of the deceased in distress. On the other hand, such a situation should not be used to level baseless allegations against people whom the family suspects to be responsible. There must be adequate evidence that fulfil the requirements of abetment. Justice must be served for all in a balanced way. There must be solid evidence for the acts of abetment near to the time of committing suicide. In fact, the directions of the Supreme Court are applicable to all laws.

Venu GS, KOLLAM













TWO STATES

No hurdle from Renkoji priests to transfer Netaji's remains

Kolkata, Jan 23: Refuting perceptions of roadblocks to bring

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back the mortal remains held in an urn in a Buddhist temple in Renkoji in Japan, widely believed to be that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a section of descendants of the national hero claim they have documentary evidence to prove that the temple authorities have always been more than willing to hand over the 'ashes' to India.

The demand to bring back the remains and conduct DNA tests to affirm whether they indeed belong to one of the tallest figures of India's freedom struggle has been an abiding wish of a significant bulk of Netaji admirers who seek closure to one of India's longest persisting enigma: whether Bose perished in the aftermath of a fatal Japanese military aircraft crash in present-day Taiwan, August 18, 1945.

Reports of as many as 10 national and international enquiries probing Netaji's disappearance on that fateful day, now available in the national archives in New Delhi, have confirmed Bose's death at a hospital in the Japanese military airfield in Taihoku, now Taiwan, as a result of the severe burn injuries he suffered in the crash.

An exception to those committees' findings was that of the Commission chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Manoj Kumar Mukherjee, the last of the probe panels constituted by the Union government, which submitted its report in November 2005 and concluded that Bose "is dead". though he "did not die in the

Human-animal conflicts declining in Kerala: Min PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 23: Kerala Forest Minister AK Saseendran Thursday said that the human-animal conflicts were declining in the state and the government was taking effective actions.

The minister was speaking in the Assembly while rejecting the Congress-led UDF Opposition's demand to adjourn the House proceedings for the day and discuss the issue of rising human-animal conflicts in Kerala. According to the minister, 114 deaths due to wildlife attacks were reported in Kerala in 2012-22, then it declined to 98, 94 and 12 in the subsequent years. "The department is taking effective actions," he said, adding that there is no situation at present to discuss the issue adjourning the House. Subsequentlv. Speaker AN Shamseer denied permission to the adjournment motion, following which the opposition staged a walkout. Saseendran stated that the government plans to divide the regions facing the human-animal conflict into 12 zones and deploy special squads to prevent wildlife attacks. The minister also added that a comprehensive Forest Bill would be enacted to provide all assistance to the farming community



plane crash, as alleged".

"The ashes in the Japanese temple are not of Netaji," the Commission had further concluded. The Indian government had rejected the findings of the Commission.

The confusion over the alleged "lack of cooperation" from the Renkoji temple priests, some descendants of Netaji maintained, could have arisen from the Mukherjee Commission report which blamed the "Temple authorities' reticence" in allowing commission-designated experts to physically inspect and collect "potentially less charred bone pieces from the casket lying in their custody' for conducting DNA tests.

Speaking to PTI on the eve of Netaji's 128th birth anniversary, Chandra Kumar Bose, the leader's grand nephew, said, "The PMO and the Indian government must respond to

the numerous letters sent by Prof Anita Bose Pfaff, Netaji's daughter and other members of the Bose family regarding arrangements to bring Netaji's remains to India, which is lying in a foreign country."

"Netaji wanted to return to Independent India, but he could not as he sacrificed his life fighting for India's freedom. It is an act of sacrilege that his remains continue to lie in Japan. There is conclusive evidence that the remains are of Netaji in 10 enquiry reports. However, if the government feels the remains are not of Netaji, then a statement must be issued to this effect. Mere silence is an insult to the memory of this great leader,' he added, drawing attention to the cold and solitary locale

of Renkoji where the remains lie preserved for nearly eight decades. Madhuri Bose, grand-niece

of Subhas Bose, maintains that Reverend Mochizuki, head priest of the Renkoji temple as well as successive governments of India and Japan were "at the time entirely supportive of DNA testing on the remains and certainly took no actions to deny access to the remains.

In her foreword to the recently published book, 'From Shadows To Light: The Truth of Netaii's Mortal End', authored by Bose researcher Sumeru Roy Chaudhury, Madhuri alleged that certain parts of the translation from Japanese of the original letter from the temple authorities which was included in the Mukherjee Commission report were "inexplicably missing".

The missing part "is a clear reaffirmation of his firm commitment to a DNA testing process, expressed as follows: My father (the first Reverend MoReports of as many as 10 national and international enquiries probing Netaji's disappearance on that fateful day, now available in the national archives in New Delhi, have confirmed Bose's death at a hospital in the Japanese military airfield in Taihoku, now Taiwan, as a result of the severe burn injuries he suffered in the crash

An exception to those committees' findings was that of the Commission chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Manoj Kumar Mukherjee, the last of the probe panels constituted by the Union government, which submitted its report in November 2005 and concluded that Bose 'is dead', though he 'did not die in the plane crash, as alleged'

chizuki) used to tell me when he was alive that the remains should be returned to India. I felt that if I accepted the proposal for DNA testing and the remains would eventually be returned to India. mv father's soul and spirit could finally be at rest," Madhuri wrote.

"Many of us in the family are convinced that Netaji succumbed to his injuries in 1945,' she told PTI. "Those who feel otherwise are free to pursue their theories but they must bring conclusive proof for the same.

Surya Kumar Bose, the eldest son of Netaji's nephew Amiya Nath Bose, who paid multiple visits to the Renkoji temple and spoke to its current priests, also confirmed the willingness of the authorities to cooperate for scientific tests on the remains.

OrissaPO

FRIDAY | JANUARY 24, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR



proposed townships.

action in this regard.

Another issue raised by the

UDF Opposition was the alleged

non-receipt of the treatment cost

by those who sustained severe

injuries in the landslides, even

after six months of the disas-

ter, and demanded immediate

Leader of Opposition VD

Satheesan also said that 'uncer-

tainty' prevails on the amount

of ₹30 lakh fixed for the pro-

posed houses and the amount

should be finalised to complete

the rehabilitation process soon

by the Opposition, Vijayan as-

sured that immediate action

He also said that the Cabinet

has decided to take over the

land for rehabilitation within

structed simultaneously in the

"Several houses will be con-

rehabilitation

project and we

estimate around

₹30 lakh for the

houses and a fi-

nal decision has

not been taken so

The govern-

ment published

a draft list of the

disaster-affected

families to be re-

habilitated in the

houses in the pro-

posed township and a final list is

expected soon, he

efforts of vari

ous government

"Co-ordinated

added.

departments are underway for

the rehabilitation programme.

he said. Funds from CMDRF

SDRF, various sponsorships

CSR funds and assistance from

the Centre would be utilized for

far," he said.

would be taken.

61 days.

The state

had initially

Replying to the issues raised

Vijayan assured that the funds received in the CMDRF will be utilised for the benefit of the disaster survivors and the rehabilitation process would be

completed soon

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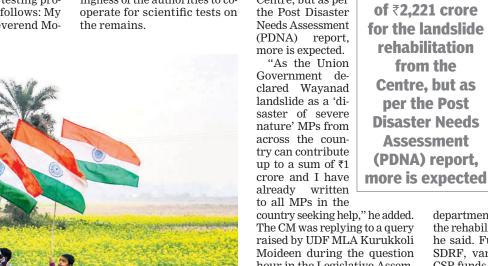
Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 23: The Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday said that while no assistance has come from the Centre till date for rehabilitation of survivors of Wayanad landslide, ₹712.98 received in the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund will be used for helping the survivors.

Vijayan said that the state had initially de-

manded a sum of ₹2,221 crore for the landslide rehabilitation from the demanded a sum Centre, but as per the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report, more is expected. "As the Union Government declared Wayanad landslide as a 'disaster of severe nature' MPs from across the country can contribute up to a sum of ₹1

country seeking help," he added. The CM was replying to a query raised by UDF MLA Kurukkoli Moideen during the question hour in the Legislative Assembly, on the amount received for the Wayanad package.

this. CM said. The Cabinet decided on a re habilitation project for building model townships on 58.50 hectares in Elstone Estate in Kalpetta and 48.96 hectares in Nedumpala Estate in Meppadi panchayat in Wayanad district for the survivors of the devastat ing July 30 landslides, he said.





The Left government always prioritises the opinions of the people, he added.

'We withdrew the Forest Bill in response to public sentiment. Instead of criticising the decision, the Opposition should commend the government for this action," he said.

The UDF raised the human-animal conflict issue by referring to the recent death of a tribal woman in wild elephant attack in Nilambur area of Malappuram district.

adjournment notice The moved by some Opposition MLAs--including Mathew Kuzhalnadan-- sought to discuss the life of the people in the hilly terrain region who are living with fear due to the wild animal attacks. Kuzhalnadan termed the minister's statement as "unfortunate"

"The people in the hilly region are living in the utmost fear as they could not even send their children to schools due to wild animal menace," he said.



Children holding national flags run through a mustard field ahead of Republic Day celebrations at a village near Balurghat, West Bengal

Vijayan assured that the funds received in the CMDRF will be utilised for the benefit of the disaster survivors and the rehabilitation process would be completed soon.

He also said a sum of ₹15 lakh each will be given to the persons who wish to stay outside the

Netaji researcher Jayanta

Chowdhury. Noapara police

station comes under Barrack-

pore police commissionerate.

Every year, the memorial

room is opened to the public

on his birthday to pay hom-

age to Netaji, and senior of-

ficers of Barrackpore police

commissionerate participate

in the commemorative pro-

NETAJI'S FORGOTTEN STAY

A tryst with history at Bengal police station

93 years on, Noapara police station preserves tea cup, saucer offered to Netaji by British officer

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Jaggatdal (WB), Jan 23: Barely a kilometre-and-a-half from Shyamnagar railway station in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district lies the unassuming Noapara police station, which holds a unique historical connection to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Every year January 23, Policemen at the station not only celebrate Netaji's birth anniversary, but also commemorate the freedom fighter's brief yet significant "stay" at the station when he was detained by the British in 1931. Nearly 93 years ago, around 5pm October 11, 1931, Netaji was arrested by the British police while on his way to address a meeting of the Bengal jute mill workers' organisation at Golghar in Jagaddal.



