



Processing characters

Actor Rashmika Mandanna, opening up about adapting a character, says switching personas is always tricky

LEISURE | P2



Rebels take Goma

Rwandan-backed rebels march into east Congo's city Goma Monday, in the worst escalation of the long-running conflict

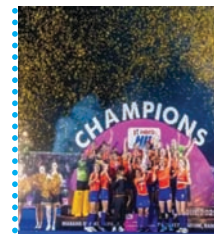
INTERNATIONAL | P10



Liquidity bazooka

RBI announces a host of measures to inject liquidity into the banking system, including bond purchases

BUSINESS | P11



Historic triumph

Odisha Warriors emerge champions at the inaugural women's Hockey India League after eking out a 2-1 win over JSW Soorma Hockey Club

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

Lioness Rewa dies at Nandankanan

Barang: Two days after giving birth to three cubs, lioness Rewa, one of the major attractions at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here, died Monday. According to zoo sources, the 12-year-old lioness gave birth to three cubs in her third litter at Nandankanan Saturday. While one cub was stillborn, Rewa rejected the two remaining cubs. The surviving cubs were shifted to the neonatal ICU for hand-rearing, they said. "She was apparently normal Sunday night. However, Rewa breathed her last Monday morning," they said. With this, Nandankanan is left with 23 lions — 14 males and nine females. Rewa was brought to Nandankanan from Kamala Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya in Indore when she was seven years old in 2020.

Jasprit Bumrah ICC Test Cricketer of the Year

Dubai: Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was Monday named ICC men's Test Cricketer of the Year for excelling in both home and away conditions and amassing an astonishing 71 wickets in 13 matches. Returning to the longest format in late 2023 after recovering from a back injury, the 31-year-old averaged a "ridiculous" 14.92 through the year while also setting multiple records.

P12

Waqf panel accepts BJP's proposals

New Delhi: The parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf Bill is set to propose that the existing "Waqf by user" properties will remain so if not in dispute or is a government facility, as the panel Monday adopted all amendments proposed by BJP members and negated those by Opposition MPs. Opposition MPs proposed amendments in all 44 clauses of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, seeking to restore the provisions of the existing law, and claimed that the law proposed by the committee in its report would maintain the Bill's "draconian" character and the bid to interfere in religious affairs of Muslims, sources said.

P8

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



'True freedom' in 2024 and the 'real constitution' within a year —marvellous, isn't it?



HOME COMING: Palestinians, who were displaced to the south at Israel's order during the war, make their way back to their homes in northern Gaza, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in the central Gaza Strip, Monday (REPORT P10)

PHOTO: REUTERS

PM TO KICK OFF UTKARSH ODISHA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 'Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar Tuesday. The two-day mega business conclave which will focus on three themes — Start-Up Odisha, Skilled in Odisha and Women Entrepreneurship — is poised to witness nearly 7,500 delegates, including representatives from about 17 countries. The state is targeting investments worth ₹5 lakh crore through the gala event that will be graced by distinguished industry captains like LN Mittal, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Anil Agarwal, Karan Adani, Sajjan Jindal and Naveen Jindal, to name a few

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Capital city for the two-day 'Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' starting January 28, police have declared a 'no flying zone' over the entire stretch from Biju Patnaik International Airport to Janata Maidan.

Bhubaneswar DCP Pinak



Mishra Monday said the PM will arrive at the airport around 10:35am and proceed to the venue. This will be Modi's second visit to the state this month, following his presence at Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas January 9 at the same venue, he added.

Sources in the police department said Modi is expected to spend about 90 minutes at the event, where he will address a distinguished gathering of industrialists and investors, including LN Mittal, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Anil Agarwal, Karan Adani, Sajjan Jindal, Naveen Jindal, and others, before departing for Dehradun. Modi will also inaugurate Make in Odisha exhibition that highlights achievements of the

state in developing a vibrant industrial ecosystem.

The two-day conclave will serve as a platform for industry leaders, investors, and policymakers to converge and discuss the opportunities Odisha offers as a preferred investment destination, an official release said. Police will deploy 60 platoons (one platoon comprises 30 personnel) along with over 400 officers throughout Bhubaneswar. Additionally, media outlets have been prohibited from using drones to cover the PM's visit.

"Media personnel have been advised not to fly drones in and around Janata Maidan due to security concerns," the police said. Nearly 7,500 delegates, including representatives from about 17 countries, will participate in the conclave.

While Singapore, Australia and Malaysia will lead discussions and collaborations, delegations from countries such as Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, UK, the US and Nepal will also participate in the event, said state industries minister Sampad Chandra Swain.

Former DGP Mishra posted advisor to CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Retired IPS officer Prakash Mishra was Monday appointed as advisor to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and accorded the status of a cabinet minister, a notification by the General Administration & Public Grievances department said.

Mishra, a 1977-batch IPS officer who retired in 2016, recently made headlines with his book, 'Comedy in Khakee: The Humorous Memoirs of a Policeman'. In the book, he hints at a senior politician from the opposition party, a remark that has stirred controversy in Odisha.

While serving as Odisha DGP between 2012 and 2014, Mishra had developed some acrimony with the then BJD government headed by Naveen Patnaik.

He was removed as the police chief in July 2014 and a Vigilance case was slapped against him in September that year. However, the Orissa High Court quashed the charges against Mishra in June 2015.

UCC in Uttarakhand

The announcement by the BJP government in Uttarakhand to implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has raised several questions about the consistency and fairness of the proposed regulations. Muslim leaders view the UCC as a threat to Islamic laws and practices, including polygamy, particularly given that Muslims make up over 14% of India's population. Critics argue that the move undermines India's diversity by eroding the religious freedoms and practices of specific communities. Some also suggest that the UCC in Uttarakhand may be a 'pilot project,' with the BJP using the state—where Muslims are not the majority—as a testing ground to keep the issue in public spotlight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Jan 27: BJP-ruled Uttarakhand Monday became the first state in independent India to implement UCC, which promotes equal laws for every citizen across all religions and standardises personal laws on marriage, divorce and property.

With the implementation of UCC which applies to all people of Uttarakhand except those belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community, the BJP has fulfilled a major commitment made to people of the state ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls which saw the party

storming to power for a second consecutive term.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced UCC's implementation at a programme at his official residence here, saying with this the constitutional and civil rights of people across all religions have become uniform.

"With the implementation of UCC, the BJP has fulfilled all its major ideological commitments including abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, illegalisation of triple talaq, the CAA and building of a Ram temple in Ayodhya," the chief minister said.

He unveiled the notification on UCC, released its rules and regulations and launched a portal designed for the mandatory online registration of marriages, divorce and live-in relationships in the presence of his ministerial colleagues and members of the UCC drafting committee. The CM was the first to register his marriage on the UCC portal. Trying to bust the myths surrounding it, Dhami said the UCC is not meant to target any religion or community as often thought.

"It is a constitutional tool to end all legal discriminations in the name of caste, religion or community. It will put an end to all evil social practices like 'Halala' and 'Iddat,'" Dhami said.

Centre notifies draft rules for 'One Nation, One Time'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 27: The Centre's Department of Consumer Affairs Monday said it has notified Draft Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025 to synchronise time across the country with an aim of "One Nation, One Time."

The landmark rules aim to standardise and mandate the use of Indian Standard Time (IST) across all sectors in the country, providing a unified and precise timekeeping framework for strategic, non-strategic, industrial and societal applications, according to an official statement.

This precision is vital for sectors such as navigation, tele-

communications, power grid synchronisation, banking, digital governance, and cutting-edge scientific research, including deep space navigation and gravitational wave detection.

Despite its importance, IST is not mandatorily adopted by all telecom service providers and internet service providers, many of whom rely on foreign time sources like GPS. Synchronising all networks and systems to IST is essential for national security, real-time applications and the smooth operation of critical infrastructure, the statement said.

The rules have been published on the department's website for public consultation and the comments on the rules may be submitted by February 14.

HK's snake soup simmers in decades-old kitchen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hong Kong, Jan 27: As Hong Kong prepares to welcome the 'Year of the Snake' Wednesday, Chau Ka-ling displays a moving serpent with practised ease, holding it like a pet in her decades-old restaurant in the city. As one of the last keepers of the city's traditional snake soup industry, Chau saves three live snakes for occasional display in wooden drawers that once housed more serpents for cooking. During winter, Chau can sell up to 800 bowls a day ranging in price from \$7 to \$11.

The cuisine she makes, long cherished in southern Chinese culture for keeping people warm in the winter, is slithering away. Founded by Chau's late father in the 1960s, Shia

Wong Hip once slaughtered live snakes for its dishes. "Shia Wong" means "Snake King" in Cantonese.

Under her father's guidance, Chau learned to catch and kill serpents and make soup, eventually becoming known as the city's "Snake Queen". A newspaper photo displayed on the wall captured her success in catching an over 2-metre-long venomous king cobra in 1997 at a marine police office in rural Hong Kong at the authorities' request.

But the restaurant, alongside most of the city's other remaining snake soup shops, switched to using frozen snake meat from Southeast Asia after a 2003 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, killed 299 people in Hong Kong. Scientists have linked the virus's



origin to wild animals.

Despite the change, preparing snake soup still takes a long time. The defrosted snake meat must be boiled for at least two hours to achieve the desired tenderness. After it cools, Chau debones it with a sharpened chopstick and tears it into thin

pieces by hand.

The snake bones then are simmered with chicken and pork bones for at least six hours to make the soup base. Next, the broth is stewed with snake meat, shredded chicken, ham, fungus and mandarin orange peel before finally being

thickened with starch. When a bowl of soup is served, diners usually garnish it with lemon leaves and crispy chips.

Snake meat, which has a texture similar to chicken after cooking, is rich in protein and low in fat. Snake soup shops have closed after the Covid-19 pandemic and as older chefs retire, leaving only about 20 still in operation.

But Chau is determined to keep her business going as long as possible, though she is pessimistic about the industry's future. She said even if her nephews wanted to join her, she would suggest they learn to make desserts instead.

"This is not a money-making industry and so I don't see that any young people would like to get into it," she said.

leisure



LOPEZ TEARS UP AT SUNDANCE FILM FEST

Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez struggles to fight back tears as her film *Kiss of the Spider Woman* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival with a standing ovation. JLo told the audience at Park City's Eccles Theatre that starring in the musical adaptation fulfilled a lifelong dream, reports *Variety*.

