

HOLIDAY NOTICE
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).
- EDITOR

Apex court diktat for industrial allottees

There is no dearth of instances where land, both government 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 To curb such practices, the Supreme Court, in a recent verdict, said the land allotment to industries can be withdrawn if the lessee fails to contribute to economic development of the region and generate employment.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 employment.

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 development and industrial growth and must, therefore, be utilised by the allottee for such purpose. The Supreme Court Friday opined that there was no reason to interfere with 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 said.

The Court was dealing with a plea challenging a December 2024 Division Bench order of the Kerala HC, which upheld the cancellation 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, 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-allotted the land to four others as PFPL hadn't been using it for the intended purpose. The latter moved Kerala HC against DIC decision.

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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

Padma Shri for 4 from Odisha

AGENCIES

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 Gadnayak, Durga Charan

Ranbir, and Pratibha Satpathy, are set to receive the prestigious award for their remarkable contributions in healthcare, art, and literature.

Renowned physician Dr Mohapatra, the former director of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, will be conferred with the honour for his contributions to healthcare and medical

research. Similarly, Gadanayak and Ranbir will be honoured for their excellence in the field of art.

Gadanayak is an eminent sculptor while the latter is a prominent guru of contemporary Odissi. Satpathy will receive the award for her contributions to literature and education. P 3&9

76th Republic Day

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

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

Patanjali's Services to Mother India and the Sanatan

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.

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 charity.

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 (Swadharm), 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.

सत्यमेव जयते

ପବିତ୍ର ସାଧାରଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ଦିବସ ୨୦୨୫

ଅବସରରେ

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

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

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

(ଡ. ହରି ବାବୁ କମ୍ବଲ୍‌ପାଟି)

सत्यमेव जयते

ସାଧାରଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ଦିବସ

ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

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

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

leisure



JAMIE FOX, ALYCE HUCKSTEEP 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.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
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 punching your boss, Ganesh suggests you burn that energy clocking a hundred laps at a pool side or simply run back home. Yes, all the 22 miles!

TAURUS
There is an unexpected occurrence 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 solved by today evening, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
There are indications that you will pay special attention to your food habits today, predicts Ganesh. 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.

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

LEO
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 yourself the displeasure of your bosses, and a lackadaisical support from your colleagues.

VIRGO
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 an inspiringly assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through today.

LIBRA
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 and be prepared for a lot of different turns of events in the afternoon. Ganesh 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 Ganesh. With your seniors, you should be careful about how you express your perspective to avoid being misunderstood. In relationship matters, Ganesh advises you not to repress your feelings or avoid feeling them as they may bottle up and lead to complications in the future.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh 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 of your day.

CAPRICORN
Get ready for a thrilling day ahead, says Ganesh. A lot of unexpected events may bring in happiness, and you may suddenly find yourself delightfully 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 indulging in tempestuous secretive affairs. Either way, the expenses incurred on the same will return to haunt you at the end of the day, says Ganesh.

INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF BHUBANESWAR : DAY IV

Dibakar Banerjee's *Tees* steals spotlight



Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy felicitates filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee

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 version 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 Naseer-uddin Shah, the film stood out with its darkly comic and dystopian take on an average Indian middle-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. PNN



URVASHI'S DESIRE

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela recently shared her aspirations to collaborate with Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan. In a recent interview with this news agency, the actress also mentioned her eagerness to collaborate with South Indian stars, including Prabhas, Allu Arjun, and

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 Vijay."

Speaking about the positive response for her recent release, *Daaku Maharaja*, 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 Nagavamsi 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

Mumbai: National Award-winning filmmaker Lipika Singh Darai's short documentary *B and S*, which explores the bond between two trans women, is set to have its world premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2025. The film has been selected for the prestigious 'Shorts and Mid-Length' section of the festival, which 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 of *B and S* at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2025, Lipika shared, "This film was born from a need to explore the tenderness of love, friendship, and cherished connections in times of loss and grief - especially in an increasingly bleak world."



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.

"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

chat with me and my stylist. We send her pictures, and she helps me choose outfits," Khushi revealed, highlighting their collaborative spirit. Khushi admires Janhvi's experience and values her guidance. "She wants me to learn from her success and mistakes to move forward," she said. With *Loveyapa* set to release February 7, Khushi Kapoor is embracing her new journey, supported by family and love. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