He was taken to Noapara police station, where he was detained for a few hours. During his detention, Bose was offered tea, which he declined because it was given by a British officer. The ceramic cup and saucer used on that occasion have been carefully preserved by the police station as a tribute to the legendary freedom fighter.

As a mark of respect, the police station installed a small memorial inside its premises. It includes a photograph of Netaji placed beside the preserved cup and saucer. A room has also been converted into a library featuring books on Netaji's life and legacy.

"We consider ourselves lucky to work at this police station where our beloved

- As a mark of respect, the police station installed a small memorial inside its premises
- It includes a photograph of Netaji placed beside the preserved cup and saucer
- A room has also been converted into a library featuring books on Netaji's life and legacy

Netaji had stepped in. He has been an inspiration for us. His visit here is not widely known, and we believe every one should learn about this chapter of history," a senior police officer told PTI.

According to historical accounts, Bose was stopped by the British police while en route to the meeting and subsequently arrested because of fear that his speech could incite unrest. "Netaji stayed here for a few hours and was offered tea by the then officer-in-charge, which he politely refused. These details have been passed down through generations," the officer added.

Netaji was released around

midnight October 12, 1931, gramme. after the then district magis-"This year too, we have trate of Barrackpore, interarranged a celebration of Netaji's birthday, allowing vened. However, Bose was given the condition that he the public to visit the room, witness this slice of history, could not enter Noapara for three months, according to and pay their respects," an

official said. Outside the police station, a statue of Netaji stands proud ly, symbolising his legacy. Behind the statue, authori ties have put up a hoarding of Bose with his followers sit ting outside a thatched room, which once housed the Jaggatdal Goalghar Bangive Jutemill Worker's Association.















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ties may come under the Cen-

tre's control, the lawyers said

It is not yet clear whether

they have filed an appeal before

the Mumbai-based Office of the

Custodian of Enemy Property,

which comes under the Union

home ministry, following a

Madhya Pradesh High Court

order of December 13, 2024 on

noted actress Sharmila Tag-

ore (Pataudi) and others had

challenged in the HC the order

dated February 24, 2015, of the

Custodian of Enemy Property

for India that termed the prop-

erty of Bhopal Nawab as "Ene-

Enemy Property for India.

and expert on merger of Nawab

properties, Jagdish Chhavani,

quoted an order dated January

10. 1962 that after the death of

Hamidullah Khan in 1960.

the Government of India rec-

The authority under the

Saif Ali Khan's mother and

Wednesday.

the issue

my Property"

The BJP is a party of lies. Their government operates on the policies of deception and exploitation. They have made false promises to every section of the society, including farmers, youth, students, and traders, but have fulfilled none of them. It is running the government on the policy of 'ihooth aur loot' (lies and loot) AKHILESH YADAV SP CHIEF

DELHI HC SEEKS NIA STAND ON ER RASHID'S BAIL PLEA

The Delhi High Court Thursday sought NIA's stand on Jammu and Kashmir MP Rashid Engineer's plea over his bail in a terror-funding case. Justice Vikas Mahajan asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to file its response and posted the hearing January 30



the paintings displayed at the

art gallery and reserved the

order on FIR after hearing ar-

guments. The paintings feature

Hindu deities Hanuman and

Ganesh. During the hearing

on the plea, complainant and

advocate Amita Sachdeva

said the most revered entities

of Sanatan Dharma -- Hanuman

and Ganesh -- were insulted in

most revered deities in obscene

manner a deliberate and mali

cious insult. Husain may be the

greatest artist in the world, but he

has no right to insult my deities,'

she argued. She claimed there

was an advertisement and thou-

sands of people saw the painting

"Prima facie case is made out

for exhibiting such offensive

paintings for public viewing

and hurting religious senti

ments," added Sachdeva. Or

dering the seizure, Monga cited

the police's action taken report,

which said the investigating of

ficer seized the security camera

footage and the network video

recorder of the art gallery.

of "deities being ridiculed".

"This is obscenity. Depicted

Husain's paintings.

Saif's property inheritance in limbo

The Budget Session is coming up and we wil be making the provision of its budget. The BJP fulfils the promises it makes. Earlier too, we delivered what we promised

of the day

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

Last time. we had lim ited time for the verification of documents of potential benefi ciaries. We want-

ed to link the Aadhaar of every beneficiary to the scheme but could not do so. However, there will not be any recovery of the



are extremely awkward, disturbing and uncivilized N BIREN SINGH MANIPUR CM

SHORT TAKES

Man murdered over love affair

Bareilly (UP): A 28-yearold man from Bisalpur town in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district was allegedly murdered over a love affair, with his throat slit and his genitals mutilated, police said Thursday. Muzammil's body was found tied up and dumped near a canal in the Barkapur area under Izzatnagar police station in Bareilly district Wednesday. Two people have been arrested, the police said.

Elephant falls in well

Malappuram(Kerala): An elephant fell into a private well in this district Thursday morning, and the forest department is facing difficulties in rescuing the pachyderm as locals want

against him. it to be relocated to some



WAS SAIF REALLY **ATTACKED: RANE**

PUNE: Maharashtra minister and **BJP** leader Nitesh Rane sparked a controversy Thursday after he raised questions over the knife attack on Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan wondering if the Bollywood star was "really attacked or if he was acting". The statement from Rane comes a day after former Ra jya Sabha MP and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Nirupam raised questions about the actor's swift return to normal life following a six-hour surgery for deep stab wounds. Rane further spoke on perceived biases, claiming that while many speak out when a 'Khan' is attacked, similar attention is not given to Hindu actors. He was re ferring to late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who died by suicide in June 2020, and said that Opposition leaders like Jitendra Awhad and

Home Ministry had given Supriva Sule had remained silent its ruling on the ground that on Rajput's case but were now vocal about Khan's situation. Nawab Muhammad Hamidullah Khan's eldest daughter Abida Sultan Begum migrated ognised Sajida Sultan Begum to Pakistan following the Parti-"as such ruler, is the sole suction. Therefore, all such propcessor to all private properties, erties that she was supposed to movable and immovable, held succeed are enemy properties by Nawab Hamidullah. And the and vest in the Custodian of GoI have no objection to such properties being transferred to However, senior advocate

Sajida Sultan Begum. Sajida Sultan Begum is the second daughter of Nawab Hamidullah and as the eldest daughter (Abida) migrated to Pakistan, Sajida became the owner of all such properties,

he told PTI Later, Sajida's son Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi (Tiger Pa-

taudi) became the successor of these properties and after him Saif Ali Khan is the owner of these properties, estimated to be valued at nearly ₹15,000 crore. But after the order of Custodian of Enemy Property, the ownership title became disputed which was challenged by Sharmila Tagore (Saif's mother and Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi's wife) in the high court in 2015. During hearing December 13, 2024, the government advocate informed "that in the year 2017, the Act, namely the Enemy Property Act 1968, has been repealed from a retrospective date and the appellate authority has been constituted for adjudication of disputes in regard to enemy property."

In his order on December 13, 2024, Justice Vivek Agrawal said, "In view of the such facts, since a statutory remedy of filing a representation has been provided, parties are relegated to avail such remedy. However, at this distance of time, the issue of limitation may arise.

However, Bhopal Collector Kaushlendra Vikram Singh said he has not seen the high court order and will comment only after getting all relevant details.

SAD delegation alleges bogus votes in SGPC election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 23: A Shiromani Akali Dal delegation met the chief commissioner of the Gurdwara Elections Commission Thursday, alleging the registration of "bogus votes" for the upcoming polls of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

The delegation urged the chief commissioner to extend the process for registration of voters for the general elections of SGPC, the apex gurdwara body, to March 31, and to weed out all "bogus votes"

The delegation, which included SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhundar, former president Sukhbir Singh Badal, SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhami, and senior party leader Daliit Singh Cheema. met Gurdwara Elections Com mission Chief Commissioner Justice (retd) Surinder Singh Saron.

Speaking to the media, Cheema alleged that there had been large-scale registration of "bogus votes" for the SGPC elections. "Thousands of bogus votes have been registered," he claimed.

In a memorandum to the chief commissioner, Badal alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government had "directed" booth level officers to register votes en masse from voter lists due to which "thousands of non-Sikhs" had been given the voting right for the elections. He claimed that besides this, genuine votes were being deleted even as "bogus votes" were being added as part of the conspiracy to take over control of the SGPC "by hook or by crook". Badal urged the chief commissioner to issue directions for the review of all voter lists so that bogus votes could be weeded out.

Delhi court dismisses plea against Husain's paintings



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: A Delhi court has refused to direct an FIR on a plea alleging two paintings of late artist and Padma awardee M F Husain hurt religious sentiments and said no further probe was required. Judicial magistrate first

class Sahil Monga said all the facts and circumstances of the case were within the knowledge of the complainant, the CCTV footage of Delhi Art Gallery. and the paintings in question have already been seized.

"No further investigation and collection of evidences is required on the part of investigating agency at this stage, as all the evidences are in the possession of complainant as well as on record," said the court.

The matter, it went on, could proceed before the court as a complaint case and issued notice to Delhi Art Gallery Pvt. Ltd., its CEO and MD Ashish Anand, and Director Ashwani Anand for February 12. The judge observed police in its action taken report said the paintings in question were seized.

The report said the art exhi The report further said the bition was held privately and commission of cognisable ofthe paintings, including the fence could not be ascertained. two in question, were only to the judge noted. The judge Jandisplay the original work of uary 20 ordered the seizure of Husain.

MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS IN J&K

Over 200 shifted to quarantine centres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Jan 23: Over 200 individuals, who came in contact with the affected families of the 17 people who died due to the mysterious illness in Rajouri, have been guarantined as a precautionary measure, an official said Thursday Four people, including three sisters, have been shifted to hospitals, with three airlifted to a hospital in Jammu. Top health officials have identified a common factor among all those who lost their lives in Badhaal village as involvement of the brain and damage to the nervous system National Conference (NC) lead er and local MLA Javaid Iqbal Choudhary Thursday demanded the imposition of a medical emergency to save people and contain the spread of such a mysterious illness. Over 200 individuals who came into contact with the affected families have been relocated to a guarantine centre set up in the building of a nursing college and GMC hospital in Rajouri, they said. A new quarantine centre was set up in nursing college Wednesday As a precautionary measure these relocated individuals include close relatives of the deceased. Several individuals who had contact with the af fected families, from those who took children to the hospital to those who participated in buri als, have also been identified These individuals have been moved away from the village as a precaution to break the chain, officials said. Strict security measures have been implemented at the quarantine centre located in the nursing college building in Rajouri, designated specifically for quarantine purposes. The facility has been secured with fencing and rigorous monitor ing, they said. Before admission to the centre, all individuals are being screened. Arrangements have been made to accommodate those affected at the nurs ing college at Gujjar Mandi.