DESIGNER TAN FRANCE TO MAKE ACTING DEBUT

British-American fashion designer, entrepreneur, and television personality Tan France will make his acting debut in Hulu's upcoming comedy series *Deli Boys*. He will have a guest role in the project and the 41-year-old can't wait for people to see him in action.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Believe it, life is good sometimes; today is one such day. Things will not be hectic, even though you remain occupied, both at work and in your personal life. With no troubles brewing, what more can you ask for? Perhaps, Ganesha is trying to impart the crucial lesson of contentment.

TAURUS
The three Es will rule your mood throughout the day: energy, exuberance and excitement. Such enthusiasm is always contagious and near and dear ones will be charmed by it. Things will get better as the day progresses. Take a break from work to relax and recharge if you feel weary, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
You will realise today that your personal life is as important as your professional life. Therefore you will give more importance to your family and will try and spend maximum time with your spouse and children. A day filled with fun and frolic and enjoyment awaits, make the most of it, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will be in high spirits and shall be feeling energetic today. Common sense will prevail at work, and as you get on with the day, better things will follow. Ganesha predicts that you will be showered with love and affection by your lover. Now, what can be better than this! Have fun.

LEO
At home or in the office, some important events will occur which will bring about a change in your daily routine and make this a special day for you. It is a good day to change your residence or office. You will work with dedication to finish your tasks, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You will enjoy the freedom of a bird today. There will be no conditions, neither in your domestic life nor in your professional life. Ganesha says this will give a much-needed boost to your levels of confidence. However, the high expectations could bog you down, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you will be full of joy and enthusiasm today to fulfill all your ambitions. You will be able to plan trips and excursions with friends or family members. Ganesha says that it is a good idea to plan the trip and go forth with it as soon as possible.

SCORPIO
A no-profit no-loss day in store for you, foresees Ganesha. There are chances that family may suffer from basic requirements at home front. Keep your dinner jacket or evening gown ready as your beloved is all set to invite you for a romantic, candle lit dinner.

SAGITTARIUS
A good Samaritan, today you think good not only for yourself, but also for people around you. You are heading towards a bright future and this will boost your confidence, says Ganesha. Household affairs will remain calm and quiet. An easy-going day for you at work.

CAPRICORN
Generally, you are not conscious about your outer appearance. But, today is an exceptional day as you pay attention to your clothes, hair, shoes, and overall presentation of yourself. You are not making all the efforts just for the sake of it.

AQUARIUS
The first half of the day will be somewhat unfavourable. At work, the bosses may shout at you and colleagues may not support you enough, feels Ganesha. In the evening, spend some time with your friends and family to unwind from a taxing day at work.

PISCES
You might experience emotional stress this morning and so you will feel low today. But in the afternoon you will feel strong and invigorated. Prevent your emotions from going in the wrong direction. Ganesha says your day will pick up after noon.

INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL BHUBANESWAR-2025

Day 6 dedicated to Kasaravalli's cinematic classic *Gulabi Talkies*

Bhubaneswar: The sixth day of the Indian Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IFFB), organised by the Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB), attracted film enthusiasts from across the city, offering diverse range of award winning films from all over India. The day's screenings began here at the Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra (GKCM) Odissi Research Centre, with a special retrospective segment dedicated to Girish Kasaravalli's cinematic classic, *Gulabi Talkies*. The day began with an interactive session with FSB members, followed by the screening of *Body*, a gripping psychological drama directed by Abhijit Mazumdar. The film explores themes of guilt, identity, and the complexities of human nature. Nominated for the Best Film prize at the 2024 International Film Festival of Kerala, *Body* tells the story of Manoj, a man who regularly sheds his clothes in public while grappling with profound questions about human existence and relationships, much to the scandal of his theatre troupe. Director



Film critic Aditya Srikrishna(L) in conversation with *Body* director Abhijit Mazumdar and producer Amala Popuri PIC:FSB
Mazumdar and producer Amala Popuri also joined the post-screening interaction, engaging with the audience. The next was the world premiere of *Monsoon Breeze*, a visually stunning Telugu-language film by Abdul Aziz. The lyrical film explores themes of love, longing, and the emotional forces shaped by nature. It followed *Deepu*, a 23 year old woman who has recently moved to Mumbai with her mother for her Master's studies. The film takes a turn when her estranged father arrives unexpectedly on their wedding anniversary, attempting to mend his relationship with his wife. The event is supported by print media partners **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri**.

Switching personas is tricky: Rashmika

Mumbai: Basking in the success of *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, Rashmika Mandanna will next be seen as Maharani Yesubai in the highly-awaited Chhaava opposite Vicky Kaushal. As the actress is receiving a lot of appreciation for her portrayal in the historical movie, Rashmika Mandanna opened up about her process of characterization. Speaking about adapting a certain character, Rashmika said, "Switching personas is tricky, especially when I'm doing three to four films at the same time. I've realised that surrendering myself to my directors and co-actors really helps. When you try to do everything yourself, there is always going to be a bit of 'you' in the character. But, when you fully trust your director and co-actors, their knowledge and confidence filter through in your

performance." The *Animal* actress further added, "Of course, there's always a part of you in the character because it's your emotions and mind processing everything. But you mask all that with what the director has written and the energy your co-actors bring, and that's what shapes the character." IANS



Coldplay concludes India tour, expresses gratitude

New Delhi: British band Coldplay, which concluded its last concert in India as part of the ongoing *Music of the Spheres World Tour* in Ahmedabad, Monday thanked fans for their love and kindness in the last two weeks. Comprising Chris Martin, Guy Berryman, Jonny Buckland and Will Champion, the band commenced their India tour in Mumbai on January 18 and performed three shows there before heading to Ahmedabad for two more concerts January 25 and January 26. "Thank you Ahmedabad, thank you India. We'll never forget these two weeks. Your love and kindness will stay with us forever (sic)," Coldplay said on X, hours after regaling the crowd at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday. Throughout these

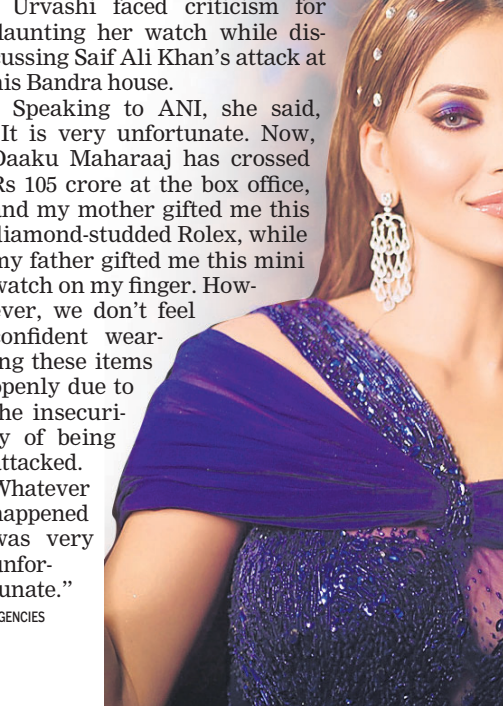
shows, frontman Martin caught the attention of the audience for interacting with the audience in Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati, as well as for giving shout-outs to Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and cricketer Jasprit Bumrah, who even attended the Ahmedabad concert Sunday. Martin also wished Indian citizens as the country celebrated its

76th Republic Day Sunday, singing AR Rahman's popular patriotic anthem *Maa Tujhe Salaam*. Several personalities, including film celebrities Kartik Aaryan, Suhana Khan, Shreya Ghoshal, Kajal Aggarwal, Vijay Varma and former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, also flocked to *Coldplay's* concerts in the last two weeks. PTI

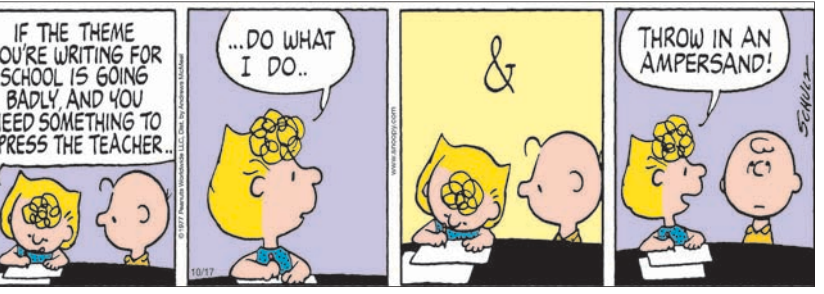


Urvashi reacts to being trolled

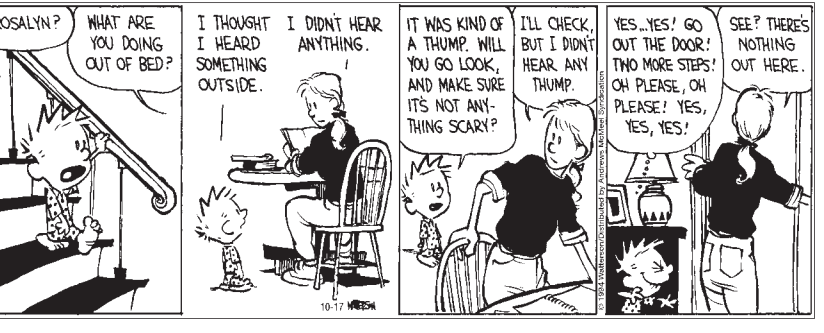
Mumbai: Urvashi Rautela recently faced backlash for flaunting her expensive watch while expressing concern over Saif Ali Khan's health after he was reportedly stabbed. The actor was criticised for her comments, with some even labelling her 'beauty without brains.' Now, in an interview with *Instant Bollywood*, she has addressed the criticism. When asked about being called "beauty without brains," Urvashi responded, "The thing is... even the Prime Minister of our country, Shri Narendra Modi ji, and my most favourite superstars, Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan, are not spared by people. So, you tell me, what can be done about this?" Her comment did not sit well with Reddit users either. One user remarked, "No way she compared herself to greats like Modi ji, SRK, and Salman." Another wrote, "She is delusional but iconic at the same time." A third added, "How delusional can someone be?" AGENCIES



