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**BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | JANUARY 26, 2025** 

12 PAGE+SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

#### The offices of **Orissa POST** will remain closed on the occasion of Republic Day. Hence, there will be no

edition of the paper January 27, 2025 (Monday).

#### 26/11 CONVICT TO BE **EXTRADITED TO INDIA**

Washington: The US Supreme Court has turned down a review petition by terror accused Tahawwur Rana, dismissing his last legal challenge against his extradition to India in connection with the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people. The apex court's order came January 21, a day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the US President. Earlier, Rana, an associate of Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, lost legal battles in several federal courts, including the US Court of Appeals for the North Circuit in San Francisco.

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We decided to hoist a 3D holographic flag. Visible but not real... just like the republic

### **Apex court diktat for** industrial allottees

and those acquired from private owners, are taken on lease by industrial units promising jobs to locals. But the land is often left unused for years or used for other purposes. To curb such practices, the Supreme Court, in a recent verdict, said the land allotment to industries can be withdrawn if the lessee fails to contribute to economic development of the region and generate employment. The order mirrors a direction of the Orissa High Court to the state government last November asking the latter to take back the land allotted to Vedanta Foundation in Puri district after it failed to set up an international university

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 25: The Supreme Court recently observed that industrially allotted land should be utilised by someone who can generate income and em-

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh upheld a Kerala High Court ruling that held that industrial land allotments are intended for economic developand must, therefore, be uti- Bench order of the Kerala against DIC decision.

lised by the allottee for such purpose. The Supreme Court Friday opined that there was

the High court ruling. "Let the land be used by someone who will generate some income and employment now. In our view, no case made to interfere with the Division Bench (High Court) order," the top court

The Court was dealing with a plea challenging a

cellation of an industrial land allotment to a company named Poyilakada Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.(PFPL), after it failed to utilise the land for its intended purpose

The patta issued to PFPL in 1990 required the land to be used for industrial purposes - specifically for manufacturing frozen marine products - and prohibited encumbrance without prior government approval.

The company ceased regular operations in 2004, no reason to interfere with citing economic hardship. Despite several notices from authorities and assurances to resume operations, the unit remained non-functional. In 2014, the General Manager of the District Industries Centre (DIC) re-al lotted the land to four others as PFPL hadn't been using it for the intended purpose ment and industrial growth December 2024 Division The latter moved Kerala HC

### Padma Shri for 4 from Odisha

New Delhi, Jan 25: Four Odias will be conferred with nation's fourth-highest civilian award Padma Shri among 139 - seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri decorations. Dr. Ashok Mohapatra, Adwaita Charan

Ranbir, and Pratibha Satpathy, are set to receive the remarkable contributions in healthcare, art, and lit-

Mohapatra, the former director of AIIMS. Bhubaneswar. will be conferred with the honour for his contributions Gadnayak, Durga Charan to healthcare and medical

Similarly, Gadanavak and prestigious award for their Ranbir will be honoured for their excellence in the field

Gadanayak is an eminent Renowned physician Dr sculptor while the latter is a prominent guru of contemporary Odissi. Satpathy will receive the award for her



#### This Republic Day, take a pledge to make India developed and extremely prosperous.

## Republic ->

#### Foreign invaders looted India

In a recent survey, the Oxfam Global UK, a world-renowned organization, has revealed that between 1765 and 1900, the Britishers plundered \$ 64.82 trillion from India. This data doesn't include other stealth and plunder by the British, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Huns, the Shakas and the Mughals before and after this period. The average loot of 1000 years, would be at least above 100 trillion. If we consider the volume of loot as 25% of the size of the country's gross economy, then 500 years ago it should have been around \$ 500 trillion.

These data shared by foreign organisation on India's extreme prosperity is as per documentary evidence available. We want all Indians to understand these truths and facts of plunder. We should resolve and organize ourselves to save Mother India from the loot of these foreign forces in future and take a vow of partaking in this great yajna of Swadeshi, in which Patanjali has been making its humble contribution towards the nation.

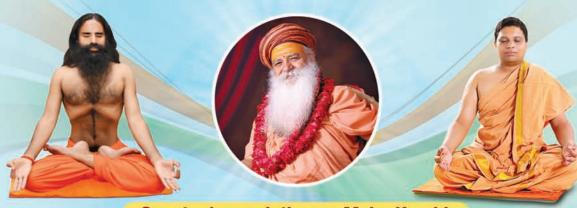
We should keep in mind that foreigners have plundered trillions of dollars and are still doing so through selling soaps, shampoos, oils, cold drinks, pizza, burger etc.

#### Patanjali's Services to

Patanjali has been serving Mother India by engaging in nation building activities that includes education, health, research and character building. During past 30 years, it has spent about one lakh crore rupees in these services and this is going uninterruptedly.

**Mother India and the Sanatan** 

This Republic Day, we urge every Indian to become an informed citizen and save the country from economic plunder and slavery by adopting the best Swadeshi products of Patanjali. The fundamental principle of our Swadeshi campaign is that the country's money should remain within and be used in the interest of the country. We have presented an ideal example of Prosperity for Charity by investing the money earned through hard work in



#### Sanatan's resolution on Maha Kumbh

Tenets of Sanatan Dharma are unity, equality, purity of conduct, maximization of efforts, strict adherence to one's own religion (Swadharma), goodwill, unflinching belief in Vedas, the Guru, and the Sanatan cultural constitution of God as well as the democratic constitution of the country.

In Sanatan Dharma, there is no discrimination, partiality, hypocrisy or superstition of any kind in the name of caste, class, or community. On the occasion of Mahakumbh, we need to believe, live and promote the fundamental principles of Sanatan Dharma and be determined, organized and capable of giving our 100% to establish Sanatan Dharma as the religion of the era. We also need to counter the organized antagonism against the Sanatan.

On the occasion of Maha Kumbh, in the presence of Pujyapad Swami Guru Sharananand Maharaj Ji, at Karshni Ashram

Free yoga therapy and meditation camp Venue: Shri Gurukarshni Kumbh Mela Camp, Salori, Sector-9, Gangeshwar Marg, Prayagraj Contact: 8954555999

From January 27 to January 30, from 5:00 AM to 7:30 AM

Awaken the good fortune with the virtues of yoga and meditation along with holy dip in Sangam.



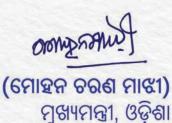
ପବିତ୍ର **ସାଧାରଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ଦିବସ-୨୦୨୫** ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଦେଶର ଏକ ସମୂଦ୍ଧ, ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ଏବଂ ବିକଶିତ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଏହି ପବିତ୍ର ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଶପଥ ନେବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।





ପବିତ୍ର ସାଧାରଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଶୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି। ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଏକ ସମୂଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନ ସହିତ ଦେଶର ଏକତା ଓ ଅଖଣ୍ଡତା ବଜାୟ ରଖିବା ପାଇଁ ସଙ୍କଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ କାମ କରିବା।







#### JAMIE FOXX, ALYCE HUCKSTEPP **END THEIR RELATIONSHIP**

Oscar-winning actor Jamie Foxx has ended his relationship with fitness model Alyce Huckstepp after nearly two years together. The couple, whose romance was first confirmed in August 2023, reportedly separated recently, with multiple outlets confirming the split.

#### SARAH JESSICA PARKER VOICES **CONCERN OVER BOOK BANS**

Sarah Jessica Parker, well-known for her role in Sex and the City, recently expressed deep concerns about the future of public institutions like libraries and the growing trend of book bans in the United States.





Your temper will be volcanic today. You're ready to pop and bust at the snap of a finger; but it just won't do. Instead of nunching your boss. Ganesha suggests you burn that energy clocking a hundred home. Yes, all the 22 miles!

#### **TAURUS**

rence waiting at every bend and turn in your path today. With maturity for sword and mellowness as shield, you will sift through everything that life throws at you. Some long-standing problems will also be

There are indications that you will pay special attention to your food habits today, predicts Ganesha. You may go for an interview or start a new job later in the day. At work, you will get both encouragement and inspiration from seniors. Avoid confrontations with others as current planetary positions make you vulnerable to an emotional outburst.

You will take unusual interest in places of historical significance and destinations not frequented by many, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you will be the centre of attention in a group discussion. You will show your excellent trouble-shoot ing skills while executing all your plans,

No matter what you do, on some days, you just can't save the world, even if you were superman. Remember that, since it looks very likely that today you shall be bringing upon vourself the displeasure of from your colleagues.

#### The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse

runs through you today. Expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you in the afternoon. Government officials will have a inspiringly assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through today.

It's not the Olympics, but for those associated with sports, today, you may come across the opportunity to stake your claim to fame. Also, expect the unexpected turn of events in the afternoon. Ganesha can tell that you are brimming to the top with energy and enthusiasm in the evening. Keep it so. as it will help you strike a great balance between business and pleasure.

#### **SCORPIO**

Your emotions will take a hold over your reasoning today, predicts Ganesha With your seniors, you should be careful about how you express your perspective to avoid being misunderstood. In relationship matters, Ganesha advises you not to repress your feelings or avoid feeling them as they may bottle up and lead to complications in the future.

**SAGITTARIUS** Ganesha says the day will

be eventful and full of excitement. Differences in opinion might just crop up at work. but don't let them dampen your spirit. A romantic, candlelit dinner with your beloved could well be the high point

#### **CAPRICORN**

Get ready for a thrilling day ahead, says Ganesha. A lot of unexpected events may bring in happiness, and you may suddenly find yourself deliriously delighted. At work, finding answers to intriguing questions will consume most of your time.

**AQUARIUS** Excellence is the buzzword today! But that implies only to your work and not to the

results. Nothing earth-shattering is on the

### cards, so slog away.

**PISCES** It is a day where you are likely to be busy in tempering frayed relationships or indulg ing in tempestuous secretive affairs. Either way, the expenses incurred on the of the day, says Ganesha.



### Dibakar Banerjee's *Tees* steals spotlight



Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy felicitates filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee PIC-FSB

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: The fourth day of the Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB), organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB), captivated the audiences with a diverse range of films here at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra (GKCM) Odissi Research Centre.

Among the prominent attendees were Orissa POST and *Dharitri* Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy. The day began with

screening of four short films: Jooyein, Bobby Beauty Parlour, Bunnyhood, and If You Know, You Know, each offering unique storytelling. Next, the restored ver-

sion of G Aravindan's 1978 Malayalam classic, Thampu was screened at

the festival. Restored with the help of Film Heritage Foundation, the film was screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022. The poetic, allegorical film explores the transience of human relationships and the rootlessness of the marginalised through the ripples created in the life

of a village by the arrival

of a circus troupe.

The afternoon session saw a rise in footfall with an exclusive screening of celebrated filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee's unreleased latest feature, Tees. Led by a stacked cast featuring Huma Qureshi. Manisha Koirala, Shashank Arora and Naseeruddin Shah, the film stood out with its darkly comic and dystopian take on an average Indian mid-

dle-class family, spanning

three generations.

At the post screening conversation with FSB's president Subrata Beura. Banerjee reflected on the making and the distribution of the film. Thanking FSB for bringing the film here at the festival, he said, "I didn't intend for this film to be autobiographical. I didn't realise that what happened to Anhad (the protagonist), would happen to me! It's a rather perverse vindication of my film, but what matters is that the film was made, and that people like yourselves, in community spaces and film festivals, are discussing it."

Later in the evening, the festival presented Appuram, a Malayalam film by Indu Lakshmi, followed by Poem of the Wind, an animated Tamil film by R Ramakrishnan.



Thalapathy Vijay, acknowledging their stellar presence in cinema. Urvashi stated, "In Bollywood, I would love to work with Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan Their filmographies and the way they've won millions of hearts are incredible. In South Cinema, I'd love to collaborate with Prabhas, Allu Arjun, and Thalapathy Vi

Speaking about the positive response for her recent release, Daaku Maharaaj, Rautela shared "Honestly, we didn't anticipate this level of love and appreciation We knew it was a great film, but the overwhelming response has truly surprised us. Urvashi further shared what

influenced her decision to take on the project. "The team was incredible-working with such a legendary superstar, the "God of Masses," and a talented director like Bobby Kohli, with Naga vamsi Sitara Entertainments

producing the film, made it irresistible. The role offered me many opportunities to showcase my acting skills, and the scenes were so well-written that I couldn't say no."

### Lipika's film to premiere at Rotterdam fest

National Award-winning filmmaker Lipika Singh Darai's short documentary B and S, which explores the bond between two trans women, is

premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2025.

The film has been selected for prestigious 'Shorts and Length' section the festi-

will run from January 30 to February 9, 2025. The film, which takes its title from the initials of its two protagonists, Biraja and Saesha, portrays the deep bond between these two

trans women in their 20s as they face loneliness and societal rejection. Speaking about the World Premiere

B and S at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2025. Lipi ka shared. "This film was born from a need to explore the tenderness of love. friendship,

ished connections in times of loss and grief - especially in an increasingly bleak

### Khushi dismisses rivalry with Janhvi

Mumbai: Khushi Kapoor is all set to shine with her theatrical debut in Loveyapa, directed by Advait Chandan and co-starring Junaid Khan, who also marks his big-screen debut. Amid the buzz, Khushi addresses comparisons with her elder sister Janhvi Kapoor, who entered the Hindi film industry with Dhadak in 2018. Despite the chatter. Khushi dismisses any notions of rivalry between them.

ACTUALLY, THEY

HATE EACH OTHER!

"That thought is so foreign to both of us. Competing feels strange." she shared. emphasising their close bond. In fact, Janhvi is her biggest support system. "I definitely go to her and Dad for advice. I don't think I'd make any decision without their approval," Khushi added.

Beyond advice, Janhvi plays a significant role in shaping Khushi's personal style. "She's literally part of the group

DOST

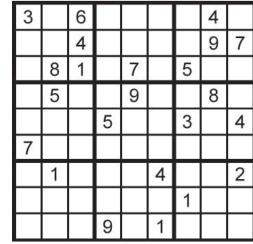
chat with me and my stylist. We send her pictures, and she helps me choose outfits," Khushi revealed, highlighting their collaborative spirit. Khushi admires Jan-

hvi's experience and values her guidance. "She wants me to learn from her success and mistakes to move forward," she said. With val, which Loveyapa set to release February 7, Khushi Kapoor is embracing her new journey, supported by family and love. AGENCIES

**CROSSWORD** 

#### 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.



4 Prepares to

play golf (4,2)

5 Game for two 6 Gullibility

7 Secretive affair



MIXEDBLESSING

4 8 9 5 6 6 3 7 4 2 8 1 5 9 6 9 8 7 5 4 8 2 9 1 6 5 | 7 2 8 3 9 4 6 3 1 8 6 2 7 4 5 9 9 1 6 2 7

### CALVIN AND HOBBES

THIS IS AN

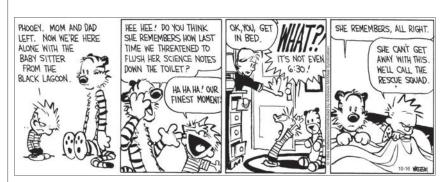
AMPERSAND

**PEANUTS** 

THIS IS A

TREBLE

CLEF



THEY LOOK

SOMETHING ALIKE.

DON'T THEY ?

#### **BREVITY**



# 22 23 Copyright @2025 PuzzleJunction.com

17 Amber dessert wine

Across 1 Imitator

5 Alimentary, for one

8 Take a look

around

9 Big name in

Argentina

10 Small canoe

11 Long loose

greatcoats

12 Gabardines 14 Echo chamber?

opposite 23 Protective wall

22 Alpha's

19 Goddess of love

24 Out of practice

25 Ribbed

2 Litter member

3 Dishonest

Down

1 Brooklet

16 Asian skiff 18 Anzio locale

12 Percussion

13 Eternal

15 Hostile

instrument

20 Sherpa's home

21 Stuffed

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# Utkarsh odisha: Make in odisha conclave 2025 Dr Ashok Mahapatra among 4 LN Mittal, KM Birla among top attendees: Min from state to get Padma Shri

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: Industry captains LN Mittal, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Anil Agarwal, Sajjan Jindal, Naveen Jindal and Karan Adani are among the 7,500 delegates expected to attend the two-day 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' starting January 28 here, Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain said,

Odisha is ready to welcome the delegates from 20 countries to the flagship 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025', Swain said at a press conference here.

He said representatives from 16 countries have so far confirmed attending the conclave. "Delegates from four countries may also join later," the Industries Minister said.

Modi will inaugurate the summit in the presence of Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Jual Oram and Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Prime Minister Narendra

Swain said the investment summit encapsulates Odisha's transformative journey.

He said the BJP government



**Apart from big names in the industries, more** than 100 international delegates and diplomats from 20 countries, including Vietnam,

Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, the UK, the US, and Nepal, are expected to attend the event

has been 'serious to attract ₹5 lakh crore investment proposals in this summit and also ensure their grounding'.