CHEQUE BOUNCE CASE Ram Gopal Varma sentenced to jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai. Jan 23: A court here has sentenced filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma to three months imprisonment in a cheque

bounce case and issued a non-bailable arrest warrant

The complaint of cheque bounce was registered against Varma's firm in 2018 by a company. The court had granted bail to Varma in April 2022 on a cash security of ₹5,000.

"With regard to the news about me and Andheri court, I want to clarify that it is to do



given money AJIT PAWAR | MAHA DEPUTY CM

(by unauthorized people) on personal matters was uploaded on

deep forest area instead of releasing in the same area again. Over 12 hours since it fell into the well, the elephant is still awaiting rescue as residents are against releasing the tusker in the same area. Meanwhile, ex-Nilambur MLA and present convener of the Trinamool Congress P V Anvar said the elephant should be killed by filling the well with mud.

50 kg IED planted by **Naxalites recovered**

Bijapur: Security forces Thursday recovered a powerful 50 kg Improvised **Explosive Device (IED)** planted by Naxalites in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, the police said. The remote-controlled IED under a culvert near Timapur Durga temple on Basaguda-Awapalli Road was detected by the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) of the 168th battalion of the CRPF when it was out on de-mining exercise, an official said. The Naxalites had removed some stones and cement to create a cavity for the IED which was then covered with stones, he said

Ch'garh rolls out red carpet for investors

Mumbai: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishu Deo Sai said Thursday that the state government is fully geared up to attract investments in textile, technical textile, tourism. information technology, semiconductors, data centres, infrastructure, health. education. manufacturing and services apart from the encouraging expansion in steel, mining and power generation

Judicial Magis trate (First Class) in Andheri, Y P Pujari, Tuesday convicted Varma for the offence punishable under the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act. The court also directed

the filmmaker to pay compensation of ₹3,72,219 to the complainant within three months from the date of the order. The detailed order was not available yet. Since Varma was not present before the court when the order was passed, it issued a standing non-bailable warrant against him for his arrest for execution of the sentence as per the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

with a 7 year old case of ₹2 lakh 38 thousand amount, relating to my ex-employee. My advocates are attending,' the filmmaker later posted on his X account. "It is not about settling the rupees 2.38

lakh. The contention was about refusing to be exploited in the attempts to fabricate. Anyway that's all I can say for now," the post further said. Advocates Rajesh Kumar Patel and Alok Singh, appearing for the complainant's company, submitted an affidavit before the court stating that the firm was engaged in the business of providing hard disks for the last several years.

Foreign devotees take part in a religious procession during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh PTI PHOTO

Nagpur, Jaipur, Lucknow top 3 emerging cities: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: Nagpur, Jaipur and Lucknow are the top three emerging cities in India based on four parameters, including physical and social infrastructure as well as real estate scenario, according to a report by Colliers.

Real estate consultant Colliers India has conducted a comprehensive parameter-based analysis matrix to evaluate the growth drivers of emerging cities. This matrix was developed using four key parameters: physical infrastructure; social infrastructure: demographic growth & economic development; and real estate dynamics. The cities with a well-established ecosystem and strong future growth potential, driv-

en by development initiatives

from both government and pri-

vate sectors, achieved higher

scores in the assessment.

Among the emerging cities assessment, Nagpur emerged as the top performer, followed by Jaipur and Lucknow, all three anticipated to establish a strong presence in India's real estate market in the coming years. Nagpur, known as the "Orange City," is a rapidly

developing urban centre in Maharashtra.

Key projects like MIHAN. Samruddhi Mahamarg, and Nagpur Metro are enhancing connectivity and economic growth, the report said.

Nagpur city is becoming a significant hub for residential, commercial, and industrial investments, attracting attention from across India. Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan and famously known as the Pink City, is one of the earliest planned cities in India "Jaipur's

economy, driven by tourism. gemstone cutting, jewelery man ufacturing, textiles, luxury

and the IT sector, is supported by its growing infrastructure as it emerges as a key manufacturing and IT hub in India," the consultant said. Swapnil Anil, Managing Director, Advisory Services, Colliers India, said the expansion of expressways not only

improves commuting but also promotes urban growth. "It supports econom-REAL development, ESTATE encourages the creation of integrated town-

BASED ANALYSIS MATRIX TO EVALUATE THE GROWTH DRIVERS OF EMERGING CITIES THIS MATRIX WAS DEVELOPED USING FOUR KEY PARAMETERS: PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE; SOCIAL tors collec-INFRASTRUCTURE; DEMOGRAPHIC tively drive **GROWTH & ECONOMIC** demand for re-DEVELOPMENT; AND REAL ESTATE DYNAMICS

CONSULTANT COLLIERS INDIA HAS CONDUCTED A COMPREHENSIVE PARAMETER ships and social infrastructure, and boosts tourism. These fac-

> al estate in the region, making it a promising investment opportunity for investors

and homebuyers alike," he said. Swapnil said this is the best time to invest in land within the micro-markets of emerging cities along expressways, with expected returns of up to 5.2X over the next decade.

















national



Netaji's unyielding spirit instilled self-respect and gave a voice to the people HEMANT SOREN

MANIPUR CM WARNS SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLERS

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Thursday warned social media page handlers who upload posts that violate law and personal space of others



Even though Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitha raman announced ₹5,300 crore for the project in the Bud-

get, not a single rupee has been released. This is a betrayal of the people by the Central government and BJP

SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

The Modi government took several steps to improve the healthcare scenario in the country. India's healthcare

budget rose from ₹37,000 crore in 2013-14 to ₹ 98,000 crore under the Modi government, which indicates a three-fold increase in allocation. The PM adopted a holistic approach for improving health services in the country AMIT SHAH UNION MINISTER

The news of two students committing suicide in a single day in Kota, Rajas than is extremely scarv and heart-

breaking. Here five students have committed suicide within three weeks, this is very worrying PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONGRESS LEADER





I bought a 409 Litre Beko refrigerator at 1100 AED (approx= 25K) in Dubai. I am trying to buy

a refrigerator in Goa with similar specs: it is at least 38K. That's almost 50% price upgrade. It is strange that our country considers a fridge/refrigerator as a "luxury" and taxes the hell out it. @Akshat World

SHORT TAKES

Student iumps to death in AP

Somaladoddi (Andhra Pradesh): A 16-year-old boy

JALGAON TRAIN ACCIDENT

Team of 5 senior officials initiates probe

New Delhi, Jan 23: A team of five senior railway officials has initiated an inquiry into the Jalgaon train tragedy in which 12 people lost their

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thursday. The team includes principal chief safety officer (PC-SO), principal chief security commissioner (PCSC), principal chief electrical engineer (PCEE), principal chief mechanical engineer (PCME) and principal chief commercial manager (PCCM) -- all from the Central Railway Zone, it said.

The team has initiated an investigation into the incident, said Dilip Kumar, Executive Director, Information and Publicity, Railway Board. "The PCSO has been appointed as convener," Kumar said. "They have been asked to look into the cause of the incident and submit a report as soon as possible," he added.

Twelve passengers of the Mumbai-bound Pushpak Express, who got off the train after an alarm chain-pulling incident, were run over by the Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi on the adjacent tracks in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district Wednesday evening, Swapnil Dhanrai Nila, **Chief Public Relations Officer**



KARNATAKA EXPRESS ARRIVED 20 MINUTES AFTER PUSHPAK HALTED BY CHAIN PULLING

NEW DELHI: Dismissing reports that some passengers of Pushpak hursday said the passengers alighted after they stopped the train by Karnataka Express arrived 20 minutes later. The officials said that the o got down on the adjacent tracks had adec to move to safe areas, but they kept standing without realising the impending danger. Several videos shared by passengers prior to the tragedy also suggest the same .

(CPRO), Central Railway, earlier told PTI that Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police had initiated a preliminary inquiry after the tragedy Wednesday to find out what caused passengers to pull the alarm chain and alight the Pushpak Express. Now, the

probe has been handed over to the team of five senior officials. Asked if the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) will also investigate the incident, Nila said, "The order for a CRS enquiry hasn't been issued vet." Initial reports suggested that a rumour of fire caused panic among Pushpak Express' passengers who alighted and waited at the adjacent tracks for a few minutes when the speeding Karnataka Express mowed manv of them down. The Railway Ministry clarified that no spark or smoke emanated from any part of the coach.

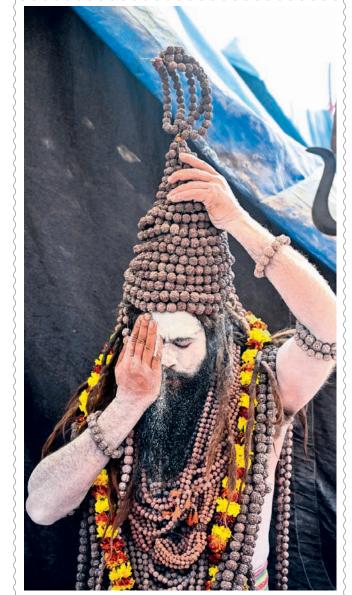
"We are trying to find out who spread the rumour and what caused the passengers to come out of the train," a railway official said.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the accident was revised to 12 after officials confirmed Thursday that a head and a torso, initially thought to belong to different individuals, were from the same person.

A state government official said that earlier the figure had been arrived at 13 as a woman's body and a head were found at the scene of the accident, but a man identified the body parts as that of his mother.

"The Government Medical College (in Jalgaon) has officially stated that the total number of dead persons is 12 as the torso and body are of the same deceased (female) identified by her son," he said. The official said all bod ies have been identified and they were being handed over to their respective families.

Of those who lost their lives on the tracks, seven hailed from Nepal



A 'sadhu' at his tent at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

After Ajit Doval, foreign secy Misri to visit China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will travel to Beijing on a two-day trip beginning Sunday to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart, in the second such high-profile visit from India to China in less than one-and-ahalf months.