PEANUTS



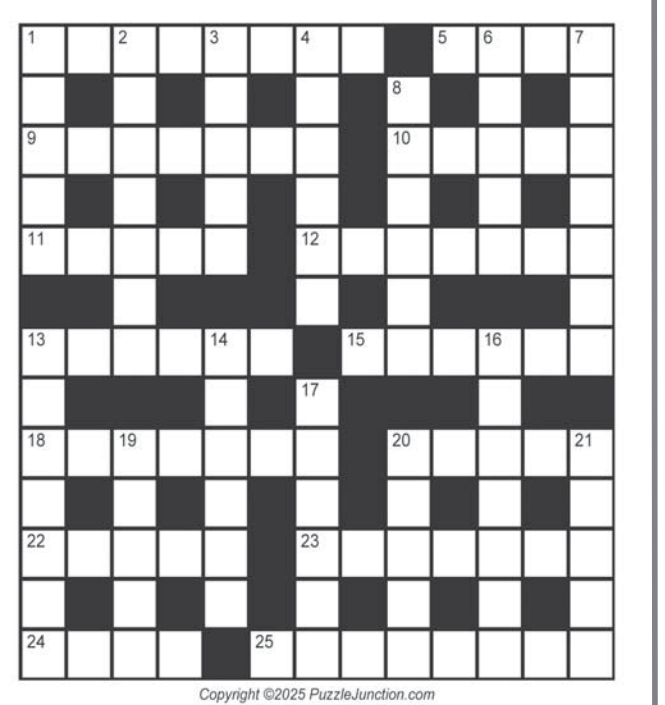
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
1 Pegging card game
5 Mountain feature
9 National church of England
10 Humpback, e.g.
11 Ensnares
12 Heyerdahl's transport (3,4)
13 Furrow
15 Threaten
18 Paving material
20 Caravan beast
22 Declare invalid
23 Employ
24 Murder
25 Blatant lies
4 Chinese tree
6 Valuable violin
7 Aseptic
8 Pang
13 Navigational instrument
14 Burden
16 Large wardrobe
17 Waylay
19 Line dance
20 Great ape
21 Lecherous looks
- Down**
1 Basketry, e.g.
2 Wreckless
3 Cloud nine

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

C	O	P	Y	C	A	T	C	A	N	A	L
R	U	R	E	H	A	I					
E	X	P	L	O	R	E	E	V	I	T	A
E	P	L	O	S	S	V	I				
K	A	Y	A	K		U	L	S	T	E	R
				E	P						
T	W	E	E	D	S		C	A	N	Y	O
A	N			S	D						
M	A	D	E	I	R	A		V	E	N	U
B	L	T	M	E	R	E	E	A			
O	M	E	G	A		P	A	R	A	P	E
U	S	L	A	S	A	E					
R	U	S	T				N	E	E	D	L

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Not a Dream, but the Dawn of Reality: Utkarsh Odisha Conclave 2025

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI

The moment we have all been eagerly awaiting has arrived. Today, the illustrious Prime Minister of India and a global visionary Shri Narendra Modi Ji will inaugurate the grand Utkarsh Odisha Conclave-2025 at Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar. This landmark event will set a new benchmark for Odisha's industrial and economic growth.

Final preparations are complete as we welcome investors from 12 countries and delegates from 20 nations to this prestigious summit. The Conclave aims to showcase Odisha's immense potential as a hub for industrialization and development.

Prelude to Transformation

On the eve of this historic event, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has held its National Executive Body Council Meeting with the participation of over 200 council members. Simultaneously, the State Government will conduct five specialized sectoral sessions with ministers and secretaries across diverse domains, paving the way for focused discussions and innovative collaborations.

Inauguration by a Visionary Leader

At 11 AM today, the Hon'ble Prime Minister will formally inaugurate the conclave, addressing a distinguished audience of industrialists, entrepreneurs, and global investors. His address will emphasize how both the Central and State Governments are working collaboratively to turn Odisha into a beacon of industrial excellence, building on his vision for Purvodaya—the rise of Eastern India.

The Prime Minister's unparalleled administrative expertise, honed during his groundbreaking initiative Vibrant Gujarat, will undoubtedly inspire confidence among investors. His guidance will reinforce our collective ambition to position Odisha as a top destination for investment and development.

A Conclave for the Future

Over the course of two days, the Conclave will host 10 sessions focused on five



promote self-reliance and dignity among aspiring entrepreneurs.

Investment-Driven Growth

With over 100 investors signing Memoranda of Understanding and a projected investment of Rs 5 lakh crore, the Conclave is set to usher in a new era of industrialization in Odisha. The creation of thousands of jobs and opportunities will propel our state toward its vision of becoming a developed Odisha by 2036.

A key highlight is the signing of eight MoUs with Singapore, focusing on skill development, petrochemicals, semiconductors, green hydrogen, and industrial park development. Additionally, a joint venture between JSW Group and POSCO will establish a world-class steel plant in Keonjhar, furthering Odisha's industrial excellence.

Odisha: A Land of Infinite Potential

Odisha's 480 km coastline, coupled with its rich natural resources, cultural heritage, and serene beauty, makes it an unmatched gateway for trade, commerce, and tourism. We are committed to revitalizing agriculture and small-scale industries, leveraging Odisha's unique strengths in handlooms, handicrafts, and biodiversity.

By embracing collective efforts, including women's active participation, Odisha is poised to become one of the top five state economies in India. Our mission is clear: to transform Odisha into a global industrial and cultural powerhouse.

A Warm Welcome

As we embark on this transformative journey, I extend a hearty welcome to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Union Ministers, Fortune 500 companies, international delegates, and all distinguished guests. Your presence signifies a shared commitment to Odisha's bright future.

Let us together script a historic chapter for Odisha—one that reverberates with progress, prosperity, and pride.

Bondey Utkal Janani!

—Chief Minister, Odisha

priority sectors: IT, Renewable Energy, Textiles, Chemicals, and Food Processing. These sessions aim to unlock new opportunities and foster sustainable industrial growth in Odisha.

The grand Expo, commencing on January 30, will showcase the innovations of 150 exhibitors, representing Odisha's vibrant industries, startups, and creative sectors. Thematic sessions on Start-Up Odisha, Skilled in Odisha, and Women Entrepreneurship, supported by the Subhadra Scheme, will highlight Odisha's forward-thinking approach to inclusive development.

Empowering Entrepreneurship

In an unprecedented move, we will honour 60 micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs, two from each of Odisha's 30 districts, during the valedictory session on January 29. This initiative symbolizes our commitment to pro-

Your *SMART* move can Secure your Joyous future



Also Available Online



UIN: 512L317V02 | Plan No: 749

Invest today with One time Payment in LIC's Nivesh Plus, a Unit Linked Insurance Plan

- ✓ Life Risk Cover and Benefit from the Growth of the Corpus invested in choice of 4 funds
Growth Fund | Balanced Fund | Secured Fund | Bond Fund
- ✓ Flexibility to choose type of Sum Insured & Investment fund
- ✓ Guaranteed Additions available
- ✓ Policy can be surrendered after 5 years without discontinuance charges

A Non-Par, Linked, Life, Individual Savings Plan

Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090

Download LIC Mobile App

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Visit: licindia.in

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Apke Saath

Follow us: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [in](#) LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Linked insurance products are different from the traditional insurance products and are subject to the risk factors. The premium paid in linked insurance policies are subject to investment risks associated with capital markets and publicly available index. NAVs of the units may go up or down based on the performance of fund and factors influencing the capital market/publicly available index and the insured is responsible for his/her decisions. Life Insurance Corporation of India is only the name of the Life Insurance Company and Nivesh Plus is only the name of the linked insurance contract and does not in any way indicate the quality of the contract, its future prospects or returns. Please know the associated risks and the applicable charges, from your insurance agent or intermediary or policy document issued by the insurance company. The various funds offered under this contract are the names of the funds and do not in any way indicate the quality of these plans, their future prospects and returns.

DSPL - 358





Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

UTKARSH ODISHA
MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE'25
BHUBANESWAR | 28th - 29th JAN | 2025

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Empowering Growth, Shaping Tomorrow

Invest in Odisha, where Opportunities Meet Innovation

Join us at 2:30 pm on 28 January 2025

Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave'25

Inaugural session at 2:30 pm
Chief guest Shri Ashwini Vaishnav
Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology

**Panel Discussion on ESDM:
The Next Frontier catalysing
Odisha's Tech revolution at 4 pm**

**Panel discussion on Unlocking the
potential of Tier II cities: GCCs & FinTech
Opportunities at 5 pm**

- Signing of MoUs

- Groundbreaking ceremony for compound semiconductor project by SicSem Pvt. Ltd. & inauguration of Silicon Carbide Research Innovation Centre at IIT Bhubaneswar (virtual mode)

- Inauguration of new STPI centres at Koraput (Jeypore) and Jajpur (virtual mode)

Scan to Register



INVEST IN ODISHA, INVEST IN FUTURE

Or visit us at <https://mio.investodisha.gov.in/>

Investment Intention Form



Schedule a Meeting



Follow us on: [X](#) @investinOdisha [f](#) /investOdisha [in](#)

OIPR-16003/13/0051/2425

Govt focus on urban devpt initiatives: Min



To ensure the effective execution of urban planning initiatives, the government intends to fill all vacant positions in relevant departments. This move aims to address the need for professional expertise and accelerate progress on various projects. Development authorities were encouraged to adopt a people-centric approach and prioritise citizen needs while planning urbanisation initiatives.

Principal Secretary Usha Padhee emphasised the importance of adaptive strategies in shaping Odisha's urban future. She urged stakeholders to work collaboratively toward achieving inclusive growth.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including director of Municipal Administration Arindam Dakua, special secretaries Debashis Singh and Sushant Mishra, and representatives from development authorities across the state, including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Puri-Konark, Kalinganagar, Paradip, and Talcher-Angul-Naraj.

Minister Mahapatra reaffirmed that planned urbanisation is a cornerstone of Odisha's growth strategy. He stressed the importance of proactive planning and public participation in transforming the urban landscape.

By addressing existing challenges and implementing strategic initiatives, the vision of 'Viksit Odisha 2036' is steadily becoming a reality, Mahapatra added.

"The state government plans to replicate the Bhubaneswar Development Authority's successful implementation of the Town Planning (TP) scheme in other cities," Mahapatra said.

Comprehensive renovation plans for Berhampur, new TP schemes for Greater Sambalpur and Greater Rourkela are also part of the development agenda

The state aims to boost planned townships from 17 per cent to 30 per cent, revitalising old cities and building new ones

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Currently, only 17 per cent of Odisha's urban areas are planned. We aim to increase this to 30 per cent by building new cities and revitalising existing ones to improve living standards, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra said Monday. Mahapatra was chairing a high-level reviews meeting at Kharavel Bhawan here focusing on urban development initiatives aligned with the state's vision for a 'Viksit Odisha 2036.'

The discussions centered on increasing the share of planned townships, revamping older cities, and expediting urban infrastructure projects.

The Minister informed in the meeting that authorities were instructed to utilise government-owned land through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to generate revenue and accelerate urban development projects.