"The new government has already approved 159 investment proposals worth ₹2.75 lakh crore within its first seven months of the tenure. These will create employment for 2.15 lakh people," the Min-

Apart from big names in the industries, Swain said more than 100 international delethe Minister said.

The conclave will host three thematic sessions focusing on Start-Up Odisha, Skilled in Odisha, and Women Entrepreneurship, facilitated by 'Subhadra', a women empowerment programme.

The summit will also witness discussions like CEO Roundtables, and Women Leadership Roundtables, and ensure meaningful discussions and partnerships.

The Make in Odisha Expo, featuring nearly 150 exhibitors, will showcase innovative products and solutions.

After making a field visit to the 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' venue at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar Friday evening, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said around 150 exhibitors would showcase their products, services and innovations at the conclave which will open to the public January 30

The Culture department has also made arrangements for a performance by renowned Odissi dancer Padma Shri Aruna Mohanty and drone

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: Doctor Ashok Kumar Mahapatra and sculptor Adwaita Charan Gadanayak are among the four eminent personalities from Odisha who have been selected Saturday for Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award for their contribution to the fields of medicine and art.

Dr Mahanatra was chosen for his contribution to medicine. Gadanayak and Durga Charan Ranbir for art and Pratibha Satpathy for literature and education.

After the announcement of the names of Padma awardees this year, Dr Mahapatra thanked Lord Jagannath, say ing he had dedicated himself to the service of the people without expecting any award or reward.

"I thank the Centre and the government of Odisha. I am already 74, and this award is a recognition," he said.

Mahapatra, who spent 43 years in Delhi, became a house hold name in Odisha after he headed a team that conducted the rare craniopagus surgery of conjoined twins Jaga-Kalia at AIIMS in New Delhi in 2017



Dr Ashok Kumar Adwaita Charan Gadanayak Mahapatra





Pratibha Satpathy

Durga Charan

Gadanayak, from Dhenkanal district, is a famous sculptor ademi Award Chief Minister Mohan Cha-

and known for stone carvings on themes like Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March, and the central memorial structure at the National Police Memorial and the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose at the National War Memorial complex. "I am absolutely happy and cannot think that a man from

a remote village of Dhenkanal district doing stone works could get such a prestigious award. Thanks all," he said. Ranbir is a renowned Odissi dance guru and acquired pro-

ficiency in playing the 'Pakhawai'. He has been honoured with several awards. Satpathy is a poet of Odia

literature and is recognised as one of the leading poets of the country. She has also been honoured with the Sahitya Ak

ran Majhi, in a post on X congratulated the four Odia personalities for their achieve ment. "My heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to al the winners who are going to be honoured with the prestigious Padma Awards for their talent and lifelong dedication In particular, the people of the state are proud of Odisha's four Padma award winners Dr. Ashok Mahapatra in the field of medicine, artists Shri Adwaita Charan Gadanaval and Shri Durga Charan Ran bir in the field of art, and Smt Pratibha Satpathy in the field of literature and education I pray to Lord Jagannath for a bright future for everyone

### Govt aims at ensuring quality education: Suryabanshi

gates and diplomats from 20

countries, including Vietnam,

Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Vene-

zuela, the UK, the US, and Ne-

"Captains of industries,

including LN Mittal, Kumar

Mangalam Birla, Anil Agarwal,

Saijan Jindal, Naveen Jindal,

Karan Adani and many others

will grace the occasion," he

Malaysia will participate in the

conclave as partner countries.

Singapore, Australia and

pal, will attend the event.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada/Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: The BJP government in the state aims at ensuring quality education to students through a transformative change in higher education by strengthening the foundation of colleges and universities, Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said.

He said this after laying the

foundation stone for a ₹5 crore worth project under the PM-USHA scheme at Khariar Autonomous College, Saturday.

On his two-day visit to Nuanada. the Higher Education Minister also inaugurated the newly-constructed academic facilities built with assistance from the World Bank. Suryabanshi's visit to the college marked the first by a Higher Education Minister in the last



47 years, a release said. During his visit, the minis-

ter discussed about the overall development of the institution

with the college authorities and motivated students to aspire for excellence.

Khariar MLA Adhiraj Panigrahi, former MP Basant Kumar Panda and College Principal Prashant Kumar Panda were also present on the occasion.

Suryabanshi also participated in a grievance hearing and attended a local cricket tournament during his Nuapada visit.

#### BJP appoints new chiefs for dist units

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: The BJP Saturday appointed new presidents for 23 out of its 37 organisational districts in the state, while names of the remaining 14 organisational districts will be announced later, reports said.

The new district unit chiefs of BJP include Saroj Sabat (Ganjam), Sribatsha Behera (Bolangir), Debendra Tarai (Puri), Girish Sahu (Sundargarh), Rahas Bihari Behera (Dhenkanal), Sasanka Sekhar Sethi (Kendrapara), Ishwar Chandra Behera (Bal asore), Sukanta Biswal (Cuttack City), Jugal Podha (Kalahandi) Jurilal Mahant (Mayurbhanj Rairangpur), Arun Kumar Sahu (Deogarh), Aroopanand Sahu (Bargarh) and Nilamadhab Patra (Ghumsar –Bhanjanagar).

#PadmaAwardees.

According to reports, as the rul ing saffron dispensation has expe dited the process for revamping its organisation in the state, it will appoint a new president for its Odisha unit soon after selecting new chiefs for its district units.















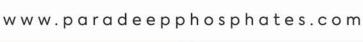
For more details, visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/up For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

and misuse your personal details.



kehta hai..

Smart bano. Cool raho



Orissa POST

### owntown



### One killed, 4 injured in fatal car crash in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: A tragic car crash near Lingipur Square on the City outskirts claimed the life of one individual and left four others with critical injuries early Saturday morning.

The accident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Dhauli police station, with thick fog and poor visibility suspected as the primary cause of the fatal

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Manmath Behera, who is handling the case, confirmed that the deceased has been identified as Sunil Kumar Swain. 26. The four injured individuals-Rajesh Maharana, Kanhu Charan Mallick, Chandan Mallick, and Sangram Rout—are currently receiving treatment at SCB Hospital, where their condition remains critical.

According to ASI Behera, the group was returning home in their car (OD 02 BW 8662) after attending a feast. As they

The accident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Dhauli police station, with thick fog and poor visibility suspected as the primary cause of the crash

approached Lingipur Square, Sunil, who was driving, reportedly lost control of the vehicle due to the dense fog. The car veered off the road and crashed into a tree, with such force that it also collided with an electric

Dhauli police have registered a case under Sections 281, 125 (a)(b), and 106(1) of the BNS Act. Authorities are continuing their investigation to gather further details and ascertain the identities of the victims'

and pledge to safeguard and

strengthen the democratic sys-

tems and values enshrined in

higher than the same period of

last year. Up to December-2024,

our Capex utilization is ₹8281

Cr. Our Operating Ratio up to

Serving our passengers re-

mains a top priority for East

Coast Railway. In the current

financial year, to cater to the

seasonal demands of travelers,

particularly during festivals

and vacation periods, we have

operated 1,781 special trains

including 12 Kumbha Mela

Special and added 4,545 coach-

es to regular trains. In addition,

permanent augmentation of 75

coaches has also been done. To

improve the experience and

safety of passengers, six pairs

of trains have been introduced

with LHB rakes during this fi-

During the world-famous

Rath Yatra of 2024, the railway

nancial year.

Dec' 24 is 60.89.

#### Tribal youth exchange programme kicks off

and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, was inaugurated at long event, which runs until January 31. and empowerment among tribal youth across India. The chief guest, CRPF GC DIGP Bharat Bhushan Sethi, highlighted the critical role of youth in shaping a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047, emphasis development. Other dignitaries present Kharat, state director of NYKS (MY Bharat), and Bijay K Rout, OSD of the De partment of Sports and Youth Services brought together 200 tribal youth from seven days, the participants will delve

### 6K saree-clad women take part in 'pattathon'

This year, the marathon was held in *37 locations across* Odisha and more than 65 places across India PNN & AGENIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: The state Capital Saturday witnessed a unique mini-marathon with nearly 6,000 women wearing traditional sarees taking part in the run from Shikharchandi temple square to KISS athletics

The marathon was organised by KIIT-DU with the motto 'EduMINI MARATHON BY KIIT AND KISS



cation for All'. It was held across all districts of Odisha and vari ous cities in India.

A special segment of this event, called 'Pattathon' was conducted in Bhubaneswar.

The pattathon witnessed the participation of nearly 6,000 women running while wearing traditional sarees. Organised

powerment' and 'Education for All', the Pattathon featured women employees of KIIT, KISS

and KIMS, along with women from various parts of the state. Kiran Mahato from Rourkela secured the first prize of ₹50,000 while Tejaswini Kispatta and Sasmita Behera from Cuttack

won the second and third priz

es, receiving ₹40,000 and ₹30,000

Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, athlete Dutee Chand and Anuradha Biswal participated in the event along with Achyu ta Samanta, the founder of KIIT

### Startup Odisha to shine at 'Utkarsh Odisha' conclave

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: Startup Odisha is set to make a significant impact at the Utkarsh Odisha Conclave 2025, scheduled to be held January 28 and 29 here at Janata Maidan. With a dedicated pavilion, the state will showcase its dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem, underlining its emergence as a hub of innovation and startup excellence.

The event will feature groundbreaking ventures, innovative projects, and success stories. creating opportunities for collaboration, investment, and networking among entrepreneurs, investors, and stakeholders. It also reinforces the state's com-

out for their focus on passenger

amenities, efficient ticketing,

and dynamic train planning.

and empowering startups.

The conclave boasts an impressive lineup of speakers, including, Ace Ventures CEO and Co-founder of Snapdeal Kunal Bahl, Unicorn India Ventures co-founder Bhaskar Majumdar, Unicorn India Ventures senior advisor Ratun Lahiri and Innovation Attaché at the Embassy of Israel Maya Sherman. These industry leaders will offer valuable insights into the evolving startup ecosystem. Panel discussions will spotlight transformative topics, beginning with "Odisha A Land of Opportunities," exploring the state's potential for fostering startups across various sectors. Key figures like MSME

Sharma and IIT-Bhubaneswar director Shreepad Karmalkar will share their perspectives.

Another session, "Women in Innovation - The Future of Startup Evolution in Odisha,' will focus on empowering women entrepreneurs, featuring prominent voices like Oben Electric founder Madhumita Agrawal and India Angel Network (IAN) managing partner Sarika Saxena. The session "Grassroots to Global" will discuss scaling Odisha's grassroots innovations to global prominence. Esteemed panelists include Lead Angels CEO Sushanto Mitra, and Soonicorn Ventures CEO Vijay Singh Rathore.

### BNI launches 8th chapter in Puri



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Jan 25: BNI Greater Odisha has expanded its presence with the launch of its 8th chapter, BNI Nilachakra, in Puri, the spiritual city known as the land of Lord Jagannath. As the world's largest referral networking platform, BNI helps entrepreneurs achieve exceptional growth through trusted referrals and proven systems.

The new chapter started strong with over 35 members. hosting 56 visitors on its inaugural day and generating ₹2.2 crore in business, earning the prestigious Hall of Fame status.

This milestone highlights the dynamic growth of BNI Greater Odisha, which has established itself as one of the fastest-grow ing regions globally. Speaking at the event, asso

ciate area director Joy Patro called the launch a historic moment and a significant step forward for Puri. He expressed optimism about continued growth and new milestones. The chapter's success was credited to the leadership of area direc tor K Sanjeeb Patra and the un wavering support of executive directors CS Sunita Mohanty, Namrata Samal, and Pradeep

#### **District meeting on** workers' rights held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: A district-level workers' collective meeting focused on rights and entitlements took place at Red Cross Bhawan here, organised by ActionAid Association in collaboration with CCWD Bhubaneswar. The meeting aimed to strengthen workers' collectives and address gaps between various stakeholders.

Sadasiv Coordinated by Swain, the event brought together members from ASM, Jibanrekha Ghorei Paricharika Sangha', daily wage workers, and 'Abarjana Gotali

Key speakers included Suvendu Kumar Ray, Senior Lead Programme AAA, and other experts like Prakash Kumar Samal, Abhaya Pati, Sanjukta Moharana, Shantilata Behera, Phulamani Patra, and HRD Manas Ranjan Pradhan, who provided insights into collective bargaining and advocacy strategies.

#### WEATHER

BBSR CTC Max Temp 27.5° Min Temp 17.6° 18.0° Humidity 94% 89%

**FORECAST** 



#### CLASSIFIED

Rainfall

0.86 Acre Prime Plot for Sale [5.3km from Balasore Station] just 800 meters from **Nexa Jyote Motors** on Chennai-Kolkata Highway. Ideal for Factory, Showroom, or Godown. For more details. Contact: +91 9122721444.

Dear Members of East Khurda Road team, delivered Coast Railway family, outstanding performance in managing and facilitating an extend my warm greetings to unprecedented number of pasall of you on the auspicious sengers. This was appreciated occasion of 76th Republic by every section of the society. A total of 321 Rath Yatra Special Day. It is an occasion for us to rededicate ourselves to the trains were operated, serving service of our great republic. approximately 15 lakh devotees. This year's arrangements stood maintain peace and harmony,

our Constitution. We are dedicated to enhance East Coast Railway has the travel experience of our passengers. The East Side Entry reached several remarkable milestones during the current fiof the Cuttack railway station nancial year, and I am proud to equipped with modern facilishare these achievements with ties was recently inaugurated you on this special occasion. It by Hon'ble Minister of Railfills us with immense pride that. ways. A number of passenger as of today, East Coast Railway amenity works have been done has accomplished an unpreceduring the current financial dented loading milestone of over year. These include ATVMs, QR 200 MT, the highest among all Code payment facility, coach inzones. This achievement was dication boards, economy meal reached in a record time of just special counters, improvement 290 days, five days earlier than to waiting halls and circulating last vear. area, additional Platform sheds, Up to December-2024, ECoR etc. Ramps for Divyangajan pashas earned 17324 Cr. We have, sengers at 14 stations, Platform carried more than 6.9 crore raising at 31 stations, Foot Over passengers up to December-24 Bridges at 17 stations and Lifts which is 9.53 % higher than at 4 stations were also provided the corresponding period of during the period. Two new pasprevious year. The passenger senger halts at Atri and Sanaearnings during this financial padar have been inaugurated year is 1745 crore, which is 9.3% in Khurda Road-Balangir new

> at 57 stations at fast pace. A total 276 Kms of new line, doubling & multi tracking have been completed during the financial year. We have successfully completed Jharmunda-Boudh (16.27km)Boudh-Champapur (13.70 km) and Champapur-Purunakatak (13.44 km) new line sections under the Khurda Road-Balangir new rail line project. Some of the other sections that have been commissioned recently are (i) Gorapur-Darliput (12.649Km), (ii) Darliput-Padua(9.77 km), (iii) Ranital-Bhadrak (5.00 km), (iv) Hindol Road-Meramandali (27.28 km), etc. Engine rolling

was done on 10.01.2025 of Sale-

Rail Line. Passenger informa-

tion system has been integrated

with NTES Server at 37 stations

for auto updation of arrival and

departure of trains. Station de-

velopment works are underway

gaon-Budhapank 3rd & 4th line project. Electrification of 335 TKM has been completed till Dec'24. New station buildings were commissioned at Darliput, Purunapani, Jharmunda and Boudh. Gati Shakti Multi-modal Cargo Terminal were commissioned at two locations.

ECoR has also achieved major

milestones with breakthrough of tunnels in its important ongoing projects. These have been achieved in Daspalla-Bu-Buguda-Banigucha Charichhak-Purunakatak and Adenigarh- Charichhak under Khurda Road-Balangir new line project. Similarly, breakthrough in tunneling have been achieved in Borraguhalu-Karakavalasa and Bodda vara- Sivalingapuram in Kottavalasa-Korput doubling project. This will give pace to the construction of crucial public

centric Rail Projects. Recently, the Centre has sanctioned 138.32 km long Bargarh Road-Nuapada Road new line via Padampur alongwith new lines between Daitary to Baliparbat iron ore mines (5.02 km) and Nayagarh to Dubuna iron ore mines (5.14 km). These new rail lines will provide vital rail connectivity and bring prosperity & development in the region. In order to improve mobility and safety, Rail flyovers between Rajathgarh to Machapur (10.89Km), Rajathagarh to Radhakishorepur (5.77 km), Radhakishorepur to Machapur (5.12Km) and flyover by-passing traffic from RV Line (5.50 km) have also been sanctioned. ECoR is committed towards fast implementation of these

projects. To improve the infrastructure and public safety, ECoR has declared 170 Road Over Bridge (ROB) construction projects as Special Railway Projects. Work of five ROBs and three FOBs have also been completed during the financial year. In this financial year, while 18 manned level crossings have been eliminated, 20 ROBs and 75 RUBs have also been commissioned, 225 KM of Through Rail Renewals, 351 KM of Through



Sleeper Renewals, 26 TKM of Through Weld Renewals, and Rebuilding/Rehabilitation of 86 bridges, etc. have also been undertaken for infrastructure upgradation and improvement in safety

Safety in train operations and every aspect of our working continues to be our mission area. Safety Integrity test of Interlocking System have been completed in 52 stations and 53 sliding booms have been commissioned. All the non-interlocked LC gates were provided with Voice logger phone. To enhance line capacity and safe running of trains, 18 new Electronic interlocking have been commissioned and 15 alterations to existing EI/PI stations have been done. Hot standby arrangement has been commissioned at Golanthara, Surla Road, Tilaru, Nirakarpur, Dusi & Kaipadar Rd. stations to improve reliability of Electronic Interlocking system. 18 Hot Axle Box Detectors have been sanctioned out of which 9 have already been installed. Full Scale Joint Disaster Management Exercise was conducted in all three divisions in November-2024. Total of 1023 ambush checks and 12.665 Safety inspections were carried out to observe the staff alertness, awareness of safety rules, etc.