Last month, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval visited Beijing and held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi under the framework of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary dispute. "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will be visiting Beijing Janutaken at a meeting between ary 26 and 27 for a meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism between India and China," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "The resumption of this bilateral mechanism flows from the agreement at the leadership level to discuss the next steps for India-China relations, includ-The ing in the political, economic. and people-to-people domains,' it said in a brief statement. It



to revive the SR mechanism and other such dialogue formats was

MORE RIFT IN K'TAKA BJP PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Jan 23: The Karnataka BJP's internal squabbles deepened Thursday with old pals--mining baron B Janardhana Reddy and ex-minister B Sriramulu locking horns in public.

The trigger seems to be accusations against Sriramulu in the BJP core committee meeting that he was in some way responsible for the party's defeat in the Sandur by-poll, after failing to secure the party nomination for himself. He was pulled up for not doing enough to win the election.

According to sources, a section in the BJP created an impression that Sriramulu was eyeing for a BJP ticket from Sandur after losing the 2023 Assembly election and 2024 Lok Sabha poll. However, the party fielded Bangaru Hanumanthu, who lost to Congress Annapurna in the by-poll. Following the accusa tions made in the core committee meeting, Sriramulu said he would prefer quitting the party. The former MP and MLA Wednesday openly accused Janardhana Reddy, the Gangavathi MLA of "backbiting" against him to party national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal. Responding, Reddy sought to remind Sriramulu that it was he who made him tread on the righteous path when he was thinking of avenging his uncle's brutal murder.

Why are MoUs being signed at Davos Summit?

AGENCIES

the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu enthusiastically signed several MoUs with Indian companies in Davos during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit, a glaring question emerges: Why are these deals being inked on foreign soil?

The question being hotly debated on social media and in political circles is why state governments insist on sending delegations abroad to sign agreements with Indian firms, deals that could easily be finalised within India?

Many analysts argue that this is nothing more than a



Have signed 61 MoUs: Fadnavis

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Thursday said 61 MoUs have been signed during his visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos entailing investment of ₹15.70 lakh crore and having the potential to provide 16 lakh jobs in the state. The annual five-day meeting of the WEF is underway in Davos, Switzerland from January 20. CM Fadnavis is attending ka Chaturvedi posted on 2 that the "Maharashtra state government entourage has spent huge amounts of mon ey to sign MOUs with Indian companies in Davos! Arrey bhai Mumbai main hi sign kar lete... oh but wait, AQI is better there." Another post by an X user called such exercises as "absolutely blatant".

"Opposition should demand and seek clarification around this Junket on Tax Payers Money!!! They are having ball of a time!!! Entire Indian entourage having Picnic in #Switzerland - Pity a common man," wrote the X user.

According to another X us er, "the fact is that most of this year's MoUs again seem to be with companies based in India.



jumped to death from the third floor of his junior college Thursday here in Anantapur district, said a police official. Anantapur Rural sub-divisional police officer T Vekateshulu said the boy just returned to college from Sankranti holidays Thursday morning and died by suicide at 11:55 am. "After the holidays, this boy came to the college around 9:30 am Thursday. While the class was going on, around 11:55 am, he suddenly came out from the classroom and jumped from the third floor,' Venkateshulu told PTI.

Five judges appointed

New Delhi: Three judicial officers and two advocates were Thursday appointed as judges in three high courts. While three judicial officers were appointed as judges of the Rajasthan HC, one advocate each was appointed as judge of the Allahabad High Court and the Bombay HC. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the fresh appointments in a post on X.

NDTV loan: Court accepts CBI report

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday accepted a closure report filed by the CBI in an alleged case of irregularities by ICICI Bank in accepting loan repayment from NDTV. saving "it appeared to be satisfactory". Special judge Shailender Malik accepted the closure report after going through the report, and the submissions made by the CBI. and the complainant in the case, who said he did not want to file any protest petition being satisfied with the investigation

is expected that the two sides would touch upon a number of issues at the talks including ways to deescalate the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. China has been impressing upon India to agree on resuming direct flights between the two countries and facilitate issuance of visas to Chinese citizens. The decision

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan October 23. In the nearly 50-minute meeting, Modi underscored the importance of properly handling differences and disputes and not allowing them to disturb peace and tranquillity in border areas. Modi-Xi

meeting came two days after India and China firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

In the SR dialogue, India pressed for a fair. reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the overall boundary dispute between the two countries. Doval and Wang also focused on "positive" direction for cross-border cooperation including resuming the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, river data sharing and border trade.

PR exercise. The governments appear to be not only pushing their business-friendly image, but also flaunting their ability to attract investment. If these were foreign investments, it would at least justify the MoU signing spree on foreign soil.

Netizens also criticised mega Indian deals being inked at the ongoing WEF event in Davos, with some even seeking clari-

the meeting with a state delegation. Interacting with reporters via Zoom link from Davos, he said seven of these MoUs were strategic partnerships for knowledge in mobility and education and not investment. All the MoUs have 98 percent FDI component in the field of infrastructure, green energy, electronics, IT, steel, defence, textiles, solar, biotechnology, pharma, among others, the CM added

fication around misusing taxpayers' money.

Rajya Sabha MP Priyan

Sena (UBT) demands Bharat Ratna for Bal Thackeray

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena (UBT) Thursday demanded the Bharat Ratna for Shiv Sena founder late **PPF** Bal Thackeray. Speaking on the occasion of the late leader's 99th birth anniversary, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said the BJP-led government has in the last 10 years conferred the country's highest civilian honour on some persons who did not deserve it. "But the man who truly sowed the Z N seeds of Hindutva in the country must also be given the Bharat Ratna. Why has he not been given Bharat Ratna? 'Hindu-hriday Samrat' Bal Thackeray must be honoured with the award. This is Shiv Sena (UBT)'s demand," he said. Raut noted that Thackeray's birth centenary was a year away. 'Before the centenary starts, it is necessary that he gets the Bharat Ratna. You could not give the Bharat Ratna to Veer Savarkar. If you give Bharat Ratna to Balasaheb, it will also be an honour for Veer Savarkar," the Rajya Sabha member further said.

Maha Kumbh offers hope for differently-abled with free limbs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahakumbh Nagar (UP), Jan 23: Pilgrims are flocking to Maha Kumbh to take the holy dip in Sangam but several differently-abled people have a different reason to visit Prayagraj -- free treatment and fitment of

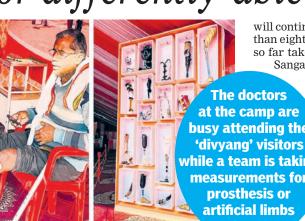
artificial limbs. Nestled in the midst of tents of various sects and religious groups is a camp by Naravan Seva Sansthan, a Jaipur-based charitable organisation working for the differently-abled. The doctors at the camp are busy attending the 'divyang' visitors while a team is taking measurements for prosthesis or

artificial limbs. The sansthan is known for its philanthropic services in treat-

ment and rehabilitation of polio-affected people. Jaishankar Kumar from Uttar Pradesh's Balia whose both legs had to be amputated two years back following a severe infection is at the Kumbh with hope for a new lease of life.

"Life has not been the same after I lost both my legs. I walk using crutches. Doctors suggested that I can use artificial limbs but they are expensive, not something I can afford. When we got to know that they will be available for free here. I and my family decided to visit Kumbh. We will also take the dip," he told PTI.

Kumar's measurements have already been taken and his fitment will be prepared at a fabrication unit set up at the camp.



camp," he said. "I have been asked to wait for 10 days and the limbs will be MahaKumbh, a mega-religious event organised evfitted. Till then. I am taking physiotherapy, which is also ery 12 years, is being held in being done free of cost at the Prayagraj from January 13 and

will continue for 45 days. More than eight crore pilgrims have so far taken a holy dip at the Sangam.

According to Krunal Chaudhary, a Prosbusy attending the 'divyang' visitors while a team is taking measurements for

thetic Orthopedic specialist at the camp, a team of 50 including doctors, physiotherapy specialists, prosthetics specialists, fabrication team with technicians has been deployed

at the Kumbh. Chaudhary informed that when Kumbh ends a tricycle distribution drive will also be conducted for the differently-abled.

"It is believed that whatever is done at the Kumbh, there is lot of religious or spiritual mer it in it. This is why we see hundreds of langars and communi ty kitchens offering free food This is our way of contributing to the spiritual event. We are not even checking whether a person can afford the treatment or limb fitment. For us every body is same and will get free treatment here," said Jeetu, a prosthetic technician. Special toilets at key locations for divyang, ramps at railway tick et counters and other important offices, braille signboards for visually impaired pilgrims, golf carts and e-rickshaws, are among the various measures taken by the administration for the differently abled pilgrims.

and these deals could have been signed in Mumbai itself".

"In fact, I'm told that several MoUs were deliberate ly held back for months to inflate the investment fig ures showcased at Davos No amount of PR spin can whitewash the Mahayuti's grave sin of driving crucial projects out of Maharashtra,' the X post claimed.





If Ukraine loses then to restore the deterrence of the rest of NATO again, it will be a much, much higher price than what we are contemplating at this moment in terms of ramping up our spending and ramping up our industrial production MARK RUTTE | NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

NEPAL HIKES MOUNT EVEREST CLIMBING FEE

Nepal has sharply increased permit fees for climbing Mount Everest by 36 per cent and also introduced a slew of measures aimed at controlling garbage pollution on the world's tallest peak, officials said. The royalty fee for foreigners climbing Everest from the normal south route in the spring season (March-May) has been raised to \$15,000 from the current \$11,000 per person



of the day

In a crucial moment for Haiti's stability, Colombia reaffirms its commitment to the strengthening of

democracy and the development of the region **GUSTAVO PETRO** | PRESIDENT, COLOMBIA

From the verv beginning. our interest was that India should get the status of most favoured nation We used to give MFN status to

Pakistan. But they did not grant the same status to us S JAISHANKAR

Gangs in Haiti could overrun the capital, Port-au-Prince, leading to a com plete breakdown

of government au thority without additional interna tional support for the beleaguered

ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

Flights between Turkiye, Syria resume

Istanbul: Commercial flights between Turkiye and Syria resumed Thursday after 13 years with a Turkish Airlines flight from Istanbul to Damascus. Turkish media showed Syrian families draped in their national flag singing pro-opposition songs and cheering as they prepared to board flight TK0846 to Damascus. Passengers continued their celebrations inside the plane, singing the uprising anthem "Hold your head up high, you are a free Syrian. One man sobbed while waiting for takeoff, "I missed Syria and am happy to fly back." said Fuad Abdulhalid. who has lived in Turkey for 12 years.