Highlighting the challenges faced by older cities, Mahapatra stressed the need to improve basic infrastructure such as roads, sewage, and drainage systems. Comprehensive renovation plans for Berhampur and new TP schemes for Greater Sambalpur and Greater Rourkela were discussed. Streamlined processes to facilitate housing construction and resolve registration issues are also part of the development agenda.



MUSICAL RENDITION: Artists perform patriotic song during a programme 'Mera Bharat Mahan', organised by cultural organisation Sushama Sangeet Sadan at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Guv inspires youth to lead nation-building

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati called upon the youth to take a proactive role in building a sustainable and inclusive nation during a session organised by The Young Indians (Yi) Bhubaneswar Chapter Monday.

The event aimed to inspire young leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals to actively contribute to India's development.

The highlight of the event was a panel discussion on "Ut-karsh Odisha as a Catalyst Towards a Viksit Bharat," which brought together experts and youth leaders to explore innovative strategies for inclusive growth and sustainable development.



Addressing the gathering, the Governor emphasised the importance of innovation, resilience, and collaboration in driving progress and urged the younger generation to embrace responsibility and actively

participate in nation-building efforts. "Youth are the architects of our future. It is your vision, energy, and determination that will define the trajectory of our nation's development," said the

Governor.

He also highlighted the need for sustainable practices and inclusive growth models to ensure that progress benefits every section of society.

The session included an interactive Q&A segment, where participants engaged with the Governor on leadership, policy frameworks, and strategies for fostering inclusive development.

National chairman of Yi, Tarang Khurana, expressed gratitude for the Governor's participation. "Your presence and guidance today reaffirm our commitment to youth empowerment and nation-building. This session has inspired us to work harder toward our shared vision of a developed and inclusive India," he said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Nayantara Rachel Ninan, D/o- Dr Ravi Ninan George, Resident of Asha Kiran Hospital, PO-Lamtapat, PS-Machhkund in the District of Koraput, Odisha, Pin-764081, declare by this affidavit No. 307, dated 21.01.2025, that now onwards, I shall be known as Nayantara Rachel Ninan George for all future purposes. Sd./- Deponent

LOST

I Smt. Juli Biswal, Age- 34 years, W/o- Dipti Ranjan Biswal of Village-Malisahi, P.S.- Sadar, Nayagarh, Dist.-Nayagarh. I do hereby declare that I have misplaced my Sale Deed No. 4950 dt.19.11.2001 & other documents, somewhere in her residence to Similisahi under P.S. Jurisdiction. If anyone find these documents, kindly contact - Juli Biswal, W/o- Dipti Ranjan Biswal, At/P.O.-Malisahi, P.S.- Sadar, Nayagarh, Dist.-Nayagarh.

Govt procures paddy from 9 lakh farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: The state government has successfully expedited the paddy procurement process for the current kharif season, achieving significant progress towards meeting procurement targets. With an increasing number of registered farmers participating in the process, the government has effectively streamlined the procurement procedure.

As of now, approximately 9 lakh farmers across all 30 districts of Odisha have sold their paddy. This represents a significant milestone, as over 50 per cent of the registered farmers have already completed the sale of their produce.

The government has provided



ed ₹9,069 crore as the minimum support price (MSP) and ₹3,154 crore in input assistance to these farmers following procurement.

Farmers are also benefiting from the MSP of ₹3,100 per quintal, which includes both the MSP and input assistance, adding to their financial relief and encouraging further participation in the programme.

In several districts, especially in western Odisha, the procurement process has reached nearly 90 per cent of its target, and it is expected to be completed soon.

Additionally, the custom milling of rice has commenced, ensuring the timely processing of the procured paddy. A key feature of this year's procurement process is the prompt disbursement of MSP and input assistance, which is being transferred to the bank accounts of eligible farmers within 48 hours of procurement.

With the procurement process progressing steadily, the state government is on track to achieve its target and provide timely support to the farming community, reinforcing its commitment to supporting Odisha's agricultural sector.

The procurement process is progressing smoothly, with over 50 per cent of registered farmers participating

feature of this year's procurement process is the prompt disbursement of MSP and input assistance, which is being transferred to the bank accounts of eligible farmers within 48 hours of procurement.

With the procurement process progressing steadily, the state government is on track to achieve its target and provide timely support to the farming community, reinforcing its commitment to supporting Odisha's agricultural sector.

BMC launches 'zero waste school' initiative



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) launched the "zero waste school" initiative Monday, aimed at promoting sustainable waste management practices among students.

The project, introduced in 10 government schools across the City, seeks to raise awareness about environmental responsibility and encourage waste reduction from an early age.

The programme officially began at Saheed Nagar Government High School, with BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, standing committee chairman, ward-30 Corporator, ZDC SE, Assistant Commissioner-Sanitation, and experts from Aasra Foundation, Maharashtra, attending the event.

The participating schools include Unit-VI Government High School, Ganganagar, Sa-

heed Nagar Government High School, Unit-VIII Government High School (Boys), Soubhagya Nagar Government High School, Laxmisagar Government High School, and others across various wards in Bhubaneswar.

The project aims to implement zero waste practices by promoting waste segregation, composting, and recycling. Students are encouraged to avoid plastic water bottles and separate waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories.

Mayor Das emphasised that the initiative empowers students to practice responsible waste management, which will contribute to the goal of building a Swachha Bhubaneswar.

The project also aims to make these schools model institutions for sustainability, fostering environmental consciousness among students and the wider communities.

Indian scientists develop safer nano-treatment for Parkinson's

Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Monday, announced a targeted nano-formulation that will enable safer treatment method for people suffering from Parkinson's disease.

The new nano-formulation helps in the sustained release of a hormone called 17beta-oestradiol which is crucial for managing Parkinson's. Many neurodegenerative and psychiatric malignancies like Parkinson's disease originate from an imbalance of 17 beta-oestradiol (E2) in the human brain.

However, the peripheral side effects of the usage of E2 for Parkinson's therapy and less understanding of the molecular mechanism hinder establishing its neurotherapeutic potential, said the team.

In the study, published in the journal Carbohydrate Polymers, the team noted using Dopamine Receptor D3 (DRD3) conjugated to 17beta-oestradiol-loaded chitosan nanoparticles that led to sustained release of 17beta-oestradiol (E2) to the brain. "The targeted nano-formulation inhibited the mitochondrial translocation of calpain, thereby protecting neurons from rotenone-induced mitochondrial damage," the researchers said.

Furthermore, in a rodent model, the targeted nano-delivery system alleviated behavioural impairments. In addition, the study reveals for the first time that BMI1, a member of the PRC1 complex that regulates mitochondrial homeostasis, is a substrate of calpain.

The targeted nano-formulation restored BMI1 expression by inhibiting its degradation through

calpain. Calpain is a protein that breaks down proteins in cells in response to calcium.

The study "has helped in understanding the role of hormone (E2) in regulating oxidative stress in Parkinson's patients. With the continued exploration of long-term safety profiles and better-targeted delivery, this can establish itself as a safer drug to improve the lives of Parkinson's patients," the researchers said.

Earlier, INST researchers showed that nano-formulation of melatonin - the hormone produced by the brain in response to darkness - could provide a therapeutic solution for Parkinson's. Parkinson's disease is one of the most common neurological disorders caused by the death of dopamine-secreting neurons in the brain due to aggregation of synuclein protein inside it.

₹86.91cr for Ravenshaw Girls' School

Bhubaneswar: The Union Ministry of Education Monday approved ₹86.91 crore for the redevelopment of Ravenshaw Girls' High School in Cuttack for the 2024-25 period. The funds, allocated under the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Project, were announced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. During his visit December 16, 2023, for the school's 150th anniversary, Pradhan had assured financial support for the institution's development. August 31, 2024, he instructed the Cuttack district administration to prepare a master plan for infrastructure upgrades. The approved budget will be used for several projects, including ₹14 crore for a new school building, ₹10 crore for an indoor stadium, ₹20.7 crore for a new hostel, ₹5.12 crore for a primary school building, ₹3.32 crore for renovation, and ₹26.84 crore for staff quarters and surrounding development.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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-909090404, 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-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



ODISHA
NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Confederation of Indian Industry

MAKE IT **UTKARSH**

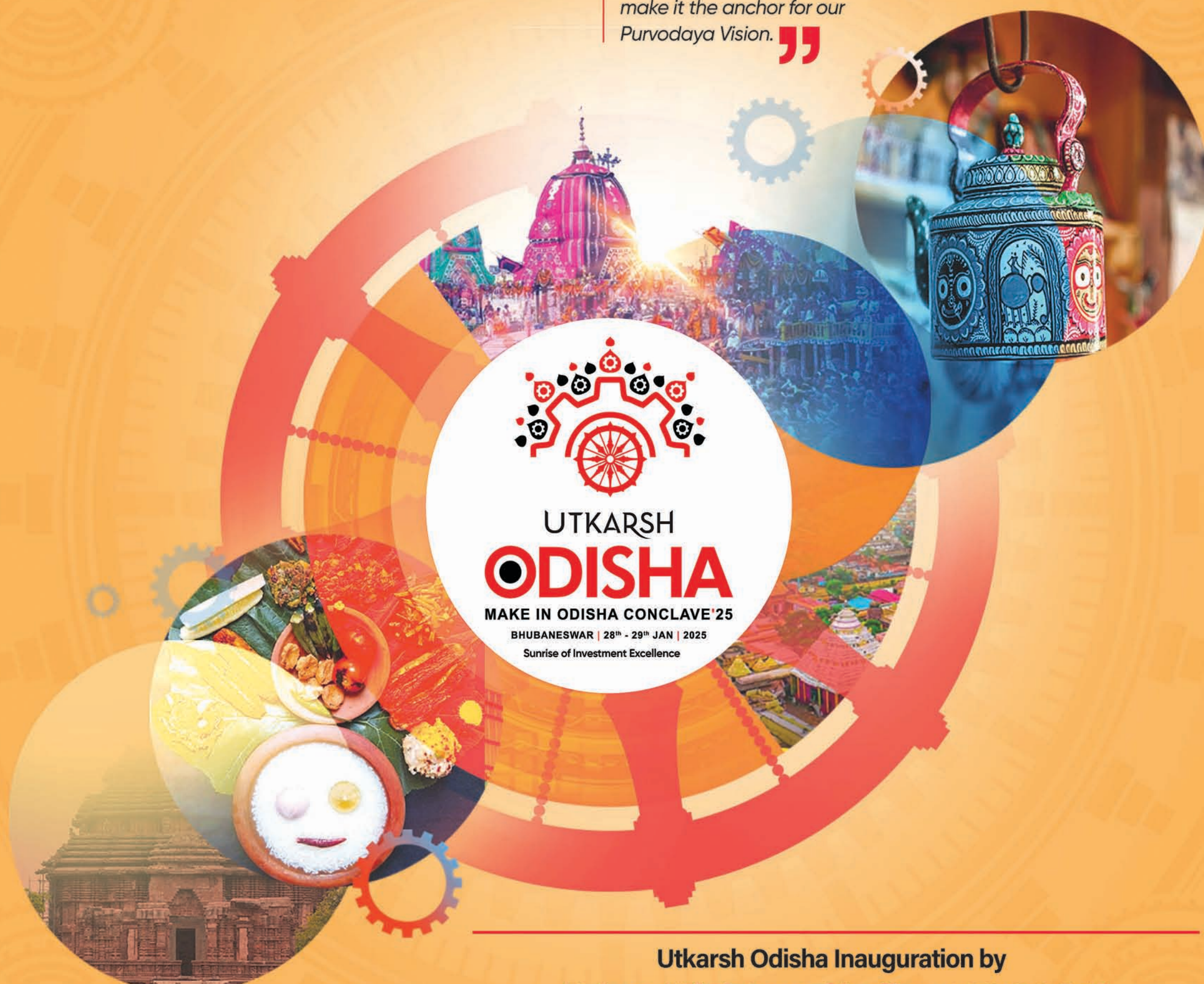
Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates the Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 today, we invite industry leaders and entrepreneurs to be a part of this transformational journey.