To increase mobility, eight Permanent Speed Restrictions have been relaxed during the current financial year. The Sectional speed has been raised in 17 sections for 224 Route Km.

We have installed 1378 KWp Solar plant over ECoR, saving ₹2.45 Cr. So far, 91 rakes in ECoR have been running on HOG accumulating a saving of ₹197.92 crores due to reduction in Diesel consumption during this financial year. We have achieved a direct reduction of 2 lakh Kilo Liters per Day fresh water consumption during 2024-25 by using recycled water. Further, 132 Rain Water Harvesting pits were constructed to charge ground water. More than four lakh saplings were planted at

various locations over ECoR.

Our Security department

has detected 147 cases under Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act with recovery of stolen Railway Materials valuing ₹44,35,459/- and arrested 379 criminals. 33961 cases have been registered under Railway Act with recovery of ₹71,05,250/ , which is a substantial increase over last year. Under NDPS Act, 172 cases were detected with recovery of contraband items valued ₹4.23 crore with arrest of 260 criminals. During the period, 706 minors and 234 elders were rescued and handed over to their relatives. 1564 left behind passengers luggage were retrieved and handed over to the passengers. 1,38,397 lady passengers were attended by the team of Meri Saheli. Solar power CCTV cameras have been installed over ECoR for enhancing safety, security and operational efficiency. 3 Drone cameras are being used for training, efficiency and security.

Material management over ECoR has been placed at 2nd position over Indian Railways for average time in releasing of Purchase Orders. During the current financial year a total of 2221 Purchase Orders valuing ₹50.88 crore were placed through GeM.

Our Central Hospital at Bhubaneswar and 03 Divisional Hospitals and 27 Health Units, caters to the Medical needs of about 48662 Employees and 32806 RELHS card holders and their family members. 39 Private Hospitals and 07 Diagnostic Centers are recognized for referring cases for tertiary care. 72 special surgeries like Hip replacement. Knee replacement. etc. and 1066 major surgeries

were performed upto Decem-

ECoR is making every effort for the benefit of the railway employees and their families We have signed MoUs with na tionalised banks like SBI, Union Bank of India, to provide a comprehensive package of benefits and insurance for our employ ees. A tele call centre ASTHA is functioning at Sambalpur Division as an instant assis tance centre for staff. During the financial year 48 selections, 436 suitability tests and 257 trade tests have been completed. 4052 staff have been promoted in different departments and units in the zone. 1131 candidates have been imparted various train ing under Act Apprentice pro

In the field of sports, our railway men brought laurels to this zone. Our Sports Officer Shri Amit Rohidas has represented India as a member of the Bronze Medal winning Indian Hockey team in the Paris Olympic Games, 2024. Our players of Archery, Weightlifting, Boxing, Football and Badminton have also performed well in several national and state level tour naments. ECoR organized All India Railway Boxing Championship 2025 at Vishakhapatnam

and secured 3 Silver Medals. I thank our recognized unions and associations for their commendable contribution to staff welfare by way of proactive participation in management. I also thank the ECoRWWO for their continued support and welfare activities.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all Railway Personnel and their families for their unwavering efforts, exceptional sincerity and dedication in helping East Coast Railway achieve these historic milestones. On this occasion, let us commit to upholding excellence in our work and continue serving the nation with dedication.

I once again convey my best wishes to you and your family

> Parmeshwar Funkwal General Manager

#### staff of ECoR, particularly the FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT **BOOKING STATIONS** OUR

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.

# Mining hub Joda lacks industrial development

DOST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Jan 25: Located in Odisha's Keonjhar district, Joda boasts the state's highest concentration of mining areas. However, the region has failed to evolve beyond mining, with no significant industrial establishments to show for its rich mineral resources. Despite the extensive extraction of minerals that are transported to other states, Joda has seen no industrial growth, leaving local residents grappling with unemployment and hardship.

Joda's mining cluster comprises 90 mines, but only 34 remain operational with 56 closed due to various legal and regulatory issues. Odisha generates approximately ₹46,000 crore annually from mining revenue, of which Joda mining division alone contributes about ₹21,000 crore. The target for mining revenue from Joda this fiscal year is set at ₹22,000 crore.

Mining in Joda began in 1907 when a private company initiated operations. For 117 years, the region has supplied millions of tonnes of iron ore to a massive steel plant in Jharkhand via rail and road routes. Another major mine in Jajang, part of the Joda cluster, began extracting iron ores in 1966. Over time, the associated companies exported millions of tonnes of ore, reaping enormous profits.

Rather than establishing a large-scale steel industry, small sponge iron plants were set up in and around Joda. This focus on medium and small-scale industries instead of large-scale projects led to neglect of the dis-



trict's and state's potential for development. While Jharkhand built a massive steel plant using Odisha's iron ore, Joda and its surroundings remained overlooked and neglected.

From the 1970s to 2020, extensive mining continued in the region. Yet, when leases expired, mining companies showed little interest in converting the area into an industrial hub, leaving behind only extraction sites and unrealised potential.

For nearly five decades, companies operating in regions like Kashia, Tonto, and Guali have been engaged in mining activities solely for profit, establishing pellet plants, sponge iron factories, and iron ore beneficiation plants. According to sources from the Mines department, approximately 8.3 crore metric tonnes iron ore has been extracted from the Joda mining area, of which 7.74 crore metric tonnes has been transported.

Despite the abundant mining activities, the Joda mining belt lacks any major steel industry. Instead, 23 medium-scale industries exist, primarily focused on securing the mines and generating revenue. However, many of these industries were reportedly found to be remaining non-operational most of the time.

The Central government's incentives kindled hopes for a transformative shift in the mining sector. In 2015, the government introduced a new mining policy, and by 2020, the auctioning of mines began. This attracted interest from multinational and international mining companies, leading to significant investment proposals for Odisha. To support this, the then Odisha government organised the 'Make in Odisha' conclave. However, the dream of establishing a major steel industry in the region remained unrealised.

Subsequently, the new state government has initiated efforts to revive this ambition, with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi pledging to establish a major steel industry in the district. Speaking on the matter, Joda BJP leader Ranjit Mahakud emphasised the region's abundant mineral resources and welcomed the move by the Chief Minister.

He urged public cooperation in this initiative and proposed that the government can utilise approximately 17 acres of idle land, previously belonging to the defunct Kalinga Iron Factory in Barbil Matkambeda, for establishing a new large-scale steel plant.

### NHRC seeks ATR on croc attack deaths

NN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Jan 25: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, and the District Collectors of Kendrapara and Bhadrak regarding the rising number of deaths and injuries caused by crocodile attacks.

The apex rights body directed the concerned authorities to submit their ATRs, including details of compensation paid to victims' families, within six weeks in response to the increasing human-crocodile conflicts.

Acting on a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC issued the order last Wednesday.

In his petition, Tripathy highlighted that 25 deaths had occurred due to crocodile attacks over the past 29 months.

He cited the death of Ajambar Nayak, a buffalo grazer from Ichhapur village in Aul

block of Kendrapara district, September 16, 2024. Nayak was attacked and killed by a crocodile while he was trying to cross a creek with his buffaloes. His remains were later found near the Kharasrota riverbank.

The petitioner expressed concern over the escalating number of crocodile attacks, posing a severe threat to the lives and livelihoods of riverside villagers.

Crocodiles are frequently spotted in rivers, creeks, and water bodies across several blocks, including Aul, Rajkanika, Pattamundai, Mahakalapara, and Rajnagar in Kendrapara district, as well as Chandbali and Tihidi blocks in Bhadrak district.

Tripathy stated that the increasing human-crocodile conflicts are primarily due to a lack of awareness about crocodile habitats and the heavy dependence of villagers on rivers for agriculture, transportation, and daily needs. This makes them easy prey for crocodiles, especially in sanctuary areas.

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He alleged that the absence of a proper, unified Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for managing human-crocodile conflicts has contributed to these incidents. The petitioner urged the authorities to take serious steps, both at the state and Central levels, to mitigate the issue.

The rights activist suggested conducting timely research studies to identify the causes of crocodile attacks, vulnerable seasons or times, and mechanisms to allow coexistence between humans and crocodiles. He emphasised the importance of preserving, restoring, and managing natural crocodile habitats such as wetlands and mangroves while creating

buffer zones to minimise hu man-crocodile interactions.

Tripathy further recommended accelerating research on crocodile behavior, reasons for their migration, and ways to adapt to human presence. Additionally, he urged the NHRC to develop and implement SOPs focusing on prevention, response, and post-incident management by involving local communities, forest officials, and civil society members.

Tripathy alleged negligence, inaction, and failure on the part of the Wildlife department, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the state government, which have resulted in the recurring menace, injuries, and fatalities.

He requested the NHRC to conduct a detailed investigation into these incidents through a team of officials, compile an updated database with adequate research, ensure compensation and rehabilitation for victims' families, and formulate an action plan to prevent such occurrences in the future.

#### MCL to provide dual desks to 809 elementary schools in Sambalpur

Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the district administration of Sambalpur for Project 'Sikshotthan', a landmark initiative aimed at benefiting over 41,000 elementary students in this district of western Odisha. In a ceremony held on International Day of Education Friday evening , MCL committed ₹20.5 crores for the procurement of 20,617 dual desks to be distributed across 809 elementary schools in Sambalpur. The MoU was officially signed by the Sambalpur Collector and the General Manager (CSR) of MCL, reinforcing MCL's ongoing commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), particularly

in the field of education.

### 2 tuskers found dead in a day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Narsinghpur/Sundargarh, Jan 25: Elephant deaths continue unabated in state as two tuskers were found dead Saturday in Athagarh and Sundargarh forest divisions.

In the first case, the carcass of a tusker aged around 12 years was recovered from the backyard of a house near Rangadaba village under Panchagochhia forest beat in East Narsinghpur forest range under Athagarh forest division in Cuttack district.

The reason behind the death of the animal is yet to be ascertained. The matter came to the fore after villagers spotted the animal dead and informed Forest officials. Athagarh DFO Jagyandatt Pati rushed with Forest



personnel and veterinarians and launched an investigation. The carcass was buried at the spot after a post-mortem.

In the second case, the carcass of an ailing tusker was found in a jungle near B Karuabahal village under Sundargarh forest division Saturday. On being informed, Sundargarh DFO Pradeep Mirase accompanied by Forest officials reached the spot and launched an investigation.

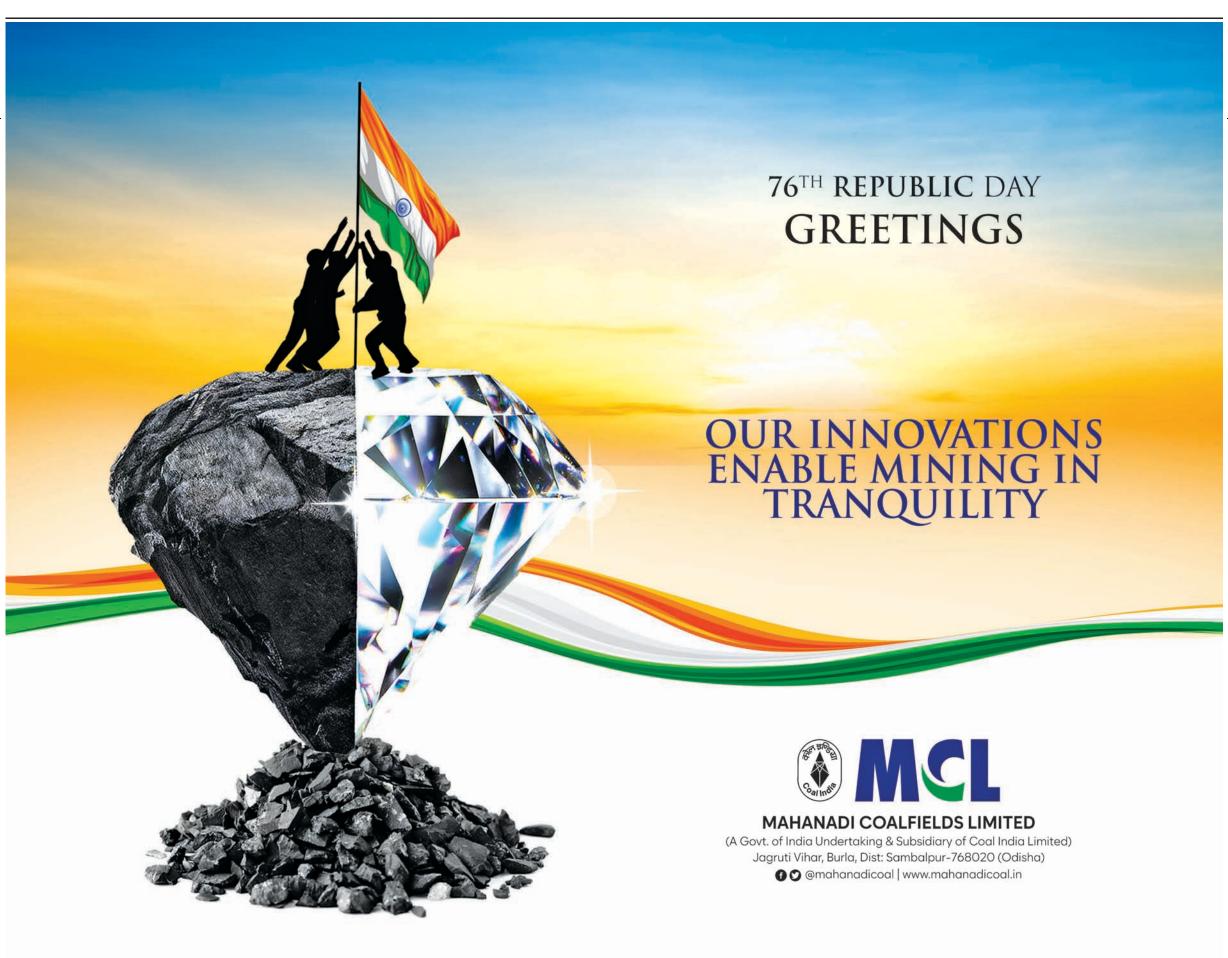
The elephant within 25 years of age had injuries on its body,

head, earlobe and trunk, the DFO said adding that the wounds are possibly five days old. One of its tusks was also partially broken. It is suspected that the animal might have sneaked into Sundargarh forest following a fight with

another tusker in neighbouring

Chhattisgarh.

The injured elephant is suspected to have died while roaming in the area. The actual reason behind its death can be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available to us, he added.





The principle of Yoga is the turning of one or of all powers of our human existence into a means of reaching divine Being





Aakar Patel

**CELEBRATE** 

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### **Undivided India**

counterfactual is thinking about something that might have happened but did not happen. As we celebrate yet another Republic Day, there is occasion to think of a different kind of constitution, one that India chose against.

As Congress president in 1946 Abul Kalam Azad concluded that undivided India's constitution "must from the nature of the case" be federal. This, he explained, meant that it should be framed to give complete autonomy to the provinces in "as many subjects as possible," while addressing national unity.

This would attend to the problem at the root, which Azad felt was not independence — since that was a given in 1946 — but of settlement, and that the Muslims were troubled by what an independent India would bring.

Federalism would be autonomy to the provinces and that the federal government would compulsorily control defence, foreign affairs and communications. What remained of government would be the preserve of the provinces, save for those which with mutual consent could be shared between the two. India was, Azad wrote, a country of homogenous units in different provinces, and that made his plan seem natural. He did not however discuss it with others in the Congress, because he says as president he had been authorised with "full powers."

He met the Cabinet Mission on Saturday, 6 April, 1946 and then briefed the Congress Working Committee the following Friday, the 12th. Here he writes that he was able to convince them of his plan's soundness, especially Gandhi, who 'expressed complete agreement.'