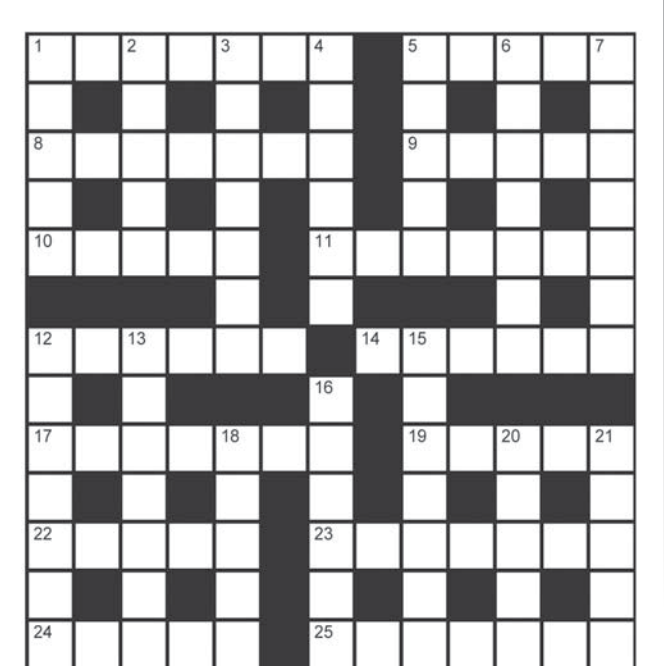
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- 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?
 - 17 Amber dessert wine
 - 19 Goddess of love
 - 22 Alpha's opposite
 - 23 Protective wall
 - 24 Out of practice
 - 25 Ribbed
 - 4 Prepares to play golf (4,2)
 - 5 Game for two
 - 6 Gullibility
 - 7 Secretive affair
 - 12 Percussion instrument
 - 13 Eternal
 - 15 Hostile
 - 16 Asian skiff
 - 18 Anzio locale
 - 20 Sherpa's home
 - 21 Stuffed
- Down**
- 1 Brooklet
 - 2 Litter member
 - 3 Dishonest

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.

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

SOLUTIONS



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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

UTKARSH ODISHA: MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE 2025

LN Mittal, KM Birla among top attendees: Min

AGENCIES

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, Saturday.

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.

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

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 Minister said.

Apart from big names in the industries, Swain said more than 100 international dele-

gates and diplomats from 20 countries, including Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, the UK, the US, and Nepal, will attend the event.

"Captains of industries, including LN Mittal, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Anil Agarwal, Sajjan Jindal, Naveen Jindal, Karan Adani and many others will grace the occasion," he said.

Singapore, Australia and Malaysia will participate in the conclave as partner countries,

the 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 shows.

Dr Ashok Mahapatra among 4 from state to get Padma Shri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Mahapatra 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, saying 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 household 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 Mahapatra, Adwaita Charan Gadanayak, Pratibha Satpathy, Durga Charan Ranbir

Gadanayak, from Dhenkanal district, is a famous sculptor 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 proficiency in playing the 'Pakhawaj'. 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 Akademi Award.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, in a post on X, congratulated the four Odia personalities for their achievement. "My heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all 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 Gadanayak and Shri Durga Charan Ranbir 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. #PadmaAwardees."

Govt aims at ensuring quality education: Suryabanshi

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-USA scheme at Khariar Autonomous College, Saturday.

On his two-day visit to Nuapada, 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 minister 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), Sankha Sekhar Sethi (Kendrapa-

ra), Ishwar Chandra Behera (Balasore), Sukanta Biswal (Cuttack City), Jugal Podha (Kalahandi), Jurilal Mahant (Mayurbhanj-Rairangpur), Arun Kumar Sahu (Deogarh), Aroopanand Sahu (Bargarh) and Nilamadhab Patra (Ghumsar-Bhanjanagar).

According to reports, as the ruling saffron dispensation has expedited 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.

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Mining hub Joda lacks industrial development

POST 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-



tract'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 Guahi 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

PNN & 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 Ajabbar 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, Mahakalapa, 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.



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 human-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 'Sikshothan', 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.

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FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

DECOMMODIFY ELECTRICITY



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

It should be no surprise, then, 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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The 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.

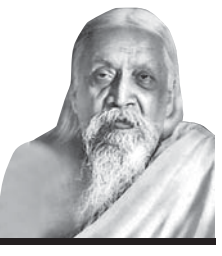
In theory, these developments should have expedited the global transition away from fossil fuels. In practice, however, renewable-energy sources merely supplement the total power supply. Meanwhile, both developed and developing countries continue to increase fossil-fuel production and invest heavily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



Jayati Ghosh

ECONOMISTS AND POLICYMAKERS HAVE LONG FRAMED THE ENERGY TRANSITION AS A QUESTION OF RELATIVE PRICES



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

SRI AUROBINDO

Undivided India

A 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 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 to the Centre.

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.



Aakar Patel

AS WE CELEBRATE YET ANOTHER REPUBLIC DAY, THERE IS OCCASION TO THINK OF A DIFFERENT KIND OF CONSTITUTION, ONE THAT INDIA CHOSE AGAINST

SPECTRUM NATION

Redefine the economic vision

The 2025-26 Budget presents a formidable challenge for 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 balancing 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

are constricted by low purchasing capacity of individuals. The 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 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.

INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

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

WISDOM CORNER

The man who promises everything is sure to fulfil nothing, and everyone who promises too much is in danger of using evil means in order to carry out his promises, and is already on the road to perdition.