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

“ As we aim for Viksit Bharat 2047, Odisha will play a pivotal role in driving this ambition forward. Its investor- friendly policies and strategic location make it the anchor for our Purvodaya Vision. ”



Utkarsh Odisha Inauguration by
Prime Minister of India at 10:30 AM

Today **28**
January 2025

CEOs Roundtable

Start-up Plenary Session

Country-of-focus Session

Cultural Program

Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Plastics Session

Renewable Energy & Equipment Session

Mining & Metallurgy Session

VENUE: Janata Maidan
Bhubaneswar

BECOME A PART OF THE "SAMRUDH ODISHA 2036" JOURNEY

INVEST IN ODISHA, INVEST IN FUTURE

FOCUS TECHNOLOGY

THE TIKTOKALYPSE



The choice isn't between creativity and security; it's between naivete and prudence. In an era when data are the new plutonium, that's no choice at all

and cultural realities, forcing ByteDance to sell TikTok to American owners is hardly the digital apocalypse that creators fear it would be. For starters, there are plenty of other platforms through which to reach audiences. Creators can even post content in the same short-form video format. Instagram Reels can reach its two billion monthly active users, for example, and YouTube Shorts collectively receive more than 70 billion views per day. Digital creators, for their part, are far more resilient than many imagine. When Vine shut down in 2017, its creators didn't vanish; they evolved, successfully migrating to other platforms.

With Trump eager to forge a deal on TikTok, ByteDance is poised to receive high bids from US firms. I would not be surprised if TikTok fetched a price that tops the value of Spotify, at \$101 billion, and reaches the heights of Netflix and Disney, which are worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

The creator economy isn't built on a single Chinese app, but rather on Western innovation, from the iPhone to the internet itself. Cat videos and dance challenges will find new homes, just as they migrated from "America's Funniest Home Videos" on network television to YouTube to TikTok.

The choice isn't between creativity and security; it's between naivete and prudence. In an era when data are the new plutonium, that's no choice at all.

The writer is a former White House director of economic policy under President George HW Bush and managing director of the Tiger hedge fund.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

When the US president, Congress, and Supreme Court are all in a tizzy at the same time, the topic under discussion is usually a global meltdown or, at the very least, income taxes. Today, the concern is dancing cat videos. In his first day back in the White House, Donald Trump launched a strike against the Court and Congress by signing an executive order to pause the ban on TikTok, earning applause from the Chinese-owned company. TikTok's online content creators are relieved, too, for many warn that a ban (or a forced sale to a US company) would devastate them. I call it the TikTokocalypse.



Todd G. Buchholz

TIKTOK'S ALGORITHM DOESN'T JUST TRACK AMERICANS; IT SHAPES US POLITICAL DISCOURSE

But this fear is based on a misunderstanding of the app's security risks and of the resiliency of creators and internet platforms. With TikTok users, including 170 million in the US, spending an average of 90 minutes per day on the app – more time than Americans spend eating and drinking – China has gained a surveillance tool that Joseph Stalin and Ernst Blofeld could only have dreamed about.

China already engages in espionage on an industrial scale. On 14 January, the FBI announced that malware from Mustang Panda, a Chinese government-backed hacker group, had infected thousands of computers, stealing sensitive security information.

Last year, the FBI revealed that China had waged a campaign that could have been pulled from a Die Hard movie: Chinese operatives had infiltrated critical US infrastructure networks. If the US government had not disrupted the campaign, the hackers would have been able to cripple a wide range of

systems, from drinking water to gas pipelines and air-traffic control. In chilling testimony before Congress, former FBI Director Christopher Wray, whom Trump appointed in his first term, said that "China's hackers are positioning on American infrastructure [...] to wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities, if or when China decides the time has come to strike."

While it is easy to scoff at some of China's more farcical attempts at spying, like the great balloon chase of 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping has been clear about his quest for hegemony through a "smokeless war." Given that, no one should consider the risk posed by TikTok a joke. While ByteDance, TikTok's parent company, tried to dispel security concerns by promising to store US users' data on third-party US servers, leaked recordings of internal company meetings revealed that the app's China-based engineers had repeatedly accessed everything from location data to browsing histories. When 39% of Americans

between the ages of 18 and 29 – including military personnel and government employees – regularly get their news from TikTok, this becomes about more than dancing teenagers and makeup tips.

TikTok's algorithm doesn't just track Americans; it shapes US political discourse. Research from the Alliance for Securing Democracy found that the app often fails to correctly label content from state-controlled media, leading to a proliferation of Russian state propaganda on topics as crucial as the war in Ukraine. And TikTok's search algorithm has been found to display less anti-China content than other platforms for search terms such as "Tiananmen," "Tibet," and "Uyghur." During the recent Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza, TikTok was awash in pro-Hamas videos.

The US has a long and reasoned history of guarding against foreign ownership of major media outlets, going back to the Communications Act of 1934. And, of course, in earlier, cruder times, patriotic citizens would simply tar and feather foreign agents.

In light of today's economic

Holocaust Lessons

Eighty years ago, on 27 January 1945, the concentration and extermination camp known as Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by the Soviet Red Army. Over a million people declared by the Nazis as "opponents of the regime" or "sub-human" were murdered there between 1940 and 1945. They included Jews, Roma and Sinti, political prisoners, homosexuals and other persecuted groups. Only about 7,000 prisoners, many of them gravely ill, survived to see the camp be liberated. This year the observance of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, to commemorate the event of 27 January, assumes special significance with the rise of Neo-Nazi and Far-Right forces in different parts of the world, including Europe and the US. More so after the alarming signal that US President Donald Trump's key man, Elon Musk, gave on the day of his swearing-in ceremony 20 January, with his unabashed display of two Nazi salutes. The world is set to listen to about 50 of the Holocaust survivors taking part in the main event being held in a marquee erected around the tower at the entrance of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in then German-occupied Poland. Some of them had remained silent for so many years as the trauma robbed them of their self-confidence and would be opening their mouths for the first time since the dehumanising treatment meted out to them. Only a decade ago, 300 survivors gathered at Auschwitz to commemorate the Nazi death camp's liberation. At the 80th anniversary the median age of Holocaust survivors is estimated at 86. At 97, Esther Senot is still keeping the promise she made to her dying sister Fanny, whose last wish was that she "tell what happened to us ... so that we are not forgotten by history."

National and institutions' delegations are also taking part in the ceremony. Austria is represented by Federal President Alexander van der Bellen. The decision to live-stream the commemoration is very apt as it gives an opportunity for worldwide shared remembrance and reflection on the significance of the events of the past.

The Auschwitz museum's decision to ban speeches by politicians this year appears to be a response to the recent developments in Europe and the Middle East. The museum's mission rises above politics, yet it cannot remain aloof from global affairs. Vladimir Putin attended the annual event in the past, but this time around there will be no Russian presence. Earlier this month, Poland's deputy foreign minister suggested that authorities would be obliged to arrest the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, if he travelled to the ceremony, because the International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for Netanyahu's arrest for alleged war crimes in Gaza. The Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, however, iterated that Netanyahu would be able to attend the ceremony safely, even though Israel's delegation is not expected to include him.

But the museum's decision is reassuring for the survivors themselves and all others who mourn the parents and children, friends and lovers obliterated by the Nazis. Though their numbers are fast dwindling, their testimony is needed now far more than ever. The demand - "Never again" - was first made in 1945 by the survivors. But genocides keep happening in one form or the other throughout the world and throughout human history. Incidentally, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the slaughter of Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has drawn the attention of the world to the fact that anti-Semitism has increased globally since the 7 October Hamas attacks and the war in Gaza. On the other hand, the Far-Right is on the rise across Europe including in Germany.

Hitler was a politician backed by German business magnates of his time for promoting their business interests using political power. But, tycoons such as Musk and Trump are now in the forefront of international politics. Money and political power seem to be concentrating in the same hands in many countries across the globe. This is ominous.

WISDOM CORNER

The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion, by prejudice.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

We are second-hand people. We have lived on what we have been told, either guided by our inclinations, our tendencies, or compelled to accept by circumstances and environment. We are the result of all kinds of influences, and there is nothing new in us, nothing that we have discovered for ourselves: nothing original, pristine, clear.

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

Fear keeps us focused on the past or worried about the future. If we can acknowledge our fear, we can realize that right now we are okay. Right now, today, we are still alive, and our bodies are working marvelously. Our eyes can still see the beautiful sky. Our ears can still hear the voices of our loved ones.

THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1813: Jane Austen's novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, is published. It was published anonymously and enjoyed immediate success, thanks in part to the popularity of the central character, Elizabeth Bennet, who was reportedly Austen's own favourite among all her heroines. It is one of the best-known works of English literature and it was sold about 20 million times.

1820: Fabian von Bellingshausen discovers the Antarctic. The Baltic German explorer is believed to be the first person to sight the Earth's southernmost continent.

1871: The French capital, Paris, fell following a four-month siege during the Franco-German War.

1958: The Lego brick is patented. Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, whose father founded the company LEGO in Denmark, filed for a Danish patent (later granted) for a toy building block that became hugely popular around the world. The Lego company has since produced 500 billion Lego elements, amounting to 10 lego towers from Earth to the Moon.