Sardar Patel asked what would happen to things like finance and currency. Gandhi, replying on Azad's behalf, said there was no reason to assume provinces would not want a unified policy in such things. Azad in his book does not record what, if anything, Nehru said.

Having apparently got the party behind him, Azad issued a statement three days later, 15 April. In the greater part of this, he attempts to repudiate the call for Pakistan, pointing out what he sees as its flaws. Towards the end, he says he has succeeded in making the Congress accept his formula, which secures "whatever merit the Pakistan scheme contains while all its defects and drawbacks are avoided."

The fear of Muslim majority areas of interference in a Centre dominated by Hindus he had addressed through his scheme of provincial autonomy. It had two lists of subjects, one compulsorily with the Centre and one optional, which the province could choose to give the Centre. Muslim majority provinces would have autonomy but also retain influence on issues that affected India as a whole.

Both a unitary state and a two state solution

would fail, he warned, the latter because too many Muslims would remain in a divided India, with even less say. "I am one of those who considers the present chapter of communal bitterness and differences  $\,$ as a transient phase in Indian life," Azad wrote.

The Cabinet Mission Plan that the British released a month later, on 16 May, does not differ much from Azad's except in one way. Instead of autonomy at the level of province or state, it was at the level of region. India would be divided into three parts (aligning with what is today Pakistan, India and Bangladesh) to reflect local majorities, and these three parts would have provincial autonomy under a Centre. Princely states would retain autonomy except for the powers ceded

Azad felt the Congress should accept this proposal. He writes Jinnah was initially opposed to it, because he had gone too far down the road with the Pakistan demand. But he felt he could not negotiate better terms than the ones on offer and the Muslim League Council on his advice voted in favour of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

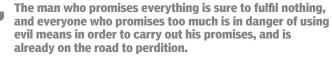
On 16 June, the Congress Working Committee also endorsed the plan. Azad wrote: "The acceptance of the Cabinet Mission Plan by both the Congress and the Muslim League was a glorious event in the history of the freedom movement in India. It meant that the difficult question of Indian freedom had been settled by negotiation and agreement and not by methods of violence and conflict. It also seemed that the communal difficulties had been finally left behind. Throughout the country there was a sense of jubilation and all the people were united in their demand for freedom. We rejoiced but we did not know then that our joy was premature and bitter disappointment awaited us." On 7 July, the AICC endorsed it.

The question of the Congress presidency also arose that month. Azad had been elected in 1939 for a year but had remained in the post till 1946 by default because after the Second World War broke out, the Congress was banned and its leaders jailed. He chose not to contest and to throw his weight behind Nehru, instead of Patel, a decision he would come to regret. Patel would have seen his plan through, while Nehru, in Azad's opinion "gave Jinnah the opportunity to sabotage" it.

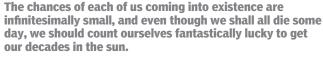
On 10 July, at a press conference, Nehru said the Congress was 'unfettered" by the Cabinet Mission Plan and could do as it chose in the Constituent Assembly, where it had a majority. On 27 July, the Muslim League Council met under Jinnah and now rejected the Cabinet Mission Plan and reiterated its demand for Pakistan.

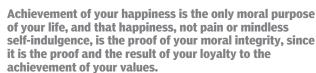
We know what happened after that. What might have been had the plan been accepted and undivided India preserved but with a weaker Centre we will never know.

#### WISDOM CORNER



**CARL JUNG** 





AYN RAND

#### **FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY**

### **DECOMMODIFY ELECTRICITY**

he international community has long recognised the urgent need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and shift to renewable energy, and in recent years many governments have pledged to reach net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions, albeit over extremely long timeframes. But they will never get there so long as they treat electricity, which is central to the clean-energy transition, like any other market good.

The green transition is driven by several factors, such as energy intensity, investment flows, consumption patterns, and distribution systems. But its success hinges on humanity's ability to move away from "dirty" fossil fuels toward clean, renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind. And that requires a profound transformation in how electricity is generated, distributed. and consumed. Economists and policymakers have long framed the energy transition as a question of relative prices. In recent decades, wind and solar costs have plummeted, driven by technological advances – especially in China, where government interventions have helped scale up green industries and drive down the so-called levelized cost of energy (LCOE). According to this widely used metric for comparing power sources, renewables have consistently outperformed fossil fuels, even before external shocks like the Ukraine war sent oil and gas prices soaring.

In theory, these developments should have expedited the global transition away from fossil fuels. In practice, however, renewable-energy sources merely supplement the total power supply. Meanwhile, both developed and developing countries continue to increase fossil-fuel production and invest heavily in exploring new reserves.

The discrepancy cannot be fully explained by market forces or relative prices. Over the years, many have blamed political leaders for the lack of



**Instead of acting as behind-the-scenes** market facilitators, policymakers must take direct responsibility for producing and distributing renewable energy

climate progress, especially after climate-change denialists rose to power in countries like the United States and Argentina. But this

explanation, too, is incomplete. As economic geographer Brett Christophers argues in his book The Price is Wrong: Why Capitalism Won't Save the Planet, the real problem lies in the failure to confront two fundamental truths about the limitations of open markets. First, the driving force behind private-sector investment and production is not output prices but relative profitability. Second, the nature of electricity makes it ill-suited to being "governed by the market," inevitably leading to suboptimal outcomes in the absence of massive government intervention.

Electricity, Christophers notes, aligns with economic historian Karl Polanyi's definition of "fictitious commodities." In his seminal work The Great Transformation, Polanyi argued that land, labour, and money were not intended to function within market systems. Unlike conventional goods explicitly produced for trade, the commercialisation of fictitious commodities leads to inefficient and unstable market transactions and inevitably results in economic and social distortions. To operate, these markets rely on extensive public intervention in the form of laws, regulations, social norms, and subsidies - both explicit and implicit. Such interventions create the illusion of a functioning market, even though prices and profits are ultimately shaped by public and social mechanisms.

For much of its existence, Christophers notes, electricity was treated as essential public infrastructure, with its production and distribution operating outside the market. In recent decades, the pursuit of profits has fueled a global push to unbundle and commercialise generation, distribution, and consumption. But, despite the façade of competitive markets, the sector still depends heavily on various forms of state intervention.

Electricity's unique characteristics pose significant challenges for the clean-energy transition. Wind and solar power are inherently intermittent, resulting in fluctuating output and price volatility. Compounding the problem, public subsidies for "green" investments can lead to overcapacity during periods of low demand, while their withdrawal often causes investors to exit the sector.

Moreover, although renewable energy has become cheaper than fossil fuels, the profits it generates are low and unreliable. Christophers vividly describes this self-cannibalising dynamic, highlighting how it has played out across different economies, from the US and Norway to India.

Instability undermines the "bankability" of green projects, making it harder to secure financing for renewable energy.

that the much-hyped Glasgow Alliance for Net Zero, launched in April 2021 at COP26 and championed by former Bank of England Governor and UN Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance Mark Carney, has already begun to falter after the six largest US banks withdrew from it in quick succession. This was before Donald Trump's return to the White House further disincentivized such investment by issuing an Executive Order that effectively terminates efforts to achieve a Green New Deal in the US.

But the solution is not to subsidise green capitalism by derisking investments, although such measures are unavoidable if renewable energy is to remain viable. Instead, the key is recognising that electricity is not a commodity. Consequently, we must restructure all aspects of energy production and distribution, encompassing renewables and fossil fuels alike.

Most importantly, achieving true decarbonisation requires governments to adopt a more proactive approach. Instead of acting as behind-the-scenes market facilitators, policymakers must take direct responsibility for producing and distributing renewable energy.

Such an approach is far from radical. Before the rise of neoliberalism, governments played a pivotal role in building and managing critical infrastructure, including energy systems. To facilitate the green transition, they must reclaim that responsibility. The expected private-sector profits from renewable-energy generation are simply not sufficient to drive the necessary transformation, despite the urgent global demand. Until policymakers come to terms with this reality, their efforts to accelerate the shift to renewables will continue to fall short.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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#### NATION SPECTRUM

Jayati Ghosh

**ECONOMISTS** 

**HAVE LONG** 

**THE ENERGY** 

**A QUESTION** 

**OF RELATIVE** 

**TRANSITION AS** 

**FRAMED** 

**PRICES** 

**POLICYMAKERS** 

### Redefine the economic vision



Shivaji Sarkar

**AGRICULTURE MAY BE THE BACKBONE OF** THE ECONOMY, **BUT BALANCING ITS NEEDS** WITH THOSE OF **OTHER SECTORS REMAINS A CRITICAL CHALLENGE** 

TO THE EDITOR

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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columns (between 600-1000

he 2025-26 Budget presents Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as she grapples with pressing issues such as curbing inflation, boosting consumption, stimulating private investment, and steering India's development amid concerns over a slowing economy.On the global front, she must also address potential economic headwinds from the policies of US President Donald Trump, which could result in higher petrol prices and a stronger dollar, adding to India's economic complexities.

Domestically, urban consumption—long a reliable growth driver—has weakened, and private investment remains subdued. India's growth rate has fallen to a two-year low of 5.4%, with annual growth estimates for 2024-25 at 6.4%, a sharp decline from 8.2% in 2023-24. Yet, the Reserve Bank of India remains optimistic, asserting that the country's structural growth drivers are intact.

Simultaneously, the rural economy and agriculture sector demand urgent attention. The government plans to increase agricultural spending

by 15% to \$20 billion in the new budget, aiming to boost rural incomes and curb inflation. The funds will prioritise developing high-yield crops, enhancing storage and supply chain infrastructure, and promoting pulse, oilseed, vegetable, and dairy production. However, the immediate impact remains uncertain, as many of these initiatives take time to deliver results. Agriculture continues to be the backbone of the economy. necessitating targeted interventions to enhance productivity. build resilience, and create alternative income sources for small and marginal farmers.

The latest NSSO Household Consumption Expenditure survey highlights a stark disparity in rural and urban incomes, with average rural MPCE (Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure) at just 58% of urban MPCE. While reforms aimed at increasing rural income have been implemented in recent years, progress has been gradual. Over the past five years, the government has allocated an average of 3% of total budgeted expenditure to

the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, underscoring the need for more robust support.

Agriculture employs 54% of India's workforce but contributes 18% to India's GVA. This highlights the need for increasing productivity in the sector. As per an IMF paper, India's labour productivity (PPP adjusted) in agriculture is only 12.2% of the median productivity in advanced economies and 43% of the median productivity in emerging markets The government has to do bal-

ancing tricks. The debt burden is high. Infrastructure investments, including roads have benefited corporates but tolls and rise in input costs have made Indian farming difficult. Road projects have also caused loss of 50 lakh hectare of arable land.

The government has also to address new Trumpism that is likely to put lot of pressure on the international market. So, it has to go beyond agriculture. Banks, though the RBI says are in good health, have problems of thawing deposits. Manufacturing and other sectors Finance Minister has to think of a new policy to keep manufacturing costs low so that inflation remains under check. A relook at GST is desirable. This may remain a pipedream. The Finance Minister has

are constricted by low purchas-

little scope to play with taxation. People want a relook at income tax since the government brought down corporate taxes to 22%. She may do some rejig but bringing down the rates may not be easy. The railway fares and commuting cost are rising. Would she be able to check?

Agriculture may be the backbone of the economy, but balancing its needs with those of other sectors remains a critical challenge. While the budgetary process generates significant curiosity, it is unlikely to introduce groundbreaking changes. Post-budget, the country must redefine its economic vision, focusing on becoming a low-cost, fast-growing economy. Simply boasting about achieving "trillions in record economic size" will not alter the nation's trajectory.

#### Overcome the barriers

Sir, It pains to note that India still continues to lead in the global TB burden with 26% of cases, according to WHO's Global Tuberculosis Report 2024. This is, in spite of the fact that TB is a detectable and curable disease and its diagnosis and treatment methods have been a part of the existing health systems in the country for a long time. While TB can affect people of any class, religion, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, it disproportionately affects the most marginalised in society, including children, the urban poor, and people living with HIV/AIDS. TB is not only a health crisis, but also an economic crisis, which costs India billions in losses every year and pushes families and communities into debt and poverty. The path to tuberculosis eradication in India requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, addressing social determinants of health, and embracing innovations. By adopting a holistic and person-centred approach, India can overcome the barriers that stand in the way of TB control and create a healthier future for all its citizens.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

#### Taking on WHO

Sir, Taking on the World Health Organisation (WHO) is not new to Donald Trump as he had done so in 2020 as well during his first term but the move was swiftly reversed by his successor Joe Biden. About 18 per cent of the WHO's 2023 budget was provided by the US. No doubt the WHO is not without flaws, but its yeoman service in fighting many communicable and non-communicable diseases cannot be understated. Its body of work in small pox, HIV, malaria, tuberculosis and, of course, poliomyelitis is there to see. Additionally, in natural disasters, the top health body has left no stone unturned in mitigating and alleviating human misery. Trump is sore with the WHO's "inept" handling of the COVID-19 pandemic but experts have said that it did reasonably well under gripping circumstances. The US cannot take health cooperation and health emergencies for granted without the active involvement of the top health organisation.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## usiness



It cannot be manufacturing or services; it has to be manufacturing and services as both these sectors are integral to India's economic trajectory

#### **ESIC ADDS 16.07 LAKH NEW MEMBERS**

**Employees' State Insurance Corporation** (ESIC) has added 16.07 lakh new workers enrolled under the ESI scheme in November. about one per cent higher as compared to the year-ago month, according to the latest payroll data. The ESIC had added 15.92 lakh new members in November 2023, a labour ministry statement said.



#### SHORT TAKES

#### NTPC net profit dips marginally

New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC Saturday reported a marginal dip in its consolidated net profit to ₹5.169.69 crore for the October-December quarter compared to the year-ago period due to higher tax expenses and adjustments. The company had a consolidated net profit of ₹5.208.87 crore in the quarter ended on December 31, 2023, a BSE filing showed. Total income rose to ₹45.597.95 crore in the third quarter from ₹43.574.65 crore in the same period a vear ago. Total tax expenses in the quarter increased to ₹2.075.12 crore from ₹1.361.75 crore a vear ago. Similarly. net movement in regulatory deferral account balances (net of tax) was (minus) ₹343.09 crore in the quarter against ₹1436.24 crore (plus) in the same period a year ago.

#### ICICI Bank net profit rises 15%

New Delhi: ICICI Bank Saturday reported a 15 per cent rise in standalone net profit at ₹11,792 crore for the third quarter ended December 2024. The secondlargest private sector lender had earned a net profit of ₹10,272 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Total income increased to ₹ 48,368 crore from ₹42,792 crore in the same period a year ago, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest income increased to ₹41,300 crore during the quarter under review as compared to ₹36,695 crore in the year-ago period. On the asset quality front, the bank's gross non performing assets ratio improved to 1.96 per cent as against 2.3 per cent a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs, or bad loans, came down to 0.42 per cent from 0.44 per cent at the end of the third quarter last

fiscal year.

# **Retail sector leasing** remains resilient

Mumbai, Jan 25: The Indian retail sector leased 8.1 million square feet of area in shopping malls and prominent high streets across top seven cities in 2024, overcoming limited new supply, according to a report Saturday.

The year witnessed new retail space additions of nearly 1.7 million square feet across seven retail developments in Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune and Hyderabad, according to a JLL India report

Despite limited infusion of new spaces of superior quality, momentum in retail sector's gross leasing remained unaffected as retailers continued to expand footprint across retail formats throughout the year.

Bangalore accounted for 34 per cent share of the total leasing activity, followed by Delhi NCR (14 per cent) and Mumbai (14 per cent).

The concentration of 62 per cent of total retail space take-up in these three Indian megalopolises underscores the strong consumption demand in prime retail centres and key high streets in these markets, said the report.

"Retailer appetite for prime retail locations remained firm throughout 2024 and categories such as fashion and apparel continued to amass the highest percentage share in the total retail leasing pie," said Dr



Last vear. 27 new brands of international origin entered the Indian market, nearly doubling from 14 in 2023

Samantak Das, chief economist and head of research and REIS. India, JLL.

With a significant 2.8 million sq ft share in leasing activity, Bangalore surpassed the combined leasing volume of Delhi-NCR and Mumbai.

In 2024, 27 new brands of international origin entered India, nearly doubling from 14

In the past four years, 60 retailers of international origin have forayed in the country to cater to Indian consumers

perpetual preference for global

"The entry of these brands in 2024 represents a 45 per cent share of the total international brands that entered India since 2021," the report mentioned.