Al to resume Tel Aviv-Delhi flights

Jerusalem: With ceasefire holding up in the north and south of Israel, several

Gaza prepares tent camps for returnees 1500 active troops

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians expected to head back to the northern Gaza Strip will return to homes in ruins after a 15-month Israeli military offensive that has laid waste to the enclave and killed more than 47,000 Gazans

REUTERS

Cairo, Jan 23: Palestinians in northern Gaza prepared tent encampments for displaced families Thursday, two days before they were expected to return to their home areas in accordance with the timeline of a ceasefire deal agreed between Israel and Hamas.

On open ground surrounded by blown-out buildings, a group of men began putting up rows of white tents to receive families who are planning to return north on Saturday when the Palestinian militant group Hamas is due to release a second batch of hostages in return for dozens of Palestinians jailed by Israel.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians expected to head back to the northern Gaza Strip will return to homes in ruins after a 15-month Israeli military offensive that has laid waste to the enclave and killed more than

47,000 Gazans. In October, Israeli forces returned to areas of the north in a major anti-Hamas operation focused on Jabalia refugee camp near Gaza City and Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya towns, clearing the area of its



Mass return to the north

- expected to start Saturday Return to follow Hamas release of second batch of
- hostages Ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect Sunday

'There is nothing left' says woman who has returned to Jabalia

inhabitants and razing most of its buildings. "Is this the tent that we

dreamed of? This will have to fit 10 people. This tent is for my children coming from the south. Really, is this adequate space?" asked Wael Jundiya, as he prepared a tent for his children who will return from where they have been sheltering in the Mawasi coastal area of the south.

"People will come from the south and flood Gaza (City) Saturday, where will they go? This camp will fit 100, 200 people. There will be 1.5 million coming from the south," Jundiya told Reuters.

Israel launched its assault on Gaza after Hamas fighters

stormed across the border Oct 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. **RETURNING ON FOOT**

Hamas said people would be allowed to return on foot along the coastal road, meaning a walk of several miles to the official northern area from where they could try to get rides in vehicles, which would be searched at checkpoints. People returning must not carry arms, Hamas said.

Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said the group was in contact with several Arab and international parties who would assist in the return and relief operation, including providing tents. He said Hamas, which governs the enclave, would start work immediately to repair houses not fully destroyed.

In Jabalia, the biggest of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, and the focus of Israel's campaign in the past three months, many have returned to live inside their wrecked homes, setting small fires to try to warm their children.

US=MEXICO BORDER Pentagon deploys

The Pentagon will provide military aircraft to support Department of Homeland Security deportation flights for more than 5,000 detained migrants and the troops

will assist in the construction of barriers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Jan 23: The Pen tagon Wednesday said it has begun deploying 1,500 active duty troops to help secure the southern border in the coming days, putting in motion plans US President Donald Trump laid out in executive orders shortly after he took office to crack down on immigration.

Acting Defence Secretary Robert Salesses said the Pentagon will provide military aircraft to support Department of Homeland Security deportation flights for more than 5,000 detained migrants and the troops will assist in the construction of barriers.

The number of troops and their mission may soon change, Salesses said in a statement.

"This is just the beginning," he said.

It remains to be seen if they will end up doing law enforcement, which would put American troops in a dramatically different role for the first time in decades.

The active duty forces will join the roughly 2,500 US National Guard and Reserve forces already there. There are currently no active duty troops working along the roughly 3,219-km border.



Personnel started moving to the border earlier Wednesday, according to a military official briefing reporters on the condition of anonymity to provide additional details on the deployment

The troops will include 500 Marines from Camp Pendleton in California, and the remainder will be army personnel.

Troops have done similar duties in support of Border Patrol agents in the past, when both Trump and former president Joe Biden sent active duty troops to the border.

Troops are prohibited by law from doing law enforcement duties under the Posse Comitatus Act, but that may change.

Trump has directed through executive order that the incoming secretary of defence and incoming homeland security chief report back within 90 days if they think an 1807 law called the Insurrection Act should be invoked.

That would allow the troops to be used in civilian law enforcement on US soil.

The act was last invoked in 1992 during rioting in Los Angeles in protest against the acquittal of four police officers charged with beating activist Rodney King

The widely expected deployment, coming in Trump's first week in office, was an early step in his long-touted plan to expand the use of the military along the border.

SNIPPETS

ICC prosecutor seeks warrants for Afghan Taliban leaders

The Hague (Netherlands): The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor announced Thursday he had requested arrest warrants for two top Afghan Taliban officials for the repression of women. Karim Khan said in a statement he asked judges to approve warrants for the group's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhunzada, and the head of Afghanistan's Supreme Court, Abdul Hakim Haqqani, accusing the men of crimes against humanity for gender-based persecution. "These applications recognize that Afghan women and girls as well as the LGBTQI+ community are facing an unprecedented, unconscionable and ongoing persecution by the Taliban," Khan said. Since they tool back control of the country in 2021, the Taliban have barred women from jobs, most public spaces and education beyond sixth grade

UK warns Putin after **Russian spy ship seen** near British waters

London: The UK has warned of "robust action" after the Royal Navy tracked Russian spy ships in the English Channel just weeks after it claimed to have caught it "loitering over" critical undersea infrastructure in Britain's waters. Defence Secretary John Healey made a statement in Parliament on Wednesday to inform the House of Commons that the Royal Navy deployed HMS Somerset and HMS Tyne to monitor a vessel named 'Yantar' through UK waters. The minister described the vessel as a "Russian spy ship" used for gathering intelligence and mapping the UK's critical underwater infrastructure. "I authorised a Royal Navy submarine - strictly as a deterrent measure - to surface close to 'Yantar' to make clear that we had been covertly monitoring its every move. The ship then left UK waters - without further loitering - and sailed down to the Mediterranean," said Healey.

REBUILDING ASSAD'S POLICE Syria's new leaders turn to Islamic law REUTERS

Damascus, Jan 23: Syria's new authorities are using Islamic teachings to train a fledgling police force, a move officers say aims to instil a sense of morali-



gional analysts warn. "There are many Syrians who will find this concerning," said Aron Lund, a fellow at Century International, a Middle East-focused think tank, when asked about Reuters' findings. "Not



national police

major international airlines. including Air India, have announced plans to resume flights to Israel expanding connectivity to the war-torn region. "It's official now. We are resuming flights from March 2, 2025," a representative for Air India in Israel told PTI. Several Indians staying in Israel felt a sigh of relief as the Indian carrier's website opened bookings on the said route. Travelling to Israel had become challenging with most of the major international airlines cancelling their operations to the Jewish state in view of the war in the north against Hezbollah and in the south against Hamas in Gaza.

ty as they race to fill a security vacuum after dismantling ousted president Bashar al-Assad's notoriously corrupt and brutal security forces.

Police they brought into Damascus from their former rebel enclave in the northwestern region of Idlib are asking applicants about their beliefs and focusing on Islamic sharia law in the brief training they offer recruits, according to five senior officers and application forms seen by Reuters.

Ensuring stability and winning the trust of people across Svria will be crucial for the Sunni Muslim Islamists to cement their rule. But the move to put religion at the centre of policing

- Focus on Islamic teachings in police training raises concern among some Syrians
- Police trainers say this is to instil a sense of morality in recruits
 - Bashar al-Assad's security forces had a reputation for corruption and brutality
- New police force faces staffing constraints, aims to expand recruitment

risks seeding new rifts in a diverse country awash with guns after 13 years of civil war and alienating foreign governments they have been trying to woo, re-

just minorities - Christians Alawites, Druze - but also quite a lot of Sunni Muslims in places like Damascus and Aleppo, where you have a fairly large secular, cosmopolitan population that's not interested in religious law.

The religious foundations of the police training are also making Western governments wonder how big a role Islam might play in Syria's constitution, which the former rebel faction now in power plans to revise, said one diplomat, who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. "It's not a good sign, but it also depends on how strictly it will be implemented," the diplomat told Reuters.

Migrating cranes catch corn seeds as they flock at sunrise in Hula Lake conservation area, north of the Sea of alilee. northern Israel. Thursday

South Africans to attend Maha Kumbh

.

Johannesburg: Several thousand people from South Africa are expected to flock to the Maha Kumbh Mela being held at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh before it officially ends February 26. "In just the first few days since the Maha Kumbh was inaugurated Jabuary 13, more than a hundred visas have been issued for people wanting to attend the event, with scores more using their OCI cards to attend the same," Consul General of India in Johannesburg, Mahesh Kumar, said Wednesday evening. Kumar was hosting a seminar titled 'Maha Khumb 2025 - Where Spirituality Meets Technical Innovation', at which various speakers outlined both the history of the event and the spiritual benefits that all people, irrespective of religious affiliation or creed, could benefit from

Thailand first in Southeast Asia to legalise same-sex marriages

REUTERS

Bangkok, Jan 23: Thailand Thursday became the first country in Southeast Asia to hold legal same-sex weddings, with LGBT groups aiming to mark the occasion with more than 1,000 marriage registrations in a single day.

After decades of campaigning by activists, Thailand is the third territory in Asia to legalise same-sex marriages after Taiwan and Nepal, with a new marriage equality law coming into effect Thursday

Thailand's parliament flew rainbow flags Thursday and shopping complexes planned big pride events to celebrate the implementation of the new law.

At a mass wedding at a luxury Bangkok retail mall, more than 200 couples lined up to make their vows, some in white dresses, others in traditional Thai outfits, western suits and ceremonial police uniforms.

"It has been 17 years, we met in school and encountered many things, we hope to see more equality in the future," said Ploynaplus Chirasukon, 33. posing for photographs after receiving a marriage license with her wife Kwanporn Kongpetch.

LGBT groups hope to reach 1,448 wedding registrations on day one, a symbolic number that refers to the section of the Thai civil code where a key amendment changed the words husband and wife to "spouse".

The organisers, along with related agencies, plan to compile



Thailand holds its first same-sex weddings

figures from ceremonies nationwide and submit a request to Guinness World Records to recognise Thailand as holder of the world's largest number of same-sex marriage registrations in a single day.