1986: Explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. On this day in 1986, the U.S. space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Florida, killing all seven aboard, including a schoolteacher who had been chosen as the first American civilian to travel in space.

SPECTRUM PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Sishu Vatika: A progressive step

School is a crucial environment for children, second only to home, providing education, protection, and essential developmental needs. The years from 5 to 6 are particularly critical for brain development. The government of Odisha's recent initiative to open "Sishu Vatika" for 5-year-olds in primary schools is a progressive step towards implementing the foundational stage of the New Education Policy-2020, which includes 3 years of pre-primary and 2 years of Grade 1 and 2. However, this initiative must be examined pragmatically in terms of affordability, viability, and sustainability.

Sishu Vatika, meaning children's garden or garden for children, raises questions about the availability of designated classroom space and the need for a play area conducive to cognitive and physical development. Numerous studies have emphasised the importance of the environment in children's overall development, especially in the formative years below 6, along with the need for wholesome nutrition. Additionally, the safety and security of children to prevent physical and mental harm

must be considered. Various national authorities have issued safety guidelines, like by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools. Applying these prescribed safety protocols is essential.

This initiative could facilitate the smooth transition of children from Anganwadi to school, provided teachers are adequately trained to support this transition. A dedicated cadre of teachers with the appropriate skill set is crucial to fulfilling the objectives of the NEP. However, states like Odisha continue to lag in engaging special teachers for children with special needs, as required by the Right to Education Act. The need for a new cadre of teachers raises concerns about administrative will and resource allocation. Before proceeding, it is essential to identify gaps in schools at the foundational stage. According to UDISE, in Odisha, there were 45,042 government schools with Grade 1 in 2023-24, but only 759 had pre-primary classes. This means 44,283 schools need to open fully equipped pre-primary classes,

a daunting task given the existing infrastructure and teacher shortages. For instance, there are 1,065 single-teacher schools with 50,189 students enrolled.

The National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage, prepared under the mentorship of Dr K Kasturirangan, aims to transform India into a 21st-century knowledge society. Odisha needs to adapt this framework to its local culture, civilization, tradition, religiosity, and spiritualism while considering the demands of a 21st-century knowledge society and the goals of Viksit Bharat. The curriculum must be transformative, holistic, and well-conceptualised to facilitate the appropriate transition of children's learning abilities from Anganwadi to school.

Adopting best practices from other states that have demonstrated successful interventions is essential. The issue of screen time for children and the influence of new-age technology on young minds are challenging areas that this initiative must address, along with educating and guiding the parents.

While pre-primary preparatory classes are not a new concept, aligning them with

national policy is a genuine initiative in the context of Odisha. The state is keen on building its human capital, supported by a decisive government and a Union minister belonging to the state. After a fiercely contested election season, the state government's efforts to shape the destiny of new generations are welcome, especially in the context of Viksit Bharat. Children may not be voters, but they carry lasting impressions from their formative years. According to the latest UDISE data, Odisha already has 21,179 schools with Anganwadi centres and 3,472 schools with pre-primary sections, providing a fertile ground for this initiative. Schools are integral to our collective consciousness, where unity in diversity begins. Let the Sishu Vatika bloom with flowers of all colours and fragrances in celebrating the spirit of childhood.

NK Sahu is a former Economic Adviser of Govt. of India in the Department of School Education & Literacy. Dushyant Meher is a Delhi-based independent consultant who worked with NITI Aayog & NCPDR.



NK Sahu & Dushyant Meher

NUMEROUS STUDIES HAVE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN CHILDREN'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Tough stand

Sir, The Bombay High Court has taken a tough stand against the use of loudspeakers by religious institutions by categorically asserting that loudspeakers are not an essential part of any religion. Law enforcement agencies have been directed to take strict action against the perpetrators. Religious institutions take advantage of the stoic resignation of people towards noise and blaring loudspeakers. Instead of creating a tranquil atmosphere for worship, religious institutions have become noise creating places. People should not be deprived of their right to live in quiet places. A quiet and peaceful atmosphere is essential for the physical and mental wellbeing of people. Ironically, people who want to worship in a quiet atmosphere are turned into forced audience by religious institutions. People who suffer a lot of discomfort by the noise from other sources are forced to endure the cacophony of loudspeakers too. Let's hope that the law against the use of loudspeakers in religious institutions will be implemented all over the country.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Ruling tennis world

Sir, The 23-year-old Jannik Sinner, the first Italian tennis player to ascend to the world number one ranking, has proved his mettle once again by lifting his second Australian Open title. After coming up trumps at the US Open in September last year, Sinner seems destined for bigger things as he is virtually on a roll from early 2024. Notwithstanding a tennis player's famous Achilles' heel – injury – Sinner has come back every time he was considered down and out. Currently, Sinner has two top players to contend with for glories at big tournaments apart from Novak Djokovic: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz and Russian Daniil Medvedev, both at the prime of their careers. Though not exactly in the mould of the famous Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic rivalry, the Sinner, Alcaraz, Medvedev trio appears to rule the tennis world at least for some time.

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

Illegal abortions see no let-up in Nayagarh dist

SALE OF ABORTION PILLS SANS PRESCRIPTION CONTINUES UNABATED OVER THE COUNTER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Jan 27: Illegal abortions show no sign of abatement in Nayagarh district with abortion pills reportedly being sold over the counter at various pharmacy stores without the required prescriptions from doctors.

While the Health department has failed to enforce a ban on this practice, no investigation has been initiated into the concerning matter despite growing complaints. Allegations have surfaced that some pharmacists and medicine stores are facilitating abortions by providing the pills sans prescription, with such claims being largely ignored, allowing illegal abortions to continue unabated.

Residents allege that several unqualified persons are performing ultrasound tests for conditions such as gynaecological issues, surgeries, and cancer in this district, giving way to inaccuracy in the reports and further complications.

As per regulations, only radiologists, obstetrics specialists, or MBBS doctors with six months of specialised training are authorised to conduct ultrasound procedures.

However, due to lax oversight and lack of raids at ultrasound clinics, untrained personnel are allegedly performing these tests. There is a growing demand among the residents for a thorough investigation and immediate action to address the issue. On the other hand, authorities are urged to expedite corrective measures to curb these malpractices.



It is alleged that unauthorised abortions are frequently taking place in private hospitals across Nayagarh district despite absence of approval mandated under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. Allegations of such activities have persisted for a long time.

The busting of illegal abortion at the Aditya Hospital and Clinic functioning from Anand Bhavan behind the district headquarters hospital August 30, 2021 is a case in this point. Later, five persons - the private hospital's owner, two nurses, and a broker - were arrested and sent to jail in this connection.

This was the second time when illegal abortions were busted in Nayagarh. Residents hoped that the authorities will continue to frequently conduct raids and take actions against such illegalities. However, despite occasional raids, operations in private clinics and ultrasound centres resumed shortly thereafter. Residents

alleged that inadequate action by the Health department has hindered the effective implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act in the district.

Reports suggest that illegal abortions temporarily ceased after enforcement actions but resumed soon after in some private clinics, allegedly driven by financial incentives. Notably, in 2007, the discovery of six premature infant bodies near Duburi Hill in Nayagarh brought the issue of female foeticide to public scrutiny.

Despite increased scrutiny, Nayagarh continues to grapple with this issue. The 2011 Census revealed the district ranked first in incidents of female foeticide in the state, prompting stricter enforcement of the PCPNDT Act. However, observers claim little has changed.

Residents allege that private hospitals in Nayagarh fail to comply with government regulations, with no significant action being taken against violators. Hospitals are mandated to maintain indoor registers, outgoing patient records, operation theater logs, and detailed records of visiting doctors and their consultation fees. However, these guidelines are reportedly ignored by these private hospitals, allowing female foeticide practice by unqualified medical practitioners to persist.

Experts argue that proper enforcement of government directives could significantly curb illegal abortions and the activities of fake doctors and quacks in the district.

Police rescue 3 kidnapped persons in Ganjam

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Chikiti, Jan 27: Police Monday rescued three persons including a man working for a financial firm in Delhi, who were allegedly kidnapped by unknown persons and threatened with a cobra in Ganjam district, an officer said.

The victims were taken to a forested area in Chikiti, where they were held captive by the kidnapers, who reportedly demanded a ransom of ₹2 crore for their release. The matter came to light when one of the captives managed to escape and alerted the Chikiti tehsildar, who then informed police.

The police conducted a raid and rescued the three other persons, the officer said.

An injured cobra was also



rescued from the room where the three persons were detained, police said.

Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said that one person has been detained in connection with the kidnapping incident. "The accused persons, maybe

five in number, had brought the victims from Bhubaneswar in a vehicle and had demanded ₹2 crore as ransom. They were beaten up by kidnapers and threatened using a cobra," the SP said quoting the FIR. He said a case has been reg-

istered under different sections of the BNS and Wild Life (Protection) Act.

The SP said that the man from Delhi working in a financial company had come to Odisha to sanction a loan to a man in Berhampur. The Delhi man was accompanied by one person from Bhubaneswar and two others from Cuttack in Odisha. They were brought to Berhampur in a vehicle.

Asked about the motive of the crime, the SP said police are investigating the matter. "Though the victims have claimed that they came to sanction loan to a man in Ganjam district, the police would investigate all angles like whether there was any deal linked to ganja or liquor trade," the SP said.

Elderly woman dies in wild boar attack

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Jan 27: An elderly woman was killed and a person injured after being attacked by a wild boar in Jajpur district Monday, officials said.

The incident took place at Rekhideipur village in the district. The deceased has been identified as Sova Malik (75), while the injured is Pabitra Kumar Sahoo (45) of the same village.

The woman was returning home after purchasing vegetables Monday afternoon when the wild boar suddenly attacked her, Forest department officials said. Sahoo suffered injuries in a bid to save the woman.

Both of them were rushed to the Dharmasala Community Health Centre (CHC), where the woman succumbed to her injuries, they said.

Sahoo was later referred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

"The kin of the deceased woman would be provided ex gratia," an official said.

No sand mining in Mayurbhanj sans approved DSR, orders NGT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Jan 27: On the management of minor minerals in Mayurbhanj district, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued its final verdict, pointing out flaws in the District Survey Report (DSR).

A two-member bench of the NGT Friday directed the District Collector to halt sand mining or any auctions related to sand extraction in the district until the DSR is reviewed by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) and approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). As a result, sand mining in Mayurbhanj district will remain suspended indefinitely.

The DSR prepared for sand mining in Mayurbhanj district was challenged on the grounds of illegality by Vivekananda Pattnaik, who



filed a complaint with the NGT in April 2022.