Despite continued interest from international retailers, domestic retailers dominated the gross leasing with more than 80 per cent share, leasing approximately 6.5 million sq ft

"Delhi NCR emerged as the preferred location for over half of these international retailers to open their inaugural stores, followed by Mumbai. The luxury retail sector maintained its strong momentum, with high-end brands leasing approximately 190,000 square feet of space in 2024," said Rahul Arora, head (office leasing and retail services), and senior managing director-Karnataka,

Kerala, India, JLL

#### Trump pumps coal as answer to AI power needs ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cheyenne, Jan 25: US President Donald Trump's promise to go all in on fossil fuels includes praise for coal, a reliable but polluting energy source that's long been in

Trump this week suggested coal can help meet surging electricity demand from manufacturing and the massive data centres needed for artificial intelligence.

"Nothing can destroy coal. Not the weather, not a bomb – nothing," Trump told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, by video link Thursday. "And we have more coal than anybody.

Yet energy experts say any bump for coal under Trump is likely to be temporary since natural gas is cheaper and there's a durable market for renewable energy no matter who holds the White House.

"It's kind of been shown over the last three administrations even the president of the United States can't change markets, the trend for coal," said University of Wyoming economics professor Rob Godby. "It might lead to a reprieve.

Unlike solar and wind power, which are subject to vagaries of sunlight and weather unless they're paired with battery storage, coal-fired electricity can run around the clock with only periodic downtime for maintenance. Supporters say the nonstop power from coal meets the needs of technology facilities.

But while tech firms that want off-the-grid power might invest in a "dirt cheap" coal-



fired power plant, Godby said, such plants need time to fire up. They aren't very good for the kind of on-the-spot backup power Trump was referring to in addressing the Davos conference.

Surging demand is expected to prompt delays in plans to retire coal-fired power plants. That's already been happening with plants in Maryland, Indiana and Illinois.

For utilities, Trump's comments were "a blank check to do whatever the heck you want" in the short term despite prior attempts to address carbon dioxide emissions and expand renewables, said S&P Global analyst Dan Thompson.

But Thompson noted three of the companies driving the data center boom — Google, Amazon and Microsoft - are the biggest corporate purchasers of renewable power and have made commitments to reach carbon neutrality.

That suggests a reprieve, not a comeback, for coal.

The US has some of the largest coal reserves in the world — enough to last more than 400 years at current mining rates, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The industry relies heavily on reserves on public lands in the West, particularly the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana

#### Religare: US bizman makes competing offer for stake

New Delhi, Jan 25: Religare Enterprises said a US business man has made a proposal to acguire a 26% stake in it, the lat est twist in the battle for control of the financial services compa ny which has rejected another bid as being priced too low.

The Indian billionaire Bur man family, which has found ed and controls consumer goods conglomerate Dabur India raised its stake in Religare to nearly 25% in September 2023, triggering a so-called open offer to buy more shares.

Through the open offer process, which starts on Jan 27, the Burmans plan to buy around 26% more of Religare to bolster their presence in India's rapidly growing financial services sector, but Religare's independent directors flagged this week the offer price of 235 rupees per share was too low.

In a stock exchange dis closure late Friday, Religare shared a letter from U.S. en trepreneur Digvijay "Danny Gaekwad's firm requesting permission from Indian market regulator SEBI to make an open offer of 275 rupees per share for the Indian company, a 17% pre mium to the current offer.

A representative of the Bur man family, Mohit Burman, and the market regulator SEBI did not immediately respond to requests for comment Satur day. Florida-based Gaekwad did not immediately respond to a Reuters' email seeking comment outside of normal U.S business hours.

Religare shares closed at 249.40 rupees on Friday, giving it a market value of 81.83 billion rupees (\$949.30 million)



# Greeting to all fellow citizens on

the completion of 75 years of coming into effect of our Constitution &

# REPUBLIC DAY



6 Republic Day greetings to all my family members in the country. The Constitution of our nation has been instrumental in fortifying Bharat's democracy. This country is committed to moving forward with a firm resolution by overcoming obstacles, hurdles and challenges. 99

Jai Hind!

- Narendra Modi

Live telecast of Republic Day celebration from Kartavya Path from 9:00 AM on Doordarshan Network





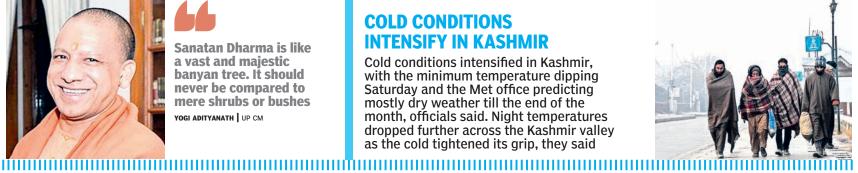
# national



Sanatan Dharma is like a vast and majestic banyan tree. It should never be compared to mere shrubs or bushes

#### **COLD CONDITIONS INTENSIFY IN KASHMIR**

Cold conditions intensified in Kashmir, with the minimum temperature dipping Saturday and the Met office predicting mostly dry weather till the end of the month, officials said. Night temperatures dropped further across the Kashmir valley as the cold tightened its grip, they said



After taking them that we give loans or do recovering money you should not torture and harass people SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

I am requesting the Government of India that there should be a comparison It has been 30 years since reforms have been ushered in. In these 30 years of reforms, some states went

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU ANDHRA CM

states went reverse

ahead positively while some

PM Modi has himself assured that no existing welfare scheme Delhi will be dis-



is spreading lies... They are misleading people. I am saying it again again the BJP will not stop any scheme meant for the welfare of the poor

AMIT SHAH I UNION HOME MINISTER

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Vande Bharat train** completes trial run

Srinagar (J&K): Years of hard work and dedication, and some engineering marvels later. the dream of Kashmir to be connected by rail finally came to fruition after a speciallydesigned Vande Bharat Express train arrived in the city Saturday, completing its trial run. The train, on its maiden trial run, arrived at Srinagar station in the Nowgam area on the city's outskirts from Katra in Jammu. It reached Jammu Friday.

#### Man gets life for rape. murder case

Ballia (UP): A court here has sentenced a man to life in prison and imposed a fine year-old case of rape and murder of a woman, officials said Saturday. According to the prosecution, the body of an unidentified woman was found at a primary school in a village in Nagra area March 31, 2016. A case was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint filed by the school's principal against an unidentified individual, they said.

#### One killed in road mishap

Hyderabad: A person sleeping on the footpath was killed, while two others sustained injuries when a speeding car hit them at Baniara Hills in the early hours of Saturday, police said. The person died instantly after being struck by the speeding car at 1:15 am. The two injured men were reported to be out of danger, they added. The three persons, all daily wage workers, were

### Two cars catch fire

sleeping on the footpath.

in Maha Kumbh fair Mahakumbh Nagar (UP): Two cars caught fire in Sector 2 of the Maha Kumbh fair area Saturday morning, but no casualties were reported, officials said. Chief Fire Officer (Maha Kumbh) Pramod Sharma said a car entering the fair area from Varanasi caught fire due to a short circuit, Another car adjacent to it also caught fire. Fire department personnel responded promptly, safely rescuing the occupants from the cars. No injuries were reported in the incident, he added.

### Prez bats for 'One **Nation One Election'**

In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day, President Droupadi Murmu emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to "eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 25: President Droupadi Murmu Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance"

in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state.

In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day, she emphasised the governmen's ongoing efforts to "eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws.

"We have been witnessing concerted efforts to change that mindset... Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she said. Highlighting the significance of the proposed bill aimed at synchronising election schedules across the country, Murmu noted, "The 'One Nation One Election' plan can offer numerous benefits, including enhanced governance and reduced financial strain."

In discussing legal reforms, she pointed out the need to replace the Indian Penal Code. the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act with new laws reflective of Indian traditions. She mentioned the introduc-

tion of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagar-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

toral process.

litical parties.

New Delhi, Jan 25: CEC Rajiv

Kumar Saturday requested po-

litical parties to avoid "disrup-

tive campaigning" and "fake

narratives", saying it might

cause disillusionment among

youngsters regarding the elec-

He was addressing the 15th

National Voters' Day event

here in the presence of Presi-

dent Droupadi Murmu, Union

Law Minister Ariun Ram Megh-

wal and representatives of po-

At the same time, Chief Elec-

tion Commissioner (CEC) Ku-

mar assured political parties

that the Election Commission

(EC) would respond in writing

to concerns flagged by them

on the electoral process and

the suggestions made by them

to improve the system. His re-

Avoid fake narratives, disruptive

campaign: CEC to political parties

ik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which prioritise the delivery of

justice over mere punishment and place a strong emphasis on addressing crimes against women and children. The President also pointed to

the persistently high economic growth rate in recent years, which has generated job opportunities, increased income for farmers and labourers, and lifted many out of poverty.

Efforts to support marginalised communities, particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC), were also highlighted.

Murmu mentioned various initiatives, including pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, national fellowships, and dedicated schemes aimed at the socio-economic development of these communities, such as the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Janiati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan.

The President's address underscored the government's

marks came on a day the Oppo-

sition Congress hit out at the

EC, saying its "self-congratula-

tion" on the occasion would not

obscure the fact that the poll

panel's functioning had made a

'mockery" of the Constitution

Kumar also flagged the

"dangerous trend" all over the

world of misinformation and

fake narratives, calling them

the single-biggest threat to

democratic processes world-

wide. "I would also urge them

to avoid disruptive campaign-

ing so that our youth do not get

disillusioned and move away

respect and humility, that

whenever they ask any question or give any suggestion to

improve the electoral process,

we will look into it with all sin-

cerity, make improvements

and also give them a written

response. But we must avoid

fake narratives, I would like

National Voters' Day is be-

ing celebrated for the last 15

years to mark the inception

of the EC on January 25, 1950,

a day before India became

to add," he added.

'We assure them, with all

from the electoral process,

Kumar said.

and insulted the voters.

commitment to fostering inclusive growth and redefining governance standards in the country, creating a vision for a more equitable and prosperous future for all citizens.

Reflecting on India's historical journey, she urged citizens to remember the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the nation's freedom, highlighting the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, whose contributions to the freedom movement are now receiving due recog-

The President praised the early 20th-century freedom fighters for uniting the nation in a well-organised independence movement and credited iconic figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, and Babasaheb Ambedkar for helping India rediscover its democratic values

The Constitution, according to the President, has evolved into a living document that serves as the foundation of India's collective identity and has guided the nation's progress over the past 75 years.

### Vijayasai resigns, fourth YSRCP MP to quit since 2024 Assembly poll rout

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 25: YSRCP leader V Vijayasai Reddy Saturday resigned as a member of Rajya Sabha and announced he was quitting politics due to "personal reasons", the fourth party MP to short-terminate their terms in the Upper House since its rout in the 2024 Assembly elections. He met Vice President

Jagdeep Dhankhar at his residence and submitted his resignation. Reddy, a chartered accountant by profession who represented Andhra Pradesh in the House, later told reporters he still had three-and-half-vears left in his second six-year term, but he was resigning due to personal reasons.

"I have submitted my resignation to the vice president and the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and he has accepted it,' Reddy told reporters after meet ing Dhankhar.

"I, hereby, voluntarily resign from my seat in the Raiva Sabha with immediate effect as a member representing Andhra Pradesh from the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress partv (YSRCP). Requesting you to kindly accept my resignation, his short resignation letter to the VP stated. The Rajya Sabha later notified Reddy's resignation.

"Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy, an elected Member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), representing the State of Andhra Pradesh, resigned his seat in the Rajya Sabha and his resignation has been accepted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha w.e.f, 25th January, 2025," Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P C



YSRCP Rajya Sabha members M Venkata Ramana, B Mastan Rao Yadav and BC leader R Krishnaiah resigned in the ecent past

Krishnaiah and Yadav subsequently joined the BJP and TDP, respectively, and retained their seats in the Rajya Sabha by-elections

← After Reddy's exit, the seat is expected to go to the ruling NDA in AP in the imminent by-election, owing to its overwhelming majority

Mody said in the notification. In a post on X, Reddy also shared pictures of his meeting with the vice president "Today, I submitted my resignation to the Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji. Hon'ble Chairman of Rajya Sabha is pleased to accept the resignation with immediate effect duly recording the proceedings," he

Asked whether he had spoken to YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, he said, "Yes, I have spoken to my party president Jagan Mohan Reddy Garu yesterday. I have explained to him in detail the reasons why I have taken the decision to guit politics. And he has advised me not to do so

#### **WAYANAD TIGER ATTACK**

#### **LOCALS STAGE PROTEST, DEMAND TIGER BE KILLED**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Jan 25: Intense protests erupted once again in the Mananthavady area of the hill district on Saturday, with locals demanding that the tiger responsible for killing a 47-year-old woman at an estate the previous day be killed rather than captured alive.

Radha, who belonged to scheduled caste community, was mauled by the tiger while she was out plucking coffee at the Priyadarshini Estate in Mananthavady village Fri-

After her mortal remains were handed over to her family and the funeral was over, locals turned up outside the forest of ficials base camp and demanded that the tiger be killed.

They sought to know why the forest officials were trying to cage the animal when there was an order to shoot it down. according to visuals shown or TV channels.

The forest officials clarified that the order issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden Pramod G Krishnan on Friday has di rected that maximum effort be put to cage or tranquilise the feline in accordance with the guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, failing which to shoot it down.

However, the protestors, which included tribal women living in the estate, were not satisfied and the protest con tinued outside the base camp.

Tensions heightened further later in the afternoon, when District Collector Meghashree DR did not arrive at the base camp at the time fixed for a discussion with the protesting local residents.

More than an hour after the stipulated time, the ADM re portedly arrived at the base camp and held talks with the locals regarding their demands and apprehensions over the tiger being still at large.

The protest outside the forest department's base camp was called off for the day only after the ADM arrived. Later, an alleged sighting of the tiger by some kids of the area, led to the local residents, police and forest officials mounting a search for the feline with drones also being pressed into service to get an aerial view, according to visuals on TV channels.

Meanwhile, the District Development Committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of the District Collector and directed that the undergrowth in estates and private plantation areas in various parts of the district he cut down.

### U'khand UCC makes provision of privileged will for defence personnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Jan 25: The Uniform Civil Code to be implemented soon in Uttarakhand makes a special provision for defence personnel called "privileged will" which can be made both in writing or by word

Any soldier or air force personnel engaged in an expedition or actual warfare or a mariner at sea can make a privileged will for which rules have been kept flexible. an official familiar with the provisions of the UCC said. Privileged wills may be in

Women perform 'Kullvi Nati' dance during the last day of the Winter Carnival 2025, in Manali, Himachal Pradesh

writing or may be made by word of mouth, he said.

A privileged will written wholly by the testator with his or her own hand will not need to be signed or attested, the official said.

It may be written wholly or in part by another person and signed by the testator (person executing the will) without

any need for attestation.

Even if it is not signed by the testator but proves that it was written by his or her directions and the person concerned recognised it as his or her will, it will be deemed to be his or her will, the official said in a statement

### Three in every four animal bites due to dogs: Lancet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 25: Three in every four animal bites are due to dogs, with over 5,700 deaths in humans estimated to occur each year due to rabies in India, according to a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-study conducted a nationwide community-based survey from March, 2022 to August, 2023, covering 60 districts in 15 states.

Over 78,800 households involving 3,37,808 individuals were interviewed about animal bites in the family, anti-rabies vaccination and deaths due to

Researchers, including those from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, found that three in every four animal bites was a dog bite. Over 2,000 of those surveyed reported a history of animal bite -- 76.8 per cent of which (1,576) were dog bites.

Further, over six per thousand people might be experiencing an animal bite, "translating into 9.1 million bites nationally", the authors said. "We estimated 5,726 human rabies deaths occurring annually in India." they wrote.

The estimates can help understand whether the country i



"Zero by 30" was launched in 2018 by the World Health Organization and collaborators. However, reliable and re-

cent estimates of deaths in humans due to rabies are not available in India, where a third of global cases occur,

← The ICMR-study conducted a nationwide community-based survey from March, 2022 to August. 2023, covering 60 districts in 15 states

**4 Over 78.800 households** involving 3,37,808 individuals were interviewed about animal bites in the family, anti-rabies vaccination and deaths due to animal bite

the researchers said.

They added that while cases of rabies deaths have declined over the past two decades, "India needs to fasttrack its actions by adopting a focused one-health approach".

"Integrating human and animal surveillance, ensuring timely administration of full course of post-exposure prophylaxis, and accelerating dog vaccination across the country are crucial steps towards this goal," the authors wrote.

The authors also found that among the people who had been bitten by a dog (1,576), over a fifth did not receive an anti-rabies vaccination, while two-thirds (1,043) received at least three doses.

Nearly half of the 1,253 individuals who received one dose did not complete their full course of vaccination, the team said.