"One-four-four-eight symbolises the fight for marriage rights for all genders. It represents the dream and hope of building an inclusive society that accepts and celebrates love in all its forms," LGBT group Bangkok Pride said

'JUST THE FIRST STEP'

District offices nationwide and Thai embassies overseas

he new same-sex marriage law will create more momentum for greater inclusion of LGBTQ people in Thailand, which has long had a reputation for its carnival-like pride events and tolerance towards the community

GBT groups hope to reach 1,448 wedding registrations on day one, a symbolic number that refers to the section of the Thai civil code where a key amendment changed the words husband and wife to "spouse"

were also open for marriage registration, according to the government. "Equal marriage has truly become possible with the power of all," said former Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, who was premier when the landmark legislation passed last year.

He marked the day as one "close to the hearts of many

Thais." According to legal ana lysts, the new same-sex marriage law will create more momentum for greater inclusion of LGBTQ people in Thailand, which has long had a reputation for its car nival-like pride events and tolerance towards the community

However, other regulations like building a legally recognised a family remain a challenge for some couples.

The definition of family - a father being a man and a mother a woman - remain in the Thai legal code. Bangkok Pride organiser Adcharaporn Thongchalaem said Thursday's rush to register marriages was about recognition. not records.

"This event shows that many LGBT couples want this (marriage) certificate. It's a symbol that Thailand is ready for change towards equality. Same-sex marriage is just the first step," Adcharaporn said.





I am not sure whether **RBI should do anything** because every other currency is depreciating against the US dollar because if it tries to elevate rupee vis-a-vis dollar, it will be essentially strengthening rupee against all other currencies and that would make it more difficult for our exporters RAGHURAM RAJAN | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

OLA STARTS E-BIKES PRODUCTION

Ola Electric Thursday said it has started production of its Roadster range of motorcycles at its Chennai-based plant with deliveries expected to commence in March. The Bangalore-based firm had showcased its motorcycle portfolio in August 2024. "Going by the company's latest update, Ola Electric is set to start the deliveries of its motorcycles from March 2025 onwards," it stated



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



The persistent talent shortage, with 80 per cent of organisations struggling to

fill roles in 2025. underscores the urgent need for collective action SANDEEP GULATI | MD (INDIA AND MIDDLE EAST), MANPOWERGROUP

In 2025-

2026, we are looking to strategically expand our capacity portfolio by acquiring

key operational assets within the country and across geographies. These acquisitions will be crucial in shaping the growth trajectory of the company in the coming years AMIT KUMAR MITTAL | CEO, JINDAL INDIA RENEWABLE ENERGY

Good progress is there on India-EU FTA. There is a sig nificant prog ress in talks

PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

Q3 RESULTS

HPCL profit up 3-fold

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) Thursday reported more than tripling of its December guarter net profit as marketing margins soared. Consolidated net profit stood at ₹2,543.65 crore in October-December 2024 - the third guarter of April 2024 to March 2025 fiscal year (FY25) - compared with ₹712.84 crore earning in the same period a year back. Profit was also up quarter-on-quarter when compared with ₹142.67 crore earning in July-September 2024.

AGEL profit up 85%

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) Thursday posted over 85 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹474 crore for December guarter on the back of higher

US sanctions hit Russian oil imports Moody's: ₹ weakest performing currency in Southeast Asia **BPCL SEES MARCH RUSSIAN OIL INTAKE DOWN 20% AS IT AWAITS OFFERS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: The wide-ranging sanctions imposed by the US on the Russian oil sector have started to dent near-term oil flows to India with state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) saying not enough cargoes are available for March.

📢 In 2024, Russian crude imports to India averaged 1.7 million barrels per day, making the OPEC+ producer its largest supplier

< Russian oil made up for 34-35% of all oil that BPCL processed at the start of the current financial year in April 2024

The US January 10 issued sweeping sanctions targeting the Russian energy sector. The measures include sanctions on Russian oil producers Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas, the blacklisting of 183 vessels involved in Russian energy exports, and curbs on dozens of oil traders, oilfield service providers, tanker owners and managers, insurance companies and energy officials.



BPCL Director (Finance) Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta told in

Gold hits fresh all-time high of ₹82,900/10 gm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: Gold prices rose ₹170 to hit a fresh record high of ₹82,900 per 10 grams in the national capital Thursday amid a positive global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had

closed at ₹82,730 per 10 grams Wednesday.

In about one year, the precious metal surged ₹20,180 or 32.17 per cent to ₹82,900 per 10 grams from ₹62,720 per 10 grams February 23, 2024. Extending the gains for

the seventh straight session, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by ₹170 to hit an



Russia made up for just 0.2% of all oil imported by India in the year ended March 31, 2022. India, however, became the second biggest buyer of Russian crude oil since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022, with purchases rising to almost 40% of the country's total oil purchases. The rise was primarily because Russian crude oil was available at a discount to other internationally traded oil due to the price cap and the European nations shunning purchases from Moscow

an analyst call Thursday that Russian oil had been booked for January and February in the previous two months but

for March "we are not getting sufficient cargoes" The company saw Russian oil in the overall basket of crude oil it processes into fuels like petrol and diesel, falling to 20 per cent in March from 31 per cent in the October-December

quarter, he said. In 2024, Russian crude imports to India averaged 1.7 million barrels per day, making the OPEC+ producer its largest

supplier. Gupta said the discounts on Russian oil have shrunk to \$3-3.2 per barrel from \$3.5-4 at the start of the fiscal and \$8.5 in fiscal vear 2023-24

This month, India has decided to shun deliveries made by tankers that have been sanctioned by the US in the latest round

Russia used these tankers to ship oil to countries like India and China after the Group of Seven (G7) countries in 2022 imposed a \$60 a barrel price cap on exports by the Kremlin.

TOPSY-TURVY TRADE

There is enough oil available in the market and we will look at alternatives such as the Middle East to replace the lost volumes from Russia VETSA RAMAKRISHNA I

DIRECTOR FINANCE), BPCL

This cap, introduced to limit Moscow's revenues to fund its war in Ukraine, meant that Western shipping and insurance services were not available for any oil cargo that was priced more than \$60 per barrel.

SHADOW FLEET

To circumvent that, Russia used the so-called shadow fleet, insured by its own companies. This fleet has now been sanctioned.

There is a wind-down period until March 12, which will allow for existing contracts to finish.

"For the first two months, there will be no disruption. Within two months we will probably see new arrangements emerging in terms of oil coming to India," a senior government source said.

Sanctioned Russian tankers will not be allowed to dock at Indian ports, the source said, adding that the only exception would be for Russian oil cargoes booked before January 10, provided they unload by March 12.

The sanctions sent global oil prices to \$83-84 a barrel but Gupta saw this as a temporary phenomenon and oil should settle in the \$75-80 range soon.

In the worst-case scenario, Russian crude, which India was getting at a discount, will not be available at a discount, he added.

In an attempt to restrict funds for Russia's war machine, The Group of Seven rich nations, the European Union and Australia put an embargo on Russian crude and introduced a \$60 per barrel price cap in December 2022. Over the next 12 months, the price cap and embargo had a significant impact on revenues and forced Russia to find new markets and wavs to transport its oil.

Russia did this by offering deep discounts on its Urals grade crude.

In the first year of the sanctions, Russia was losing, on an average, 23 per cent of its Urals crude export revenues every month due to the price cap and embargo. This figure has fallen sharply to a mere monthly average of 9 per cent in the second year of the cap. This is because Russia built

a network of 'shadow' tankers, which could trade its oil above the cap to new markets in non-sanctioning countries.

New Delhi, Jan 23: Moody's Ratings Thursday said the Indian rupee has depreciated by around 5 per cent in the last two years and has fallen by 20 per cent in the last five years making it one of the weakest performing currencies in South and South East Asia.

Of the 23 rated Indian companies, Moody's assessed only six to be exposed to the effects of dollar strength, but these companies have sufficient mitigating factors.

These companies are the three oil refining and marketing companies (OMCs) **Bharat Petroleum Corporation** (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL). building materials produce UltraTech Cement, Bharti Air tel and ride sharing company ANI Technologies Pvt Ltd.

"While the rupee has depreci ated by only around 5 per cent in the last two years, it has fall en over 20 per cent since Janu ary 2020, making it one of the weakest-performing currencies in South and Southeast Asia,' Moody's said in its report on Corporates' South and South east Asia Emerging Markets.

Meanwhile, the rupee de clined 9 paise to settle at 86.44 against the US dollar Thursday amid the strengthening American currency and continuous outflow of foreign funds.

IT stocks lead gains in indices

BSE SEN	ISE	X	JANUARY	23, 2025	GRAPHIC
		CHANGE: +	115.39 (+0.15	%)	
Previous Close x.com	1	76,5	520.38 —	····	Today Closin
76,404.99 76,400 76,300 76,300 76,300 76,400 76,300 76,400 76,400	5 am	11 am	1 pm	3 pm 4 pm	76,520.38
ULTRATECH CEMENT	+6.81%			POWER GRID	-1.19%
ZOMATO	+2.52%	ТОР	тор	KOTAK BANK	-1.18%
M&M	+2.03%	GAINERS	LOSERS	HCL TECH	-1.06%
SUN PHARMA	+2.01%			RELIANCE	-1.05%

Benchmarks rise for 2nd day on gains in IT, consumer durable stocks

Market capitalisation of **BSE-listed** companies rose by ₹2,75,359.24cr to ₹4,24,63,686.80cr or \$4.91tn

"Uncertainty lingers whether the trade tariff measures will affect global trade, instigate higher inflation, and currencies volatility. The trend holds a declining momentum YTD with a pause today contemplating the upcoming 2025 budget, which has a muted expectation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Celerio will see an increase New Delhi, Jan 23: Car mar-

in ex-showroom prices by up to ₹32,500, while that of premium model Invicto by up to ₹30,000.

Maruti Suzuki to hike prices by up to ₹32,500 from Feb

revenues from power supply. The company had logged a net profit of ₹256 crore in the vear-ago period, according to a BSE filing. Revenue from power supply rose to ₹1,993 crore in the quarter from ₹1,765 crore in the same period year ago.