CARL JUNG

The chances of each of us coming into existence are infinitesimally small, and even though we shall all die some day, we should count ourselves fantastically lucky to get our decades in the sun.

RICHARD DAWKINS

Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness, not pain or mindless self-indulgence, is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values.

AYN RAND

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

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com





“It cannot be manufacturing or services; it has to be manufacturing and services as both these sectors are integral to India’s economic trajectory”
ASHWINI VAISHNAW |
 ELECTRONICS AND IT MINISTER

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 year ago. Total tax expenses in the quarter increased to ₹2,075.12 crore from ₹1,361.75 crore a year 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 second-largest 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

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 year, 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 2023.

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

perpetual preference for global brands.

“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 in 2024.

“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 decline.

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

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 25: Religare Enterprises said a US businessman has made a proposal to acquire a 26% stake in it, the latest twist in the battle for control of the financial services company which has rejected another bid as being priced too low.

The Indian billionaire Burman family, which has founded 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 disclosure late Friday, Religare shared a letter from U.S. entrepreneur 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% premium to the current offer.

A representative of the Burman family, Mohit Burman, and the market regulator SEBI did not immediately respond to requests for comment Saturday. 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

&

76th REPUBLIC DAY



“ 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. ”

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
YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

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



of the day uote

After taking their view, we told them that we won't say not to give loans or do not recover money from borrowers, but while recovering money you should not torture and harass people
SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

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 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.

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.

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.

"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."

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.

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 recognition.

She mentioned the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagar-

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

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.

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 Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan.

The President's address underscored the government's

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.

Avoid fake narratives, disruptive campaign: CEC to political parties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 25: CEC Rajiv Kumar Saturday requested political parties to avoid "disruptive campaigning" and "fake narratives", saying it might cause disillusionment among youngsters regarding the electoral process.

marks came on a day the Opposition Congress hit out at the EC, saying its "self-congratulation" on the occasion would not obscure the fact that the poll panel's functioning had made a "mockery" of the Constitution and insulted the voters.



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

He was addressing the 15th National Voters' Day event here in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and representatives of political parties.

Kumar also flagged the "dangerous trend" all over the world of misinformation and fake narratives, calling them the single-biggest threat to democratic processes worldwide. "I would also urge them to avoid disruptive campaigning so that our youth do not get disillusioned and move away from the electoral process," Kumar said.

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

of mouth. 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

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 (per-

son 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.

animal bite. 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.



"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 researchers said. They added that while cases of rabies deaths have declined over the past two decades, "India needs to fast-track 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.

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



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



of the day note

He (Trump) can only do this with Ukraine, otherwise it will not work. Because Russia does not want to end the war, while Ukraine wants to end it
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

What could appear to be confusing is thus an intended effect originating from Chinese traditional wisdom and classic practice of speech
WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER, CHINA

We believe the relationship between the two countries (India and US) will keep moving forward in the right direction
MUKESH AGHI | PRESIDENT AND CEO, USISFP

Hamas frees four Israeli hostages in swap for 200 Palestinian prisoners

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 Arie, 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-



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

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.

The State Department cable 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.

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 with discussions in Congress on the move.

"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 internationally 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 longer this unlawful impoundment continues," the source said.

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 denied.

Pak awards death sentence to four

Lahore: A Pakistani court has awarded a death sentence 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 million.

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.

Fighting sets ablaze Sudan's largest oil refinery

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 refinery, 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-



port Force and Sudan's military, who blamed each other for the blaze.

International mediation attempts and pressure tactics,

including a US assessment that the RSF and its proxies are committing genocide, have not halted the fighting.

The al-Jaili refinery sits some 60 kilometers north of Khartoum, the capital. The refinery has been subject to previous attacks as the RSF has claimed control of the facility since April 2023, as their forces had been guarding it. Local Sudanese media report the RSF also surrounded the refinery with fields of landmines to slow any advance.

WEEK'S BEST PHOTOS



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



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



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 (AFP)



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Indonesia will be participating in the parade. 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 cele-

brations 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 DRDO'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

CELEBRATING 75 YRS OF CONSTITUTION



parade, officials said Thursday.

Besides, the DRDO will present a tableau with the theme 'Raksha Kavach -- multi-layer protection against multi-domain 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.

minutes, reflecting the journey 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 celebrations.

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

the rest are men.

There will also be a motorcyle 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 Bhat 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 Delhi and Chandigarh will showcase them among the Union Territories.

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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 January 26.

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 Friday held a threadbare discussion 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 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,"

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Tri-services tableau to display jointness

New Delhi, Jan 25: In a first, a tri-services tableau depicting the broader spirit of jointness among the armed forces will roll down the majestic Kartavya Path as part of the Republic Day parade January 26.

The tableau would display a battlefield scenario demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and air with indigenous Arjun 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-

Best Wishes to All Indians for Republic Day

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