# national

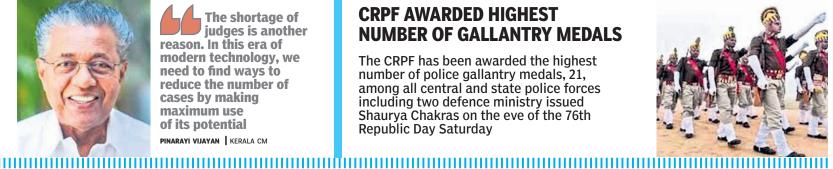


The shortage of judges is another reason. In this era of modern technology, we need to find ways to reduce the number of cases by making maximum use of its potential PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

#### The CRPF has been awarded the highest number of police gallantry medals, 21, among all central and state police forces including two defence ministry issued Shaurya Chakras on the eve of the 76th Republic Day Saturday

**NUMBER OF GALLANTRY MEDALS** 

CRPF AWARDED HIGHEST







N BIREN SINGH | MANIPUR CM

It appears from the BJP's manifesto and the announce ments made by Shah, that it has already admitted that it is losing the elections and not going to form government

MANISH SISODIA | SENIOR AAP LEADER

Every single vote has the

influenced by external pressures and to vote responsibly NEIPHIU RIO NAGALAND CM





of India's NRC and When it came to them, they started

@dhruvrahtee

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### 3 of family killed in car-truck collision

Hazaribag/Ramgarh (Jharkhand): Three members of a family were killed and two others injured after their car collided with a truck in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district Saturday, police said. The accident occurred near the Dudhmani river bridge between Charhi and Mandu on National Highway-33 under the Mandu Police Station limits when the

private car hit the stationary

truck, a senior officer said.

#### ■ TMC criticises BSF

Kolkata: Cough syrup bottles worth ₹1.4 crore were recovered from underground storage tanks by the BSF during a raid near the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Nadia district, a statement said Saturday. "In the operation, a huge consignment of 62,200 bottles of Phensedyl were recovered from three underground storage tanks. The estimated value of the consignment is ₹1.4 crore," the statement said.

#### Woman shot dead

Jammu: A man allegedly shot dead his wife following an argument over marital issue in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, police officials said. The deceased was identified as Vaishno Devi (25) and her body is being brought from her remote village in Bhomag tehsil to district hospital for post-mortem, the officials said. Devi's husband Kamal Chand, a resident of Sarangdhar village in Lamsora Panchayat, has been arrested, they said.

### More than one person involved in Saif stabbing case?

The police had cited suspicion about the involvement of more persons in the crime as one of the grounds for seeking the arrested accused's custody in the remand application, the official said without elaborating further on the matter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 25: Mumbai police suspect more than one person may be involved in the Saif Ali Khan stabbing case, in which a 30-year-old Bangladeshi national has been arrested, an official said Saturday. The police had cited suspi-

cion about the involvement of more persons in the crime as one of the grounds for seeking

New Delhi, Jan 25: India

and Indonesia Saturday decid-

ed to work jointly in defence

manufacturing and supply

chains, diversify two-way trade

basket and boost maritime

security ties with Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi describing

the Southeast Asian nation as

an "important partner" of New

Following wide-ranging talks

between Modi and visiting In-

donesian President Prabowo

Subjanto, five pacts providing

for cooperation in areas of

health, traditional medicine,

maritime security, culture and

In his media statement, Modi

said both sides emphasised on

cooperation in maritime securi-

ty, cyber security, counter-ter-

rorism and de-radicalisation.

He said both sides are com-

mitted to maintain peace, secu-

rity and a rules-based order in

the region and that freedom of

navigation must be ensured in

accordance with international

laws. The assertion came amid

China's growing military mus-

cle-flexing in the South China

Sea as well as in the Indo-Pa-

cific. Subianto, who arrived

digital space were signed.

Delhi in the Indo-Pacific.

the arrested accused's custody in the remand application, the official said without elaborating further on the matter.

He said the police collected blood samples and clothes of Khan and his staff present during the stabbing at the actor's residence in Bandra on January 16, and have sent them to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination.

On January 19, the police ar-

India, Indonesia sign pacts

to boost defence, trade ties

here Thursday night primar-

ily to grace the Republic Day

celebrations as the chief guest,

said Indonesia is looking for

Indian investments in all its

infrastructure sectors and that

he has issued directions to his

officials for accelerating the

Mazumdar, Secretary (East)

at the Ministry of External Af-

fairs, said the Indonesian presi-

dent sought Indian investments

in almost all infrastructure sec-

tors including in ports, airports

There were extensive discus-

sions on enhancing defence co-

operation that included repair

and maintenance of common

At a media briefing, Jaideep

economic ties

and railways.



rested Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir alias Vijay Das, a Bangladeshi national, for the attack from neighbouring Thane city.

A court Friday extended the police custody of Shariful till

January 29

The official said the accused was not cooperating with the investigation team and is yet to reveal from where he purchased the weapon used in the

Blood samples and clothes of the actor and the accused have been sent to the FSL to find out whether the blood on the accused's clothes belonged to Khan, he said. He added that fingerprints

collected from Khan's apartment matched the accused's. On Friday, Khan recorded his statement with the Mumbai Police, in which he said that the accused demanded ₹1 crore and attacked the nanny, and when he tried to stop him, Shariful escaped after stabbing him multiple times.

The 54-year-old actor suffered stab injuries in the attack last week and had to undergo emergency surgery at Lilavati Hospital.

#### **Noida Police books 12 FIITJEE officials**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida/New Delhi, Jan 25: The founder of FIITJEE and 11 other people were booked on a complaint by parents of the coaching institute's students after several of its centres in Delhi-NCR abruptly shut down, the Noida Police said Saturday

FIITJEE founder DK Goyal Chief Financial Officer Rajiv Babbar, Chief Operating Officer Manish Anand and its Greater Noida branch head Ramesh Batlesh have been named in the FIR, a Noida Police spokesperson said.

In Delhi, the police launched a probe after more than 250 people accused FIITJEE's East Delhi centre of fraudulent practices and mismanagement fol lowing the coaching institute's abrupt shutdown, sources said The institute, however

claimed the shutdown was the result of "mismanagement and desertion" by managing part ners, and announced plans to pursue legal action against its competitors for alleged poaching of its faculty.

On Friday, students and parents said several FIITJEE centres had unexpectedly shut down across Delhi-NCR and many teachers resigned, allegedly due to non-payment of salaries for months.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Rambadan Singh said, "Based on the complaint of parents, a case has been reg istered on charges of criminal conspiracy and breach of trust.

According to FIIT JEE's web site, it runs 73 centres across the country, providing coaching for competitive exams to engineering aspirants.

open till January 21 but closed an hour before schedule. Later. it was found that the centre had

### **CONG SLAMS EC**

New Delhi, Jan 25: The Congress hit out at the Election Commission on Saturday, saying the "self-congratulation" on National Voters' Day would not obscure the fact that the poll panel as it has been functioning makes a "mockery" of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves. The Opposition party also

alleged that over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been "severely compromised" by the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Even as we celebrate National Voters' Day, the ceaseless erosion of the institutional integrity of the Election Commission of India, in the last ten years, is a matter of grave national concern.'

"Our Election Commission of India and our Parliamentary Democracy, despite widespread doubts, over the decades, turned out to be impartial, independent and ideal to emulate globally," he said.

The realisation of universal adult suffrage, extending to the grassroots levels of panchayat and urban local bodies embodies the vision of our founders. he said. "However, complacen-



Therefore, safeguarding the independence of our institutions is essential to preserve our democracy and uphold the constitutional principles that underpin it," Kharge said. The National Voters' Day has been celebrated for the past 15

years to mark the inception of the Election Commission (EC) January 25, 1950, a day before India became a republic. In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "There will be a lot of self-congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves.

The Election Commission is a Constitutional body and its first Chairman was the legendary Sukumar Sen whose role in establishing the foundations of our electoral democracy was crucial. Ramesh said

#### Citing the complaint of Satsang Kumar, a resident of Greater Noida, the Noida Po lice spokesperson said the institute's centre at Sector-62 was

been completely shut.

### Justice Khehar, Suzuki among 139 Padma awardees [

platforms and collaboration in

It was discussed that we have

several common platforms and

it would make sense for Indo-

nesia to source some of the re-

quirements for servicing their

platforms from India, he said.

It is learnt that Indonesia's

keenness to procure BrahMos

supersonic cruise missiles from

Mazumdar said the entire

health sector is something

that has tremendous potential

for cooperation and the Indone-

sian side was very keen to at-

tract Indian healthcare groups

to set up hospitals in that coun-

try besides having their doctors

India figured in the talks.

shipbuilding, he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 25: Former Chief Justice of India J S Khehar, former chief of Suzuki Motor late Osamu Suzuki, Ram temple architect Chandrakant Sompura, folk singer late Sharda Sinha and hockey player P R Sreeiesh are among 139 Padma awardees announced on the eve of the 76th Republic Day Saturday.

The highest civilian honours of the country announced by the government include seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri decorations. Publisher of Tamil daily Dinamalar Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaiyer has been awarded Padma Shri for literature, education and journalism.

Former CJI Justice (retd) Jagdish Singh Khehar, Chairman of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals D Nageshwar Reddy, Kathak dancer from Gujarat Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia, violinist Lakshminarayana Subramaniam have been awarded Padma Vibhushan, the statement said.

Former chief of the Suzuki Motor Corporation Osamu Suzuki, folk singer Sharda Sinha and author M T Vasudevan Nair have been awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

The awards are given in various disciplines and fields such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil service among

Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field. Former Bihar Deputv chief minister Sushil Modi. economist Bibek Debroy, gazal singer Pankaj Udhas have

been given Padma Bhushan posthumously. Telugu Superstar Nandamuri Balakrishna also known as Balavva. film-maker Shekhar Kapur and former hockey goalkeeper P R Sreejesh have been given the Padma Bhushan. Former Maharashtra chief minister and Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi has been given the Padma Bhushan posthumously. Former SBI chairperson Bhattacharya, Arundhati recently-retired cricketer R Ashwin, vice chancellor of Lucknow's KGMU Soniva Nitvanand and industrialist Pawan Goenka have been given Padma Shri. The President has also awarded 30 Padma Shri to unsung heroes that includes 100-year old Libia Lobo Sardesai, who played an important role in Goa's freedom movement. She cofounded an underground radio station -- 'Voz da Liberdabe (Voice of Freedom)' -- in a forested area in 1955 to rally people against

the Portuguese rule.

Wildlife researcher and Marathi author Maruti Bhuiangrao Chitampalli (92). who gave unique dictionaries on birds, animals and trees; 68-year-old bhajan singer Batool Begum from Jaipur; percussionist Velu Aasaan (58) from Tamil Nadu, who is standardising and reviving traditional Parai Isai artform. are also among the Padma Shri awardees.

Togalu Gombeyaata (leather puppetry) master puppeteer Bhimayya Doddabalappa Shillekyathara, who was one of the first women to practise the art form, has also been awarded Padma Shri. The 96-year old 'Grandmother of

Gombeyaata' mastered the art just 14 and has performed in more than 12 countries.

Lavjibhai Nagjibhai (64), a Tangaliya weaver from Dangasia community in Surendranagar Parmar; Vijayalakshmi Deshamane, a veteran oncologist from Kalaburgi who provides free treatment to poor cancer patients; and Chaitram Devchand Pawar. who conserved 400 hectare of forest in Maharashtra, are also among the unsung heroes who have been given the coveted Padma Shri. Pandi Ram Mandavi, a traditional tribal musician and the creator of bamboo wind whistle called 'Sulur' or 'Bastar flute', is also amoing the Padma Shri awardees.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER. MECHANICAL CIRCLE. BHUBANESWAR

No. of Works

Bid Identification No.

Estimated Cost Period of Completion

Portal Last date/time for receipt of bid in the Portal

Date and Place of opening

Dt.07.02.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the

undersigned)

: Dt.06.02.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.)

SSI Units registered under DIC/

Hydro mechanical gates

ACEM/MDB-39/2024-25

01 (One) calendar month

Rs. 10.34.866/-

NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters/

From Dt.27.01.2025 (10.00 A.M.) to Dt.06.02.2025 (5.30 P.M.)

Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical

Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

LOGISTICS PARKS PVT. LTD. has been Varehouse Project at Village Banipada ahasil: Tangi-Choudwar, Distric cuttack, Odisha vide **EC Identificatio** EC24C3805OR5533862N date 21.01.2025. The copy of Clearance along with the conditions to be complied with is available at Office of the Stat Pollution Control Board on the websits of MOEF&CC at https://moef.gov.in.ind at registered office of the Compan JAGANNATH INDUSTRIAL LOGISTICS PARKS PVT. LTD. 9t loor, Iconic Building, Ganpatrao Kadar Marg, Lower Parel (West) Mumba Maharashtra - 400013.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

DESCRIPTION OF WORK WITH PROVISION OF AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER (AT) & ELECTRICAL CABLES FOR HOT AXLE BOX DETECTOR (HABD) SITES OF TANGARIA&JORANDAROAD.

Approx Cost of the work (₹):

DESCRIPTION OF WORK : ELECTRIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED TWO LANE ROAD CONNECTING LEVEL CROSSING ST-100 TO ST-102 IN LIEU OF CLOSURE OF LEVEL CROSSING ST-102 OF ANGUL KERJANG SECTION UNDER ASSISTAN

Approx Cost of the work (₹): 2,00,608.56, EMD (₹): 24,000.00

DESCRIPTION OF WORK WITH CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING OPEN STORAGE WITH GROUND LEVEL CEMENT FLOORING INTO A COVER SHED OF SIZE 45M X 7M X 3M WITH HIGH LEVEL CONCRETE FLOORING FOR STORING HEAV MATERIALSATROHDEPOT/PARADEEP

Approx Cost of the work (₹): 3,51,054.90, EMD (₹): 7,000.00 Completion period : 03 Months (for SI

No. 1 & 2) and 06 Months (for SI. No. 3) Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 12.02.2025 (for All the tenders). No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is

ocuments of the above e-tender is vailable in website: http://www.ireps.gov.ir Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten ays before the date of closing of tender to ote any changes / corrigendum issued

#### Delhi polls: BJP promises 50K govt jobs al of "lying" and not fulfilling his took a dig at Kejriwal, saying the promises and asserted that "getting New Delhi, Jan 25: With less rid of liars and betrayers" is the bigthan two weeks left for the Delhi gest poll issue in Delhi.

to power, the BJP will develop a grand 'Mahabharat' corridor to promote and publicise the famous mythological epic of the 'Mahabharata', in partnership with the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Besides, the party pledged to create an integrated public transport network with an investment

of ₹20.000 crore, convert Delhi into

a 100 per cent e-bus city with 13,000

electric buses, adding that the par-



Delhi Metro Phase IV at the earliest and make metro and buses available 24x7. He said that with a dedicated fund, the Yamuna will be cleaned in three years and with the Centre's assistance, a Yamuna riverfront will be developed on the line of the Sabarmati riverfront.

people of Delhi are waiting for his 'world-famous" dip in the Yamuna, which he had promised and assured that the river would be cleaned in seven years. He also suggested that Kejri-

Prayagraj, where Maha Kumbh is currently underway. Hitting back, the Aam Aadmi Party dubbed BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' as a "Jumla Patra" copying its schemes, and claimed that the party seems to have conceded defeat in the upcoming Assembly polls. Delhi will go to polls February 5 and the results

#### Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. -ACEM/MDB-39/2024-25 Name of the Work Mechanical Gate Works

Category of executors

Date & time of availability of bid documents in the

10. Name of the Officer inviting

Circle, Bhubaneswar Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https:/ tendersodisha.gov.in. Any further issue of Addenda/Corrigenda

Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer, OIPR-32405/11/0043/2425 Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused AAP chief Arvind Kejriw-

colonies, ₹10 lakh life insurance for gig workers, lawvers and labourers, 50,000 government jobs for the youth and free metro travel worth ₹4,000 annually for needy students. Releasing the final part of the party's 'Sankalp Patra' (election manifesto), senior BJP leader and

Assembly polls, the BJP Saturday

promised to clean Yamuna within

three years, provide complete own-

ership rights in 1,700 unauthorised

Shah said that after coming

ty will also ensure completion of

Further, the Union minister

wal take a dip in the Ganga at

will be announced February 8.