ZEEL profit jumps 3X

New Delhi: Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) Thursday reported a nearly three-fold jump in consolidated net profit at ₹163.6 crore for December guarter FY25. helped by lower expenses. specially operational costs. The company had posted a profit of ₹58.5 crore for the vear-ago period. 7FFL said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the guarter under review was at ₹940.6 crore as compared to ₹1.027.4 crore in the year-ago period.

UltraTech Cement dips

group firm UltraTech Cement

₹1,473.51 crore for the third

31, 2024. The company had

posted a consolidated net

profit of ₹1,774.78 crore in

the same quarter last fiscal,

UltraTech Cement said in a

IEX net profit surges

New Delhi: Indian Energy

in its consolidated net profit to

₹107.29 crore, mainly driven by

Exchange (IEX) Thursday

from operations in the quarter

regulatory filing. Revenue

under review stood at

₹17,193.33 crore.

higher revenues.

New Delhi: Aditya Birla

Ltd Thursday reported a

consolidated net profit of

guarter ended December

all-time high level of ₹82.500 per 10 grams. The metal had finished at ₹82,330 per 10 grams in the previous trading session.

Gold of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity grew ₹2,320 each in the last seven trading sessions.

However, silver prices declined ₹500 to ₹93,500 per kg from the previous close of ₹94,000 per kg Wednesday.

Bullion traders attributed the rise in precious metal prices to heightened demand by jewellers and retailers, along with a strong trend in the international markets. In the overseas markets,

Comex gold futures fell \$13.20 per ounce or 0.48 per cent to \$2,757.70 per ounce.

Mumbai, Jan 23: Stock markets extended gains for the second day Thursday helped by buying in IT, consumer durables and commodity stocks amid a largely positive trend in global markets.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share index rose by 115.39 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 76,520.38. The barometer started on a negative note dropping by 202 points to a low of 76,202.12. The index pared losses later and climbed 338.55 points or 0.44 per cent to hit a

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

high of 76,743.54.

The broader NSE Nifty rose by 50 points or 0.22 per cent to end at 23.205.35.

From the Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharmaceutical. Zomato. Tech Mahindra. Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Titan, ITC and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers.

In contrast, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HCL Technologies, PowerGrid. Reliance Industries. State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, Nestle India and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

Geojit Financial Services, said. Meanwhile in-line Q3 results showcasing QoQ growth to the indices suggesting that Q4 will be much better, Nair said.

In broader markets, the BSE smallcap index rose 0.67 per cent and midcap gauge jumped 1.78 per cent

Among BSE sectoral indices, Consumer Durables rose the most by 1.95 per cent. Commodities by 1.86 per cent, Focused IT by 1.79 per cent, Information Technology by 1.51 per cent, Services 1.42 per cent and Consumer Discretionary and Healthcare went up 1.28 per cent each.

On the other hand, Energy, Bankex and Oil & Gas were the only laggards.

India Thursday said it will hike prices by up to ₹32,500 across various models from February 1 to partially offset the rise in input costs.

ket leader Maruti Suzuki

Due to rising input costs and operational expenses, the company plans to increase car prices, starting February 1, 2025, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing.

"While the company is committed to optimising costs and reducing the impact on the customers, we are constrained to pass on some of the increased expenses to the market," it added.

Under the revised prices, the company's compact car

The company's popular model Wagon-R price will go by up to ₹15,000 while that of Swift by ₹5,000. SUVs Brezza and Grand Vitara will see price hikes by up to ₹20,000 and ₹25,000, respectively.

Entry-level small cars Alto K10 prices will rise by up to ₹19,500 and that of S-Presso by up to ₹5,000, the filing said.

Premium compact model Baleno's price will go up by up to ₹9,000, compact SUV Fronx by up to ₹5,500, and that of compact sedan Dzire by up to ₹10,000, it added.

The company, currently, sells a range of vehicles from entry-level Alto K-10, with prices starting at ₹3.99 lakh, to Invicto at ₹28.92 lakh.

ChatGPT data removal will breach US legal obligations: OpenAI

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 23: OpenAI has told an Indian court that any order to remove training data powering its ChatGPT service would be inconsistent with its legal obligations in the United States, according to a recent filing seen by Reuters.

The Microsoft-backed AI firm also said that it was not within the jurisdiction of Indian courts to hear a copyright breach case brought by local news agency ANI as OpenAI had no presence

in the country. In the most high-profile and closely-tracked lawsuit on AI use in India, ANI sued OpenAI in Delhi in November, accusing

it of using the news agency's published content without permission to train ChatGPT. OpenAI responded to the lawposted a nearly 17 per cent rise suit, which is also seeking the

deletion of ANI's data already stored by ChatGPT, in an 86-page



filing at the Delhi High Court dated January 10 which has not previously been reported.

OpenAI and other firms have faced a wave of similar lawsuits from prominent copyright owners over alleged misuse of their work to train AI models, including a case brought by the New York Times against OpenAI in the United States.

OpenAI has repeatedly denied the allegations, saying its AI systems make fair use of publicly available data.

During a November hearing, OpenAI told the Delhi court it would not use ANI's content anymore but the news agency argued its published works were stored in ChatGPT's memory and should be deleted.

In the January 10 submission, OpenAI said that it is currently defending litigation in the United States concerning the data on which its models have trained, been with laws there requiring it to preserve the data while hearings are pending.

OpenAI "is therefore under a legal obligation, under the laws of

the United States to preserve, and not delete, the said training

data", it said.

OpenAI did not respond to a request for comment.

In its submission, OpenAI also said the relief being claimed by ANI was not subject to the processes of Indian courts and was beyond their jurisdiction.

The company has "no office or permanent establishment in

India ... the servers on which (ChatGPT) stores its training data lawsuit among are similarwave of similar copyright ly situated cases against OpenAl outside of

ChatGPT service becoming increasingly popular in India

OpenAI says US law requires data which preservation during litigation Reuters holds a Indian court due to hear the 26% in-

case January 28 terest. in

India".

in

a statement said that it believes the Delhi court has jurisdiction to decide on the matter, and it would file a detailed response.

ANI.

A Reuters spokesperson did not respond immediately to a request for comment but the agency in November said it was not involved in ANI's business practices or operations.

The New Delhi court is due to hear the case on Jan. 28.

OpenAI has been gearing up to transition from a non-profit enterprise into a for-profit busi ness as it looks to capture even more funding to stay ahead in the costly AI race after raising \$6.6 billion last year.

In recent months, it has signed deals with Time magazine, the Financial Times, Business Insider-owner Axel Springer France's Le Monde and Spain's Prisa Media to display content.

ANI has also said it is concerned about unfair competi tion given OpenAI's commercial partnerships with other news organisations, and has told the court that in response to user prompts, ChatGPT reproduced verbatim or substantially similar extracts of ANI's works.

In its rebuttal submission, OpenAI argues that ANI "has sought to use verbatim extracts of its own article as a prompt. in an attempt to manipulate ChatGPT".













Orissapos FRIDAY | JANUARY 24, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

SPORTS



Batting stars flop on Ranji return

Continuing their disappointing form in red-ball cricket, Rohit, Jaiswal, Pant and Gill fall for single-digit scores in domestic format

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 23: The high-profile return of India's stars in Ranji Trophy ended up as a damp squib with the likes of Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill falling cheaply Thursday, unable to click in the face of some hostile bowling on the opening day of their respective matches across different venues

Veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was the only one who stood out among the battery of Indian stars as he took a five-wicket haul for Saurashtra to dismiss Pant's Delhi for 188 on a Rajkot turner.

However, it was a forgettable outing for the rest as they made the slow walk back to the hut following early dismissals.

Following a dismal run in Australia, Rohit returned to Ranji Trophy for defending champions Mumbai after a decade, hoping to get some runs under his belt ahead of next month's Champions Trophy

But it was not to be at least in Mumbai's first innings against Jammu and Kashmir at the BKC ground here.

Going for his trademark pull off Umar Nazir, Rohit (3) got a leading edge which was caught by J&K skipper Paras Dogra at mid-off.

His India opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal (4) too fell cheaply for Mumbai.

The southpaw was pinned in front of the wicket by Auaib Nabi, who made the most of the fresh wicket to move the new ball dangerously off the surface.

Named in the squad for the Champions Trophy, Shreyas Iyer (11) was caught at mid on off pacer Yudhvir Singh.

While the turnout to watch the India cricketing stars at the stadium was low, those in nearby buildings, who were

SHORT TAKES

Clarke in Australian Cricket Hall of Fame

Melbourne: World Cup-winning former captain Michael Clarke has become the 64th player to be inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame, the sport's governing body in the country announced Thursday. The induction ceremony took place at the Sydney Cricket Ground Wednesday. Over 8600 Test runs, 28 hundreds and the only cricketer



watching the action from their office floors, returned to work soon after the 37-year-old Rohit was dismissed. Anticipating fan interest, the

the stars.

wickets earlier this month. This is the only Ranji game Mumbai Cricket Association had made temporary seating that Rohit, Jaiswal and Iyer are expected to play given that arrangements for about 500 people at the BKC. The turnthe ODI series against England out, however, was not too high is due to start early next month and some empty chairs could be and they would be joining the seen. Mumbai were eventually Indian ranks for it. bowled out for a paltry 120 in Pant fizzles; Jadeja shines

Gukesh becomes India's No 1

game

In Rajkot, Pant showed up 33.2 overs. The team left out their in-form teenage opener for Delhi in a first-class game Ayush Mhatre to accommodate for the first time since the 2017-2018 season and his stay in the The 17-year-old Mhatre has middle did not last long.

century this season, including

a 93-ball 148 in their previous

which Mumbai won by five

against Saurashtra

The flamboyant left-hander struck two hundreds and a half

was dismissed for 1 off 10 balls by veteran Saurashtra leftarm spinner Dharmendrasingh Jadeja. He attempted a sweep only to be caught at deep square leg.

India all-rounder Jadeja took no time to be in thick of things as he accounted for five of Delhi's batters in his first Ranji game since 2023. No fireworks from Gill

In Bangalore, Punjab captain Shubman Gill (4) was caught behind in the game against Karnataka.

The team was skittled out for a mere 55 with the pace duo of Abhilash Shetty and Vasuki Koushik sharing seven wickets between them to destroy the visitors.

Gill fell to Shetty in the fourth over of the innings.

The India stars made themselves available for Ranji Trophy after the BCCI made the contracted players' participation in domestic cricket mandatory, following the 1-3 series loss in Australia that opened a debate on the players' conduct and commitment to red-ball cricket.