After more than two years and nine months, the NGT considered the case and delivered its verdict, with judicial member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Arun Kumar Verma presiding over the hearing.

During the hearing August 8 last year, the NGT had ordered the suspension of all minor mineral extraction activities in Mayurbhanj district. Subsequently, the final hearing which was scheduled to be done December 3

was conducted January 10, 2025, and the previous order remained in place.

The suspension of sand mining has created challenges for ongoing government development projects in the district, which may face delays. The local administration is under pressure to take corrective actions to address these issues. However, there are concerns about the illegal extraction of sand from areas like Budhabalanga, which continues despite the NGT orders, raising fears of further legal proceedings.

10 tribal kids hospitalised after eating poisonous fruit

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Jan 27: At least 10 tribal children in Jajpur district fell ill and were hospitalised after reportedly consuming a poisonous fruit Sunday, police said.

The children, aged between five and 11, were playing together in Aruha Hatasahi, located under Dharmasala police limits, when they stumbled upon the fruit-bearing tree.

Driven by curiosity, they ate the fruit and returned home. Shortly afterward, each child began vomiting and experienced severe stomach pain.

The children were initially taken to Dharmasala Community Health Centre (CHC), from where they were re-

ferred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after their condition deteriorated, locals said.

The exact type of fruit responsible for the children's illness has not yet been identified. The children, still struggling with symptoms, have been unable to clearly describe the fruit to medical professionals, complicating the identification process.

In response to the incident, a public health advisory has been issued, urging people to avoid consuming unfamiliar fruits and to seek immediate medical attention if any symptoms of poisoning occur. The children are recovering slowly but they are unable to identify the fruit they had consumed, a senior health official said.

Rourkela Airport expansion: Pujari to hold discussion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 27: Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management Suresh Pujari will soon convene a meeting with all relevant departments and stakeholders to address issues concerning the expansion of Rourkela Airport. Pujari said this during his visit to Rourkela January 25, when he discussed the matter with ADM Rourkela, Raghunathpalli MLA Durga Tanty, and other local officials.

Speaking to mediapersons, Pujari highlighted that land is required for the airport's expansion, noting that the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) holds significant land which the state government intends to reclaim for this purpose. He referenced the successful upgrade of Jharsuguda Airport to international status, citing similar improvements planned for Rourkela. The expansion will include a night landing system, additional land for the runway, and more bays for aircraft.

A coordination meeting between the Revenue department, district administration, RSP, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation is essential. Pujari, who has adopted Sundargarh district as per the direction of the Chief Minister, promised to prioritise the development of the airport and the region.

15 hurt as mini truck turns turtle

Balasore: At least 15 people were injured when a mini truck in which they were travelling overturned in Balasore district Monday, police said. The accident occurred near Raipur village under the Singla police station limits, a senior officer said. The injured people were taken to nearby Basta Primary Health Centre and five of them, whose conditions were serious, were referred to Balasore District Headquarters Hospital. According to police, about thirty people, mostly women, were going to attend a religious ceremony when the vehicle in which they were travelling overturned and fell on the roadside. The police seized the vehicle and started an investigation into the accident, the officer added.

Student dies as pickup van on way to parade ground overturns; HM suspended

PNN & AGENCIES

Banki, Jan 27: A student died and several others were injured when a pickup van carrying school students to a Republic Day parade ground overturned under Banki police station area of Cuttack district Sunday.

Sources said the accident took place when over 20 students of Malaviharapur High School, after participating in the Republic Day function in their school, were on their way to Saranda parade ground near Ansupa Lake to participate in Republic Day celebrations.

The injured students were immediately rushed to the nearby Athagarh Government Hospital. Nine of the injured were later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after their condition deteriorated. But unfortunately one of them died in



the hospital.

Following the incident, the Cuttack District Education Officer (DEO) sought strict action against the Headmaster of Malaviharapur High School and wrote a letter to the Director of Secondary Education. In response, the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Sunday placed the headmaster of the high school under suspension for negligence of duty.

Sources in the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department said the S&ME department Secretary Salini Pandit visited

the injured students involved in the unfortunate incident at Banki at the SCB Medical College and Hospital.

Sources said the condition of all students is stable and a Collector-level inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

The S&ME department will provide ₹2 lakh to the family of the deceased students and ₹30,000 to that of each of the injured students. Instructions have been issued to all schools to take measures to ensure that such unfortunate incidents do not recur.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi also announced an ex-gratia of ₹3 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the kin of the deceased.

The Chief Minister directed the authorities to provide the best medical care to the injured students undergoing treatment.

DSPL-362

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

UTKARSH ODISHA
MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE '25
BHUBANESWAR 28th - 29th JAN | 2025

Join with us in the journey to
"Utkarsh Odisha"

A joint session on
'Skilling in Health Sector for Utkarsh Odisha - 2036'

29 January 2025, 2.30 PM - 4.30 PM

Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar

Organised by:
**Dept. of Health & Family Welfare and
Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha**

Speakers

Prof. Saroj Kanta Mishra
Visiting Professor
Gangwal School of Medical Science & Technology
IIT Kanpur

Dr. Jitendra Sharma
Managing Director and Founder CEO
Andhra Pradesh Meditech Zone Limited
Vishakhapatnam

Prof.(Dr) Arun Kumar Das
Principal
Gopabandhu Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya
Puri

Dr. Amulya Panda
Associate Director
Panacea Biotec Ltd., New Delhi

Moderator

Prof. (Dr.) Manash Ranjan Sahoo
Vice Chancellor
Odisha University of Health Science, Bhubaneswar

Scan to Register

Science & Technology Department

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Odisha

OIPR-10003/13/10115/2425

national

They (BJP) worship the Constitution but work against its words. We are going to public with this issue
SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS SENIOR LEADER

WHO URGES GOVERNMENTS TO PRIORITISE LEPROSY ELIMINATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) has requested governments to prioritise leprosy elimination and ensure sustained funding for surveillance, treatment, care and support, while calling upon them to include those affected by leprosy in policy and decision-making processes. Celebrated annually on the last Sunday of January, World Leprosy Day serves to raise awareness about leprosy, a neglected tropical disease, and inspire the global community to unite to eliminate it



of the day note

Efforts are being made to change the Constitution. We will try to protect the Constitution with the same force which they (BJP) use in the attempt to change it. That is why we have gathered in Mhow today



A REVANTH REDDY | CHIEF MINISTER, TELANGANA

The Congress did injustice to Babasaheb Ambedkar during his life time. The Congress is now talking of saving the Constitution, but four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family misused the Constitution



MOHAN YADAV | CHIEF MINISTER, MADHYA PRADESH

The INC hopes that the new chairperson will protect the interests of crores of middle-class investors in the capital market, summon the courage to stand up to the Modani enterprise, and deal with all revelations of the transactions of the Adani Group without fear or favour



JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Maha launches 1st mobile forensic van

Mumbai: Maharashtra became the first state to launch a mobile forensic van to aid in detecting crime and gathering proof Monday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said. Fadnis launched the mobile forensic van at the Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai. The home minister said the use of forensic evidence has been made mandatory under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for crimes with punishments of seven years or more. Fadnis said 259 mobile forensic vans would be introduced across Maharashtra, of which 21 are already fully equipped and operational.

2 killed, 11 hurt in road mishap

Pratapgarh (UP): Two people, including a woman, died and 11 others were injured Monday in a head-on collision between a car and a truck on the Ayodhya-Prayagraj Highway, police said. The accident occurred near the closed toll plaza at Dharouli Madhupur, about 15 km from the district headquarters, when a car en route to Prayagraj collided with a truck of devotees travelling in the opposite direction, Circle Officer (CO) Shiv Narayan Vaish said.

Couple, their 2 kids killed in accident

Agra: A Delhi couple and their two children were killed in a road accident on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in the Fatehabad area, police said Monday. The deceased, residents of Uttam Nagar in the national capital, were returning home after taking a holy dip at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

2 held with smack worth ₹1.23 crore

Saharanpur: Two suspected drug traffickers were arrested with 615 grams of smack, estimated to be worth Rs 1.23 crore, in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Monday. A joint team of the Nanota police station and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force Sunday arrested the accused, identified as Nawab alias Junaid and Md Usman, they said. The police seized 615 grams of smack, two mobile phones, a car, and Rs 1,730 in cash from them.

IN A FIRST, ICG TAKES PART IN R-DAY PARADE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, 27 Jan 2025: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) etched a new chapter in history on Republic Day 2025, with several landmark achievements. This year marked the ICG's first-ever participation in the Republic Day parade with three Dornier aircraft, showcasing their advanced aerial capabilities. A full band of 75 personnel performed with pride at Kartavya Path, while a 144-member contingent, headed by Deputy Commandant Navita Thakran, paraded, epitomizing the strength, discipline, and dedication of the ICG.

The President of India honoured Director General

Paramesh Sivamani, PTM, TM, with the prestigious AtiVishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) for his exceptional leadership. Additionally, eight officers and personnel were awarded the President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal for their exemplary services and bravery.

The ICG's tableau was a highlight of the parade, showcasing its diverse maritime safety and security assets. Featuring a Fast Interceptor Boat, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), satellite communication systems, and a state-of-the-art Coordination Centre for Maritime Search & Rescue, the tableau emphasized ICG's unwavering commitment to safeguarding



lives and resources in line with India's rich tradition of benevolence.

At the forefront of the tableau, an indigenously built Interceptor Boat, a drone, and the ALH depicted a coordinat-

ed Search and Rescue (SAR) operation. This portrayal highlighted the ICG's motto: "We Protect."

The rear of the tableau showcased the Coordination Centre for maritime Search



and Rescue (M-SAR), which ensures mariners and fishermen safety in vast 4.6 million

Sq Km of Indian Search & Rescue Region (ISRR). These centres ensure 24x7 reception and relay of distress signals to ICG ships and aircraft, guaranteeing immediate action and assistance. The technology and equipment deployed were indigenous, reinforcing India's strides towards self-reliance in maritime safety and security.

This Republic Day marks a historic moment for the Indian Coast Guard, reaffirming its pivotal role in safeguarding India's maritime boundaries and ensuring the safety and security of its people. The ICG continues to embody the spirit of service, courage, and dedication in protecting the nation's maritime interests.

Waqf panel accepts NDA's amendments

While the accepted amendments make some concessions to Muslim bodies criticising the Bill, including leaving it to Waqf boards to decide on welfare measures for widows and orphans, among others, instead of mandating it by law, a few of them may further irk the critics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: The parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf bill is set to propose that existing "Waqf by user" properties will remain so if not in dispute or are government facilities but they must be registered before the new law takes effect, providing little relief to Waqf bodies in their unverified title claims.