# internationa



The elections will be contested among pro-Bangladesh groups only. Awami League's rehabilitation will not be allowed in this country

MAHFUZ ALAM I KEY ADVISER OF MUHAMMAD YUNUS'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT, BANGLADESH

#### STORM BRINGS RECORD WINDS

Emergency crews began cleaning up Saturday after a storm bearing record-breaking winds left at least one person dead and more than a million without power across the island of Ireland and Scotland. A wind gust of 114 mph (183 kph) was recorded, breaking a record set in 1945





this with Ukraine, otherwise it will not work **Because Russia** does not want to

end the war, while Ukraine wants

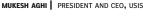
to end it VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY |

PRESIDENT, UKRAINE



We believe the relationship between the two countries (India and US)





#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Hegseth confirmed as US Defence Secy

Washington: The US Senate has narrowly confirmed Pete Hegseth as the country's Defence Secretary after Vice President JD Vance cast a rare tiebreaker vote, approving President Donald Trump's pick to lead the Pentagon after a contentious battle over his nomination amid allegations of sexual assault and alcohol abuse. In the 100-member Senate, the ruling Republican Party has 53 members. With the vote tied at 50-50, Vance used his rare vote to confirm the nomination of Hegseth, 44, a veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. All 47 Democrats voted against Hegseth, a former Fox News host. Hegseth's confirmation process has been mired in allegations of sexual assault, alcohol abuse and financial mismanagement of veterans' charities, all of which he has

#### Pak awards death sentence to four

Lahore: A Pakistani court has and 80-year imprisonment to four persons for uploading blasphemous content on Facebook, an official said Saturday. Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Tariq Ayub Friday convicted four suspects -- Wajid Ali, Ahfaq Ali Saqib, Rana Usman and Suleman Sajid -- for insulting Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions, and his wives. The court official said the convicts uploaded blasphemous content on Facebook from four different IDs. "The judge after hearing arguments of both prosecution and defence and witnesses accounts awarded the death penalty and 80 years imprisonment to each of them on different counts," the official said. They were also slapped with a fine of PKR 5.2

#### Adani projects in **SL under scanner**

Colombo: The Sri Lankan government Saturday said it has revoked the pricing agreement for Adani Group's wind power projects in the island nation and appointed a committee to review them. Government spokesperson Nalinda Jayathissa clarified that while the Adani Green Energy wind power projects in Mannar and Pooneryn districts have not been cancelled, the government has rejected the power purchase prices negotiated by the previous administration in 2023. "There was no decision to cancel the Mannar and Pooneryn projects, but rather to appoint a committee to review them. The committee has started its work, and once the review is complete, we will determine what changes need to be

made," Jayathissa said.



### **HOSTAGES RETURN HOME**

Jerusalem, Jan 25: The Palestinian militant movement Hamas released four female Israeli soldier hostages Saturday, in return for 200 Palestinian prisoners, in keeping with a ceasefire agreement aimed at ending the 15-month-old war in Gaza.

The four were led onto a podium in Gaza City amid a large crowd of Palestinians and surrounded by dozens of armed Hamas men. They waved and smiled before being led off, entering ICRC vehicles and being transported to Israeli forces.

The soldiers - Karina Ariev, Daniella Gilboa, Naama Levy and Liri Albag - were all stationed at an observation post on the edge of Gaza and abducted by Hamas fighters who overran their base during the Hamas attack on Israel October 7, 2023. Their parents clapped and

cried out in joy when they saw them on screen, watching the handover live from a nearby military base across the border. In Tel Aviv, hundreds of Israelis gathered at the so-called Hostages Square, crying, embracing and cheering as it was aired on a giant screen.

They were reunited with their family soon after, according to the military and will be taken to a hospital in central Israel, the Israeli Health Ministry said. Photos published by the Israeli military showed them embracing tightly with their parents, in smiles and tears.

Buses carrying released Pal-

6 Chinese file petition

against police brutality

Karachi: Six Chinese nationals in Paki-

stan petitioned a high court against po-

lice harassment, including demanding

money and putting restrictions on their

movement in the name of security

They filed the plea in the Sindh High

Court in Karachi on Friday, where a

two-judge bench heard the case. The

Foreign Affairs and others, including

the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and

its consulate in Karachi and relevant

federal and provincial law officers.

It is the first time Chinese nationals

netitioners cited Sindh's chief secre-

inspector general as respondents.

tary, the provincial home secretary, the

have approached a high court against harassment by police in Pakistan. The

bench issued notices to the Ministry of



In the first six-week phase of the ceasefire deal. Hamas has agreed to release 33 hostages, including children, women, older men and the sick and injured, in exchange for **hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli** jails, while Israeli troops pull back from some of their positions in the Gaza Strip

estinian prisoners were seen departing from the Israeli Ofer military prison in the occupied West Bank, soon after the hostages were freed. Israel's Prison Service said all 200 prisoners have been released.

They include convicted militants serving life sentences for their involvement in attacks that killed dozens of people, according to a list published by Hamas.

Around 70 will be deported to Egypt, another 16 sent to Gaza and the remaining prisoners will be released to the West Bank, Palestinian officials said. DISPUTE

Saturday's exchange was the second since a ceasefire began January 19 and Hamas handed over three Israeli female civilians in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners.

But joy in Israel was clouded by disappointment after a female civilian hostage who was expected to be freed Saturday, was not. Arbel Yehud, 29, was abducted with her boyfriend from their home in Kibbutz Nir

#### **Houthis release** 153 war detainees

**Dubai:** Yemen's Houthi rebels unilaterally released 153 war detainees Saturday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. The Houthis had signalled Friday night they planned a release of prisoners, part of their efforts to ease tensions after the ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, However, the release follows the Houthis detaining another seven Yemeni workers from the United Nations, sparking anger from the world body. The Red Cross said it "welcomes this unilateral release as another positive step towards reviving negotiations" over ending the country's long-running war.

Oz, October 7, 2023.

An Israeli military spokesman said it was a breach of the truce, while Hamas said it was a technical issue. A Hamas official said the group had informed mediators that she was alive and will be released next Saturday

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Palestinians in Gaza will not be allowed to cross back to the northern part of the territory until the issue is resolved.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had been displaced from northern Gaza during the war and many were expecting to return from Sunday.

The al-Jaili refinery sits

The State Department cable that the RSF and its proxies are committing genocide, have not some 60 kilometers north of

It says that for existing foreign assistance awards stop-work orders shall be issued immediately until reviewed by Rubio. Trump's order is unlawful, argued a source familiar discussions in Congress on the move.

#### **TACKLED BY TRUMP**

### US freezes foreign aid

The move risks cutting off billions of dollars of life-saving assistance. The US is the largest single donor of aid globally - in fiscal year 2023. it disbursed \$72bn in assistance



Washington, Jan 25: The US State Department issued a 'stop-work" order Friday for all existing foreign assistance and paused new aid, according to a cable seen by Reuters, after President Donald Trump ordered a pause to review if aid allocation was aligned with his foreign policy.

The cable, drafted by the Department's foreign assistance office and approved by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, said waivers have been issued for military financing for Israel and Egypt. No other countries were mentioned in the cable.

Just hours after taking office Monday, Trump ordered a 90-day pause in foreign development assistance pending a review of efficiencies and consistency with his foreign policy but the scope of the order was not immediately known.

said effective immediately, senior officials "shall ensure that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, no new obligations shall be made for foreign assistance" until Rubio has made a decision after a review.

"Freezing these international investments will lead our international partners to seek

This is lunacy. This will kill people. I mean, if implemented as written in that cable ... a lot of people will die. This is just simply a wrecking ball to break as much stuff as possible

JEREMY KONYNDYK | FORMER USAID OFFICIAL

#### 'Gulf of America' name change now official

The Trump administration's Interior Department said Friday it had officially changed the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, and the Alaskan peak Denali to Mount McKinley. US President Donald Trump ordered the name changes as part of a flurry of executive actions hours after taking office Monday, making good on a campaign promise. "As directed by the President, the Gulf of Mexico will now officially be known as the Gulf of America and North America's highest peak will once again bear the name Mount McKinley," the Interior Department said in a statement. While Trump can direct the US Geological Survey to change how it denotes the Gulf of Mexico, such a name change would be unlikely to be recognized internationally. Mexico, which like the US has a long coastline circling the body of water, has said the Gulf of Mexico name is in ternationally recognized and has been used as a maritime navigational reference going back hundreds of years. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum earlier this month jokingly suggested North America, including the United States, be renamed "Mexican America - an historic name used on an early map of the region.

other funding partners - likely US competitors and adversaries to fill this hole and displace the United States' influence the lon ger this unlawful impoundment continues," the source said.

#### Fighting sets ablaze Sudan's largest oil refinery including a US assessment

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Jan 25: Fighting around Sudan's largest oil refinery set the sprawling complex ablaze, satellite data analyzed by The Associated Press Saturday shows, sending thick, black polluted smoke over the country's capital.

The attacks around the refinerv, owned by Sudan's government and the state-run China National Petroleum Corp, represent the latest woe in a war between the rebel Rapid Sup-

for the blaze

# CIVIL WAR

International mediation attempts and pressure tactics,

#### Khartoum, the capital. The refinery has been subject to previous attacks as the RSF has port Force and Sudan's military, who blamed each other

#### claimed control of the facility since April 2023, as their forces

halted the fighting.

had been guarding it. Local Sudanese media report the RSF also surrounded the refinery with fields of landmines to slow any

### WEEK'S BEST PHOTOS



Greyhounds race in a championship during the Qatar International Falconry and Hunting Festival in Marmi



Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump attend the Commander in Chief Ball in honor of his inauguration in Washington



Displaced Palestinians return to the devastated Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, shortly before a ceasefire deal in the war between Israel and Hamas was implemented



A woman plunges into icy water while celebrating the Orthodox Epiphany in the Stroginskaya floodplain of Moscow (AP)

### R-Day parade to showcase military might, cultural heritage

New Delhi, Jan 25: India is set to showcase its military prowess and rich cultural heritage, and display a symbolic confluence of 'virasat' and 'vikas' on Kartavya Path here to mark the 76th Republic Day January 26 when the nation will also commemorate the platinum jubilee of the enactment of the Constitution.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest on the occasion. A 352-member marching and band contingent from Indoneparade. Subianto will be the fourth Indonesian president to attend India's Republic Day celebrations. Sukarno, the first president of Indonesia, was the chief guest at India's first Republic Day celebrations in 1950.

While 75 years of the Constitution is the focus of celebrations this year, the theme for the tableaux is 'Swarnim Bharat Virasat aur Vikas'.

Sixteen tableaux from across states and Union Territories and 15 from Central ministries, departments and organisations will roll down the ceremonial boulevard Sunday.

The country will display its military prowess by showcasing some of the cutting-edge defence platforms including BrahMos, Pinaka and Akash, with the Army's Battle Surveillance System 'Sanjay' and DR-DO's surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Pralay' set to register their presence in the ceremonial parade for the first time.

T-90 'Bhishma' tanks Sarath (infantry carrying vehicle BMP-II), Short Span Bridging System 10m, Nag Missile System, Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher System 'Agnibaan' and 'Bajrang' (light specialist



parade, officials said Thursday. Besides, the DRDO will present a tableau with the theme 'Raksha Kavach -- multi-layer protection against multi-do-

main threats', officials said. This January 26 will carry extra significance as India's Constitution, which came into effect on this historic day in 1950, completes 75 years.

ed by the Constituent Assembly November 26, 1949.

Before the parade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in paying tribute to the country's martyrs by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial.

The parade will begin in the morning with the National Salute and will continue for 90 of India's heritage and growth.

C-130J Super Hercules, C-295, C-17 Globemaster, P-8I, MiG-29 and Su-30, among other aircraft, will also take part in the

The ceremonial parade will be heralded by 300 cultural artistes playing 'Sare Jahan Se Achha' on musical instruments representing different parts of the country, according to the Defence Ministry.

Lt Gen Bhavnish Kumar. General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area will be the Parade Commander, while Parade Second-in-Command will be Chief of Staff (COS), Delhi Area, Maj Gen Sumit Mehta.

Maj Gen Mehta said the event will showcase India's military prowess with a number of cutting-edge platforms and a range of vibrant tableaux depicting the country's heritage.

Two Param Vir Chakra awardees -- both Kargil war heroes -- and one Ashok Chakra awardee will be part of the parade, he said. The flypast will feature 40 Indian Air Force aircraft and three Dornier aircraft

of the Indian Coast Guard. The Indian Army will be represented by a mounted column. eight mechanised columns, and six marching contingents, officials said. The column will be represented by the 61 Cavalry.

The marching columns will consist of contingents from the Brigade of the Guards contingent, Jat Regiment, Garhwal Rifles Regiment, J&K Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment and a contingent of the Corps of Engineers.

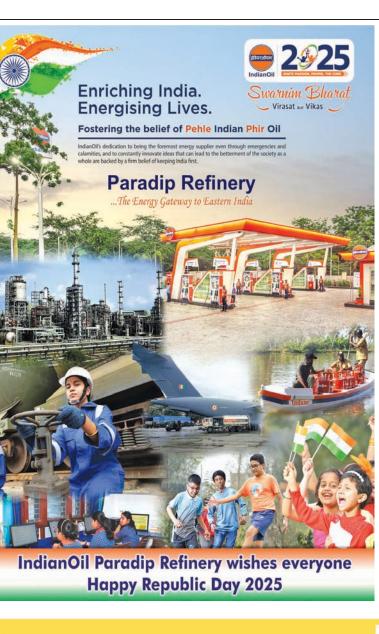
Capt Ritika Khareta will be the contingent commander of a marching contingent of the Army's Corps of Signals. The officer is the only woman member of her contingent and

There will also be a motorcycle display by daredevils of the Corps of Signals. Capt Ashish Rana will be its leader and Capt Dimple

Singh Bhati, the second in line. "I will be riding a ladder on a motorcycle and give a salute to the president during the parade." Bhati said soon after the

full dress rehearsal January 23. Capt Rana said Capt Bhati would become the first woman officer from the Army to give the ladder-born salute to the president in the history of Republic Day celebrations.

States that will display their tableaux during the 76th Republic Day Parade include Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand Gujarat, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Del hi and Chandigarh will show case them among the Union Territories.



#### In a first, Odisha Police to unfurl Tricolour at 10 uninhabited islands

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Odisha Police will hoist the National Flag at 10 uninhabited islands off the Odisha coast on the occasion of Republic Day celebrations

Speaking to mediapersons here, DGP YB Khurania said, "For the first time, the Odisha Police team will go to 10 uninhabited islands on the Odisha coast and unfurl the Tricolour on the occasion of Republic Day celebrations.

Khurania also stated that this will be done as per the instructions of the Prime Minister.

"Our team has already completed a survey by visiting 10 such Islands. Arrangements have been made to fly the National Flag at those islands," he added. Meanwhile, DGP Khurania

sion on various aspects related to coastal security during a meeting with Donny Michael, the Additional Director General of Coast Guard for Eastern Seaboard. The DGP after the meeting told

Friday held a threadbare discus-

the mediapersons that the Odisha Police has prepared various new plans to strengthen the coastal security along Odisha coast.

"We are planning to intensify coastal patrolling, increase aerial surveillance and set up a command-and-control system.

added Khurania.

He also noted that special inputs related to coastal security were shared by both of them with each other during the discussions. The DGP stated that they also held discussions on how the coast guard can assist Odisha Police in coastal security.

"It has been decided during the discussions that we will constitute a board of officers comprising officials from both Coast Guard and Odisha Police. They will carry out surveys of all the areas along the Odisha coast. They will recommend to us the type of boats required for patrolling in different areas along the coast," said Khurania.

The DGP said that after getting the survey report, arrangements will be made to provide the particular type of boats, as recommended by the board of officers, to the marine police stations in the state.

"We also held discussions on the lack of adequate manpower for coastal security. We have a scheme for the deployment of retired Indian Navy and the Coast Guard personnel at the marine police stations. We shared this information with the ADG of Coast Guard. We hope that coast guard officials would be available for deployment at the marine police stations after retirement in the future," the

### डफको नैनो यरिया जस एवं डफको नैनो डीएपी का वाटा. IFFCO उपज अधिक और लाभ ज्यादा नैनो यूरिया लस् तस्त INDIAN FARMERS FERTILIZER COOPERATIVE LIMITED, PARADEEP UNIT





play a battlefield scenario demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and air with indigenous Ariun battle tank, Tejas fighter aircraft and advanced light helicopter, according to the Defence Ministry.

The theme of the tri-services tableau will be 'Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat' (Strong and Secure India).

On January 1, the ministry declared 2025 as the year of defence reforms and that the focus will be to boost tri-services synergy to enhance India's military might With the theme 'Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat', the tableau will showcase the conceptual outlook for jointness and integration in the armed forces, ensuring national security and operational excellence, the ministry said Wednesday.

It said the tableau would depict a joint operations room facilitating networking and communication among the three services.

It would display a battlefield scenario demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and air with the indige-

tank, Tejas MKII fighter aircraft, Advanced Light Helicopter, destroyer Visakhapatnam and a remotely piloted aircraft, reflecting the tri-services synergy in multi-domain operations, the ministry said.

It said these platforms exemplify the vision to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in defence.

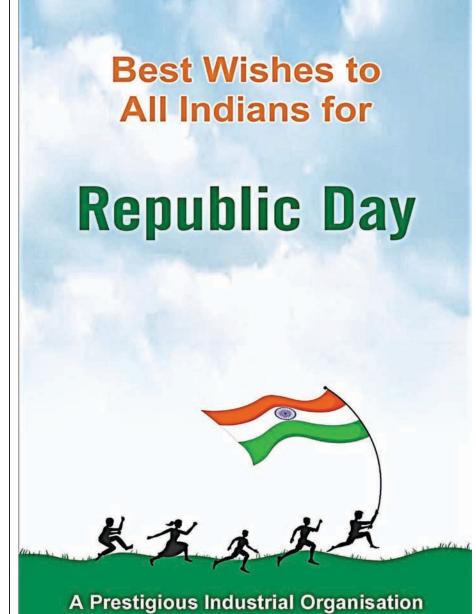
The ministry said jointness and integration among the three services is at the core of the mandate given to the department of military affairs.