The Board had to issue a 10-point disciplinary diktat, urging all cricketers to spare time for domestic cricket.

INDONESIA MASTERS

Khelo India Winter Games kick off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Jan 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said his government's top priority is to develop sports across the country, especially in Jammu and Kashmir and the union territory of Ladakh.

In a message during the opening ceremony of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 here, Modi reiterated the government's commitment to spread sporting activities across India and said how Ladakh and J&K have not only "elevated the culture of sports in our country, but also boosted tourism, showcasing the nation's beauty and diversity."

"Our government attaches top priority to sports development in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. Through 100 Khelo India Centres in Jammu & Kashmir and three in Ladakh, including a State Centre of Excellence in Leh for athletics, archery, and boxing, our efforts are shaping the region into a hub of sporting excellence,' said PM Modi.

On an icy morning, the KIWG 2025 got off to a rousing start at the iconic NDS Stadium here on Thursday. The first part of the KIWG 2025 is being hosted by the Union Territory of Ladakh till January 27.

The union territory of Jammu & Kashmir will host the games from February 22-25.

Meanwhile the flight from Delhi, which was carrying Sports Minister Mansukh Man-

KIWG 2025 will play a crucial role in taking our sporting excellence to the next level NARENDRA MODI PM

daviya, who was to grace the KIWG 2025 opening in person, could not land at Leh's Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport due to bad weather.

Several dignitaries, includ ing the Lt Governor of UT-Ladakh, Brigadier Dr BD Mishra, was present in the opening ceremony.

A cultural display and an exhibition ice-hockey match made for a crisp ceremony.

Mandaviya expressed his disappointment at missing the opening ceremony but encouraged all the stakeholders by stating that India was truly a "4D sports destination."

"If I talk of one and a great united India, then I also look at the diversity hidden in it and the benefits that come from it.

"Currently we are in Leh we can hold the Winter Games here due to the prevalent weather conditions. If we go towards the Northeast, it's a great region for the development of adventure sports," he said.

"Going forward, we will explore the immense possibilities of beach games in south India, we will see all our other popular games being organised on the west coast. This tells us that we are a 4D Nation in terms of sports," Mandaviya added.



Delhi SG Pipers beat Odisha Warriors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Jan 23: Elodie Picard's brilliance between the sticks gave Delhi SG Pipers a consolation 3-2 win against Odisha Warriors in the shootout in the Women's Hockey India League here Thursday.

The teams were locked at 1-1 at the end of regulation 60 minutes. Delhi SG Pipers

drew the first blood from a

penalty stroke through skipper



ing his rapid rise, world champion D Gukesh dethroned comlast year. He took a break from patriot Arjun Erigiasi to bethe game to attend to functions and festivities back home and skipped the World Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York. On his return to the board, Gukesh has not lost a single game in Wijk Aan Zee. He has two victories and three draws so far in the tournament with eight rounds still to go. Gukesh, who was awarded Erigaisi had became India's top-rated player in September last year and in December achieved his peak rating of 2801, which had made him the 15th-highest rated player in history and only the second Indian after five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand to beach the 2800 threshold. Erigaisi, who was a part of India's triumphant journey in the Chess Olympiad in Budapest last year, had gone to the World Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York hoping to secure a Candidates berth but returned home disappointed.

pair bow as India's campaign ends

paign came to an early end at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament after Lakshya Sen and the star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty crashed out in the second round here Thursday. Sen, ranked 10th in the world, extended his struggling run on the international circuit with a loss in the men's singles second round against Japan's Kenta Nishimoto 16-21 21-12 21-23 in 50 minutes. If that was not enough, Asian Games champions Satwik and Chirag, who reached back-toback semifinals at Malaysia Super 1000 and India Super 750 in the last two weeks, also exited from the tournament with a hard-fought 20-22 21-23 loss against Thai combination of Kittinupong Kedren and Dechapol Puavaranukroh.

Another low for Indian badminton

Sen, Satwik-Chirag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, Jan 23: India's cam-

to hit a Test triple-century on the SCG. In his 12-year career, Clarke piled on the runs in Tests and ODIs, aggregating 8643 and 7981 respectively, at an average of 49.10 and 44.58. He reserved his best for the longest format in which he amassed 28 hundreds including a memorable 329 against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

U19 T20 Women's WC: India enter Super Six

Kuala Lumpur: Opener G Trisha's composed 49 and pacers' excellent new ball spell fashioned India's lopsided 60-run win over Sri Lanka and their entry into the Super Six of the ICC U19 T20 Women's World Cup as Group A toppers here Thursday. On a spiteful pitch, Trisha's 44-ball knock (5x4, 1x6) was worth its weight in gold as it guided India to a competitive 118 for nine. Pacers VJ Joshitha and Shabnam then tore through the Lankan top-order to reduce them to 9 for four in 3.2 overs, and run out of skipper Manudi Nanayakkara an over later had them reeling at 12 for five. Sri Lanka were eventually restricted to 58 for nine in 20 overs as India finished the group engagements with all-win record in three matches.

Banned shuttler denies doping violation

New Delhi: Leading men's doubles shuttler Krishna Prasad Garaga on Thursday denied taking any prohibited substance after he was banned for four years for a doping violation, insisting that the adverse finding could be a result of hormonal issues. While Garaga, a member of the Thomas Cup-winning Indian squad in 2022, has been banned, women's doubles player Swetaparna Panda too could be facing a similar sanction after the National Anti Doping Agency's (NADA) adverse findings against her.

come the highest-ranked Indian chess player, at fourth, in the latest FIDE rankings Thursday. Gukesh, 18, achieved the

The world champion

dethrones Erigiasi to

claim highest chess

ranking, at fourth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

feat when he logged his second victory in the Tata Steel Tournament in Wijk Aan Zee (Netherlands) defeating Vincent Keymer of Germany.

the Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna recently, has amassed 2784 rating points, while Erigaisi, who was the highest-ranked Indian for a long time, has slipped to fifth with 2779.5 rating points.

Norway's Magnus Carlsen continues to be the undisputed world No 1 with 2832.5 points, followed by United States' Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura (2802) and country-mate Fabiano Caruana (2798).

Gukesh has been in sublime form ever since he beat China's Ding Liren to clinch the world title in Singapore in December

Earlier in the day, the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila



and Tanshia Crasto squandered an early lead to go down 21-18 15-21 19-21 against Malaysia's Pang Ron Hoo and Su Yin Cheng in the second round.

The women's doubles pair of seasoned Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto too fell by the wayside, losing a hardfought three-game second round match 21-13 22-24 18-21 against Malaysian combination of Pei Kee Go and Mei Xing Teoh.

Sen, an Asian Games silver medallist and Commonwealth Games gold winner, made a poor start to the match as he lost the first game. The Indian's famed defence was ably tackled by the lower-ranked Nishimoto as he took a 9-3 lead and never looked

back, despite Sen trying to make a comeback at 10-11. But Nishimoto employed fast rallies and closed out the first game comfortably.

Sen made a fast start to the second game and raced to a 6-3 lead with an aggressive smash.

Nishimoto opted for long rallies to tire out Sen but the Indian's smart strokeplay handed him a 11-6 lead at the break.

Nishimoto then committed plenty of errors at the net as Sen's retrieving capacity was on full display while he extended his lead to 16-8.

The Japanese was troubled by the drift as Sen picked up points at will to close out the second game at 21-12 and force the match into the decider.

Navneet Kaur (28th minute) before Odisha Warriors equalised from a penalty corner by Yibbi Jansen (35th). Delhi SG Pipers ended their campaign at the bottom of the four-team tournament with five points from six games, while Odisha Warriors are at the top

of the table with 11 points from six matches. The SG Pipers carved out the first chance of the match around the eighth minute when their skipper Navneet made a bril-

liant run into the circle and opted for a slapshot across the goal but Geeta Yadav couldn't get her stick to the ball.

Odisha Warriors made their attacking intent known soon after as Sakshi Rana threaded a peach of a pass for Michelle Fillet in front of the goal.

MCA achieves Guinness World Record



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 23: The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) Thursday achieved the Guinness World Record for the largest cricket ball sentence using 14,505 red and white varieties of the ball here at the Wankhede Stadium. The feat came as a part of MCA's grand celebrations for

the completion of 50 years of one of India's iconic cricket venues, the Wankhede Stadium here, which has been home to some of Indian cricket's superstars. It was also the venue where

India achieved their second 50-over World Cup title in 2011 under the legendary MS Dhoni. 'We are thrilled to announce that the Mumbai Cricket Asso-

ciation has achieved a Guinness World Record for the largest cricket ball sentence at Wankhede Stadium, using 14,505 red & white cricket balls," said MCA president Ajinkya Naik.

"This incredible feat, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first Test match at Wankhede, is dedicated to the memory of Late Shri Eknath

We are thrilled to announce that the Mumbai Cricket **Association has** achieved a Guinness World **Record for the largest cricket** ball sentencee at Wankhede Stadium, using 14,505 red & white cricket balls AJINKYA NAIK | PRESIDENT MCA

Solkar and other former Mumbai players who have served Mumbai cricket and are no longer with us," he added.

The record was created on the anniversary of the first international match at the Wankhede Stadium played in 1975 from January 23-29 between India and the West Indies

Madrid first club to generate 1bn euros revenue in season

The club generated 1.045 billion euros in 2023-24, becoming world's highest revenue-generating club once again

REUTERS

Madrid, Jan 23: Real Madrid became the first soccer team to register one billion euros (\$1.04 billion) in revenue in a single season in 2023-24, with the Spanish side topping the Deloitte Football Money League as the world's highest revenue-generating club once again. Real Madrid had overtaken

Manchester City to return to the summit after they generated total revenue of 831 million euros in the 2022-23 season.

of renovation works at the Bernabeu Stadium ensured they staved top of the list. Deloitte said Real's match day revenue doubled to 248 million euros while a new sleeve sponsorship and increased merchandise sales produced commercial revenue of 482 million euros -- a 19% increase

Three trophies in the 2023-24

campaign -- including LaLiga

and the Champions League -

plus increased match day rev

enue following the completion

The report also said that the top 20 revenue generating clubs in the world made a record 11.2 billion euros in the 2023-24 season thanks to record matchday, broadcast and commercial revenues.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159