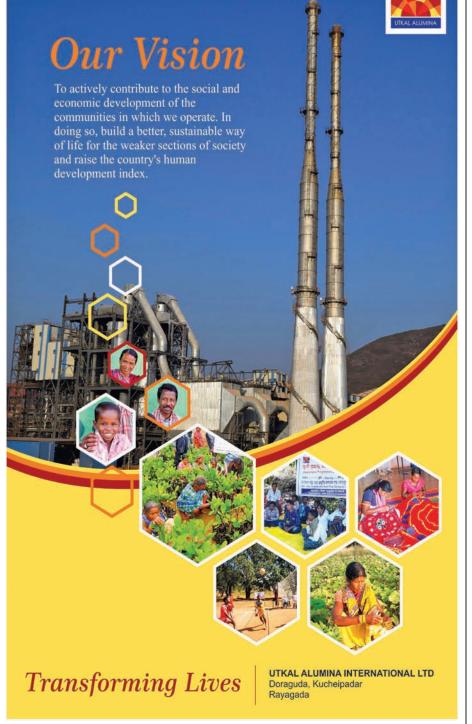
These are identified as the key building blocks towards maximising combat potential of the armed forces in both, contemporary and future conflicts, the ministry said in a statement.

It said the Integrated Defence Staff has taken focused actions towards tri-services synergy to steer the reforms in the right direction.

This evolution towards jointness and integration, driven by the synergy between the three services, will significantly enhance the country's military capabilities by fostering a culture of shared responsibility and unified action in safeguarding national interests, it said.

As part of ensuring greater synergy among the three services, the government is looking at establishing integrated theatre commands this year.





# Keys claims first Grand Slam Tilak saves the day The all-rounder's stunning fifty carries Men in

The 14th ranked Keys dethrones two-time champion Sabalenka in women's Australian Open final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Jan 25: When Madison Keys stepped into Rod Laver Arena at 7:37 pm Saturday night ahead of the Australian Open final, she strode right past the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup, the trophy that goes to the women's champion and was placed on a pedestal near the entrance to the court.

Keys didn't break stride. Didn't stop to stare. That bit of hardware then was placed near the net for the pre-match coin toss, close as can be to where the American stood. Close enough to touch. Close enough to feel real. Also right there was her opponent, No 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time defending champion at Melbourne Park, who would not make things easy on this cool, breezy evening.

Exactly 2 1/2 hours — and one 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 victory over Sabalenka — later, there was Keys, smiling the widest smile while holding that silver trophy with both hands, a Grand Slam champion for the first time at age 29. This was Keys' second chance to play for a major title: The first ended in a lopsided loss at the 2017 US Open, an experience that taught her she would need to be able to play through nerves.

"I have wanted this for so long," said Keys, who was born in Illinois and now is based in Florida, "and I have been in one other Grand Slam final, and it didn't go my way, and I didn't know if I was going to get back in this position.'

Keys did not take an easy path, either

Before this three-set victory came one against No 2 Iga Swiatek in the semifinals, saving a match point along the way. Not



since Serena Williams in 2005 had a player defeated both of the WTA's top two women at Melbourne Park.

"Madison: Wow, what a tournament," Sabalenka said.

"Enjoy the celebration," she told Keys. "Enjoy the really fun part." Keys, ranked 14th and seeded 19th, prevented Sabalenka from earning what would have been her third women's trophy in a row at the Australian Open — something last accomplished by Martina Hingis from 1997-99 — and her fourth major title overall.

When it ended, Keys covered her face with her hands, then raised her arms. Soon, she was hugging her husband, Bjorn Fratangelo — who has been her coach since 2023 — and other members of her team, before sitting on her sideline bench and laughing.

Sabalenka chucked her racket, covered her head with a white towel and briefly left the court, before returning for the

myself to kind of switch off and Madison Keys is the oldest woman to become a first-time Slam champ since Flavia Pennetta

**2015 US Open.** This was the 46th Slam appearance for her, the third most before winning a women's major title, behind only Pennetta's 49

was 33 at the

post-match ceremony. "I just needed ... that time for

Wimbledon in 2013

and Marion Bartoli's

47 when she won

forget and ... be respectful," Sabalenka explained later. "Just wasn't my day. Keys broke three times in

the first set, helped in part by Sabalenka's four double-faults

this for so long, and 13 total and I have been in one unforced other Grand Slam final, errors. But don't and it didn't go my way, nd I didn't know if I was think this going to get back in was merely an inthis position.

MADISON KEYS

stance of Sabalenka being her own undoing.

Keys had a lot to do with the way things were going. She compiled an 11-4 edge in winners in the opening set, managing to out-hit the big-hitting Sabalenka repeatedly.

For a stretch, it seemed as though every shot off the strings of Keys' racket — the

one she switched to ahead of this season, at Fratangelo's urging, to protect her oft-injured right shoulder and to make it easier to control her considerable power - was landing precisely where she wanted.

Near a corner. On a line. Out of the reach of Sabalenka, a 26-year-old from Belarus.

Also important was the way Keys, whose left thigh was taped for the match, covered every part of the court, racing to get to balls and send them back over the net with intent. On one terrific defensive sequence, she sprinted for a forehand that drew a forehand into the net from Sabalenka, capping a break for a 4-1 lead.

Never one to hide her emotions, Sabalenka kicked a ball after netting a volley and dropped her racket after missing an overhead.

She went to the locker room before the second set, and whether that helped clear her head or slowed Keys' momentum - or both - the final's complexion soon changed. Keys' first-serve percentage dipped from 86% in the first set to 59% in the second. Sabalenka raised her winner total to 13 in the second set and began accumulating, and converting, break points.

When she sent a backhand down the line to force an error by Keys for a break and a 2-1 lead in the second. Sabalenka shook her left fist and gritted her teeth. The action in the third set was tight and tense, without so much as a single break point until its final game, when Keys came through with one last forehand winner.

Here's how close this was: Keys won just one more point than Sabalenka, 92-91. Both fin-

Blue to two-wicket win over England



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Jan 25: Tilak Varma's fifty of rare brilliance helped India survive a top-order meltdown against England pacers and register a two-wicket win in the second T20I and take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series here Saturday.

Tilak (72 not out, 55b, 4x4. 5x6) cleverly used the extreme pace of English bowlers to amass runs, and singlehandedly took India past the target, as the hosts finished the night at 166 for eight.

It was a mini classic because the left-hander hardly had constant support from the other end and the England bowlers were cock-a-hoop lot after making serious inroads.

Pacer Jofra Archer was his pet hunt of the night, slamming the Sussex man for a total of four sixes, the fourth one taking him past his fifty, as he leaked 60 runs in four overs for the wicket of Sanju Samson.

The left-hander's inside the line six off pacer Brydon Carse over deep fine leg (3/29) too was highly impressive. But India had to walk through the panic room before Tilak's solidity carried them home.

The in-form Abhishek Shar-

ma got India off the block in a blistering fashion, carting Archer for three boundaries in the very first over.

But a 148 kmph nip-backer by pacer Mark Wood pinged him on the back foot and even the DRS, which was taken more in hope than in any real conviction, could not save him.

The dismissal had India at a slightly shaky 15 for one which soon turned into a more concerning 19 for two along with the wicket of Samson.

The nerves were eased when skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak added 39 quick runs for the third wicket to take their side to 58, but the former dragged Carse on to his stumps to give England an opening.

But Washington Sundar, who was dropped on 10 by Adil Rashid at mid-on off Wood, cashed in on that reprieve, hammering the Durham man for a six and two fours in succession to bring down the mounting asking rate.

**Brief Scores:** 

England: 165 for 9 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 45, Brydon Carse 31: Axar Patel 2/32, Washington Sundar 1/9, Varun Chakravarthy 2/38) lost to India: 166 for 8 in 19.2 overs (Tilak Varma 72 not out; Brydon Carse 3/29)

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Pakistan's Ali scripts** history with hat-trick

Multan: Pakistan's left-arm spinner

Noman Ali etched his name into cricketing history Saturday by becoming the first Pakistani spinner to achieve a hat-trick in Test cricket. The 38-year-old achieved this remarkable feat on the opening day of the second and final Test against the West Indies at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Noman's hat-trick was a pivotal moment in the match, as the visitors were left reeling at 44 for 7 by the end of the morning session. Noman's hat-trick placed him among an elite group of Pakistani bowlers, making him only the fifth in the nation's history to achieve  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1$ the milestone in Test cricket. He followed in the footsteps of legendary bowlers like Wasim Akram, who was the first Pakistani fast bowler to take a Test hat-trick in 1997, and Naseem Shah, the last Pakistani to achieve the feat in 2020 against Bangladesh.

#### **Arshdeep named ICC Men's T201 Cricketer of the Year**

Dubai: Indian left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh was Saturday crowned the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024 for his influential role in the team's World Cup title triumph, which cemented his reputation as one of the leading short format bowlers. The 25-yearold took 36 wickets in 18 matches last year. He was also named in the ICC T20I Team of the Year 2024 earlier in the day alongside Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandva. In the T20 World Cup in the Americas, Arshdeep showcased his mastery in both powerplay and death bowling and ended the tournament as the joint highest wicket-taker alongside Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi with 17 scalps at an average of 12.64 across eight matches.

#### AIFF President in soup

New Delhi: Trouble is brewing in Indian football administration as some state units are planning to express no confidence on All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey over the controversies plaguing the national body, though there's still lack of clarity over the legal basis of such a move. A top office bearer of a leading state unit claimed that more than 20 units (out of 36 the AIFF has) have agreed to write to the national body to call a Special General Body Meeting (SGM) to move a no confidence motion against Chaubey

#### **RANJI TROPHY**

### J&K shock star-studded Mumbai after a decade



Mumbai, Jan 25: Unfancied Jammu and Kashmir continued their glorious run in the ongoing Ranji Trophy, beating star-studded defending champions Mumbai by five wickets in a group A league match to almost confirm their knockout berth. It was after a decade that Jammu and Kashmir beat the 42-time champions, having last won in December 2014 at the Wankhede Stadium.

It wasn't a mean achievement with Mumbai squad comprising of India Test and ODI skipper Rohit Sharma, former captain and 80 plus Test match veteran Ajinkva Rahane, ODI regular and IPL winning skipper Shrevas Iver, star opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, seasoned all-rounder Shardul Thakur and off-spinner Tanush Kotian, who was a part of Border-Gavaskar squad.

Rohit's return to Ranji Tro-

What a brilliant achievement by the J&K Ranji Trophy team. To defeat the defending champions & that too in their own backyard is a memorable achievement. I send my congratulations to the players, the management & support staff. We are all

very proud of you, OMAR ABDULLAH | CHIEF MINISTER, J&K

phy after a decade yielded only 31 runs across two knocks and he looked very much out of form, shaky and not ready to

grind it out for long hours. J&K now have 29 points from six games and lead group A with a match left against Baroda where they need to get just one point.

Baroda (27 from 5 games) are currently playing Maharashtra. If Baroda get a first-innings lead against J&K in their last game, Mumbai (22 from 6 games) would be knocked out of the group league phase even if they win with bonus points versus Meghalaya.

On the day, needing 205 to win, opener Shubham Khajuria (45) and one down Vivrant Sharma (38) laid the foundation with a 75 runs stand for the second wicket.

### Odisha Warriors to tackle Soorma Club for HIL glory



Ranchi, Jan 25: After two weeks of gripping and thrilling hockey action, Odisha Warriors and Soorma Hockey Club are all set to lock horns in a historic clash in the first-ever final of the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) 2025 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium here Sunday.

Table-toppers Soorma flourished in the league stage with 13 points won in six games while Warriors finished just two points behind. With 15 goals scored, Soorma lead the scoring charts however, the Warriors' mighty defence will be tough to break since they have only conceded five times this season.

Soorma prevailed 2-1 courtesy of goals from Hina Bano and Sonam. The Warriors bounced back well in the second encounter salvaging a 2-0 Shootout win after a closely contested goalless draw. Odisha Warriors are on a four-game winning streak and will be confident heading into the game. Having won all three of their penalty shootouts this season, Australian goalkeeper Jocelyn Bartram is in top form and will act pivotal if the finale goes into a shootout. Soorma Hockey Club is

known for its relentless attacking prowess. With an astounding 12 field goals scored, their quick-paced attacks across both flanks have stirred ample trouble for their opponents. JSW Soorma Hockey head

coach Jude Menezes seemed confident with the team's preparation for heading into the final battle and believed his side was capable of prevailing victorious. We have had a good build-up to the finale, we have topped the table for most parts of the league and we are as prepared as we can be. We will continue to play our aggressive and free-flowing brand of hockey and get goals right from the first quarter.

While discussing the opposition, the coach stated, "Odisha is a strong team with good foreign players. One thing I can guarantee is that it is going to be an extremely close match and an entertaining final. We are expecting a strong fight."

Odisha Warriors captain Neha Goyal touched upon the team's strategy ahead of the big game. "We won't overdo anything and play to our strengths, the way we have done to reach the final. We will play our passing brand of hockey and try and win as many penalty corners as we can."

Both, JSW Soorma Hockey Club and Odisha Warriors are gearing up to go all out to lift the coveted Hero Women's Hockey India League trophy and etch their names in history forever by winning the inaugural season.

#### National Pickleball: Rahul, Priyanka emerge winners



Greater Noida: Top seed Rahul Belwal and Privanka Mehta emerged winners in men's and women's singles category at the fourth IPA Pickleball Nationals here Saturday. Men's singles top seed Rahul defeated Delhi's Santosh Bhagat 11-4 11-10 12-10 in the 35+ category, while Priyanka beat Monica Menon 11-2 5-11 11-9 in the 35+ women's singles final. The match between the top seed and the unseeded Santosh was expected to be a one-way traffic but the latter turned up brilliantly and fought till the last minute only for Rahul to trump him in the end. Rahul, with a DUPR rank of 4.924 who had come into the final with a 15-3 win over fourth seed Yuvra Singh, was brilliant in the opening game as he didn't give any space

#### **National Billiards:** Kothari beats Advani

to Santosh and bagged it 11-4.



Indore: Billiards stalwart Sourav

### UWW warns India against political interference

New Delhi, Jan 25: In a significant development that could have far-reaching implications for Indian wrestling, United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's global governing body, has issued a stern warning to India regarding political interference in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

UWW president Nenad Lalovic in his letter to WFI president, Sanjay Singh underscored the importance of the federation's autonomy, highlighting that any political or public intrusion into its internal affairs is in violation of the UWW Constitution and the Olympic Charter.

erations is critical for their smooth functioning and representation in international wrestling events. While oversight of public grants is acceptable, any interference beyond Lalovic emphasised that the this scope could jeopardise the independence of national fedfederation's status.

communication warned of potential suspension of the WFI if external interference continued. WFI president Singh confirmed this development to IANS, stating, "Yes, the world wrestling body (UWW) has threatened to suspend the

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) if there is any interference by public and political authorities in the internal affairs of the WFI. The letter is attached to IOA, they will present it in the court," Sanjay Singh told IANS.

The warning comes in the wake of significant turbulence within the WFI. The federation was suspended by India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports shortly after its elections in December 2023, triggering a series of legal and administrative complications.

The suspension and subsequent legal battle nearly cost Indian wrestlers their participation in the World Championship, with uncertainty persisting until the Sports Ministry decided to review the suspension.

This decision followed a court directive to clarify its position and reinstate an ad-hoc panel - a move the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) initially resisted.

Amid the controversy, the government brought in WFI president Sanjay Singh as the federation's authorized representative for discussions. The government's involvement aimed to address concerns raised by UWW and facilitate compliance with international standards while balancing domestic challenges.

The UWW's warning has significant implications for Indian wrestling. A suspension of the WFI could lead to severe repercussions, including barring Indian wrestlers from participating in international events under the national flag.

Kothari came up with two superb century breaks during the contest as he defeated multiple world champion Pankaj Advani 4-2 in the final of the National Billiards & Snooker Championship here Saturday. Kothari, a former world billiards champion who is currently No.2 in the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) ranking, won 150-31, 30-154, 9-151 150-25, 150-90 and 152-147 in a contest where Advani fought till the very end. The two Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) cueists were unwilling to give an inch, with Sourav coming up with a 106-point break to take the first set. However, Sourav the World Billiards champion in 2018 and Arjuna Awardee in 2016, took the next three frames to take the title although Advani fought tooth and nail in the sixth and last frame by coming up with a break of 99 before losing by just five points.

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