Opposition MPs Monday proposed amendments in all 44 clauses of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, seeking to mostly restore the provisions of the current Act, and claimed that the law proposed by the committee in its report would maintain the Bill's "draconian" character and the bid to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims.

While the accepted amendments make some concessions to Muslim bodies criticising the Bill, including leaving it to Waqf boards to decide on welfare measures for widows and orphans, among others, instead of mandating it by law, a few of them may further irk the critics.

The meeting of the joint parliamentary committee headed by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal was again marked by noisy protests by Opposition members, who accused him of "subverting" democratic process.

The panel is set to adopt its report Wednesday with MPs of Opposition parties such as the Congress, TMC, DMK and the



AIMIM expected to give their dissent, sources said.

With Parliament's Budget Session set to begin January 31, the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance can get the Bill passed in the first half of the session as it enjoys a majority in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, they added.

Among the amendments that may draw further objection from Muslim groups and Opposition parties is that a Waqf board can now have even four non-Muslim members instead of two.

One of the changes passed by the panel said "two of total members of the Board appointed under this sub-section, excluding ex-officio members, shall be non-Muslim", the sources said.

The phrase "excluding ex-officio members" did not feature in the Bill.

While the Bill states that only a person practising Islam for at least five years may declare a Waqf, which refers to properties dedicated exclusively for

religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law, an approved amendment adds that such a person should be showing or demonstrating that he or she is practising the religion for five years, according to the sources.

DMK MP A Raja alleged that the committee's proceedings were reduced to a "mockery" and that the "report is already ready by this time."

"The DMK, myself, will move the Supreme Court to strike down the new law after it receives Parliament's nod," he said. Among the other amendments supported by the BJP and its allies and adopted by the committee with 16-10 votes in favour is to do away with vesting any inquiry into disputes over a government property with the district collector concerned, the sources said.

The accepted amendment proposed by BJP MP Brij Lal said that the "state government may by notification designate an officer above the rank of collector" to carry out an inquiry, as per law.

DALIT BODIES HOLD PROTESTS

ATTEMPT TO VANDALISE AMBEDKAR STATUE IN AMRITSAR DRAWS CONDEMNATION



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar/Chandigarh, Jan 27: Dalit bodies held massive protests in Amritsar Monday against an attempt to vandalise a life-size statue of BR Ambedkar by a man on Republic Day, while Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann asserted that exemplary punishment will be ensured in the matter.

Police Sunday arrested Akash Singh, a resident of Dharamkot in Punjab's Moga district, for allegedly attempting to damage the Ambedkar statue at the Town Hall on Heritage Street that leads to the Golden Temple.

A video clip purportedly of the incident went viral on social media, in which the man is seen climbing atop the statue using a steel ladder and carrying a hammer. He is seen hitting the statue multiple times with the hammer.

The man also caused damage to the Constitution book, which is part of the statue. He was later apprehended and handed over to police.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, Amritsar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said an FIR has been

lodged under relevant legal provisions, including sections 299 (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion), 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion) and 324 (mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sections of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Harmit Singh, who knows the family of Akash Singh, said he had gone to Dubai three years ago for work.

He was not in touch with his family, said Harmit Singh, who is also a resident of Dharamkot.

Akash Singh returned to India two-three months ago and started living in Amritsar, he said.

Meanwhile, members of Dalit communities held protests in Amritsar against the incident.

A complete "bandh" was observed in the city because of the protest call given by Dalit bodies. The protesters forced shopkeepers to down shutters. Educational institutions were also forced to shut. The protests were organised by the Balmiki Samaj and supported by various political outfits.

BAD PRECEDENTS & TOTALITARIAN TEMPTATIONS

A loophole in the law is like a bee in the political bonnet. A plug and play passion manifests when chasing power, and a stomp and strangle obsession when securely seated.

A politician in power is a designer who learns to dress a loophole before a law is clothed. Even loopholes big enough to drive trucks through. The journey of the Lokpal law in India and the Lokayukta Act in Gujarat is a case in point.

However, what drew immediate attention to the extent of the malaise infesting the political woodwork was a recent report in a national daily that the Lokpal, in the five years of its functioning, has ordered investigation in just 24 cases and granted sanction for prosecution in six only. The rejection rate of complaints, over this period of time stands at around 90 per cent and largely for not being in the correct format.

Has India gone magically corruption-free under the Narendra Modi-led BJP government? The government in August 2021 told Parliament

that the falling figures of complaints received by the Lokpal (1427 in 2019-20, 110 in 2020-21) was proof that there was little to complain about against the present government. The answer though lies elsewhere.

According to Transparency International, India ranked 93 out of 180 countries on the corruption perceptions index for 2023. The index calibrates on a scale of 0 to 100 with the former denoting very corrupt and the latter very clean. Data apart, the average citizen dealing with the nuts and bolts of the system from the cop on the road to the patwari in the village and the babu in the secretariat has bitter tales of palm-greasing to say. The higher you go, the larger the stakes. Changes in governing parties have made little difference on the ground.

India's first ombudsman which is provisioned to probe allegations of corruption against former and serving Prime Ministers, union cabinet ministers, members of parliament, public and civil servants alike had been long in the works.



The Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill, 1968 was first introduced in the fourth Lok Sabha when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister and nine times thereafter including twice in 2011 but fell through. The Lokpal Act was finally passed in 2013 during the tenure of the Congress-led UPA. It came into force from January 16, 2014.

The passage of the Bill was a sequence to a protracted agitation on an anti-corruption platform led by Anna Hazare. The setting up of an overriding constitutional authority (Lokpal) became the converging focal point of the stir. It is common knowledge that the

BJP and even the RSS had pooled the might of its cadre to provide support to it. In fact, the perceptions created by this agitation played no small a role in catapulting a Narendra Modi-led BJP government to power at the Centre in 2014.

As subsequent sequence of events point out, once in power the new government, apparently, seemed in no hurry despite the admonitions of the Supreme Court.

Lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan who played a major role in relentlessly pushing for judicial intervention is on record that the present government did not want to have

any kind of anti-corruption ombudsman but were finally forced by the Supreme Court to appoint a Lokpal. Interestingly, two former Gujarat cadre IAS officers figure as members, IP Gautam who has completed his term and Panjaj Kumar, still a member.

Interestingly, though the Lokpal Act was passed in 2013, the country's first Lokpal, Justice PC Ghosh, was appointed over five years later only on March 19, 2019, along with eight other members. Justice Ghosh completed his tenure in May 2022 but his replacement Justice AM Khanwilkar, a retired judge of the Supreme Court was appointed almost 22 months later to succeed him as the second Lokpal in March 2024.

All along there seemed to be no hurry in filling up a post that had seen a nationwide upsurge with the then opposition- and now the party in power- an intrinsic part of it! It was a template that had been cast earlier. Gujarat was without a Lokayukta for almost a decade during Modi's tenure as chief minister. Though the appointing body

was headed by the chief justice of the High Court, the appointment failed to materialise until Governor Kamala Beniwal finally chose retired Justice RA Mehta for the job.

The Modi government promptly knocked the doors of the judiciary but kept losing right up to the Supreme Court. It even sought to change the entire process of appointment of the lokayukta and had a Bill passed in the Vidhan Sabha which gave the chief minister primacy of place in the appointment of a person who was empowered to probe him. The effort floundered at the altar of the Governor who rejected it in 2013. Even the curative petition seeking a review of the apex court order seeking chief minister's say in the appointment of Lokayukta was dismissed by a five member bench. Though the judiciary, at the highest level upheld the appointment, retired Justice Mehta declined to take up the post citing the plea that it had got mired in too much controversy.

All bad precedents begin with justifiable measures and end in totalitarian temptations.



Yesterday we celebrated Republic Day when everyone promised to protect the Constitution and reiterated that it is the guiding principle for shaping our future. But today, the JPC was used unilaterally and in the name of UCC, you are imposing your decisions

JAISHANKAR EMBARKS ON 3-DAY VISIT TO UAE External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday embarked on a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to further enhance India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the influential Gulf nation



of the day quote

The BJP is heading towards a historic loss in the national capital. In its bewilderment, it is resorting to tactics, such as stopping the water supply. Haryana is intentionally draining industrial waste into the Yamuna to harm the people of Delhi and influence the election outcome unfairly

This is an exercise which is yet another waste of the taxpayers' money. The Tunnel Road Project is bad in design, poorly thought out and will not achieve the objective of resolving Bengaluru's traffic crisis

But the scenario could be different if the Congress fails to get enough votes by deliberately slow-peddling its campaign, which is being seen now as neither Rahul Gandhi nor Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra nor party chief Mallikarjun Kharge has hit the streets

BJP-RSS people traitors, beware of them: Kharge



Kharge took a swipe at the Modi government and said it was standing on 'two legs' -- BJP allies led by Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar -- and a simple push can topple it

and people should be wary of them, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Monday, claiming they talk about not looking for 'shivlings under mosques' but instigate people to do so.

"They had no participation, no part in the freedom struggle. Will you forgive such people?" Kharge asked the large gathering at the rally held in this Madhya Pradesh town where Ambedkar was born.

Kharge also took a swipe at the Modi government and said it was standing on "two legs" -- BJP allies led by Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar -- and a simple push can topple it.



In this image released by PMO, NCC cadets perform during the National Cadet Corps (NCC) PM rally, at Cariappa Ground in New Delhi, Monday

MAHA KUMBH

Amit Shah takes dip at Sangam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahakumbh Nagar (UP), Jan 27: Union Home Minister Amit Shah took a dip at the Triveni Sangam here Monday and described the Maha Kumbh as a unique symbol of the Sanatan culture's philosophy, which is rooted in harmony.



Shah took the dip around 1 pm, performed "jal aachman" (sipping holy water) and offered water to the Sun, besides performing other rituals under the guidance of top seers.

POST OF THE DAY

A dear friend paying taxes on his salary for last ten years lost his job in layoffs by company My simple question to government. Neither does he fall in group of freebies (which he funded for government to get votes). Neither he falls in government job which is more or less guaranteed nor for big farmers enjoying many subsidies and MSP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mhow (MP), Jan 27: The BJP and RSS are "traitors"

DELHI POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal Monday released the party's manifesto for the Delhi Assembly polls, featuring 15 promises such as ₹2,100 monthly aid for women, 24-hour clean water, free healthcare for the elderly and a 50 per cent metro fare concession for students.

Kejriwal lists 15 guarantees



At the launch of the manifesto titled 'Kejriwal ki Guarantee', the former Delhi chief minister signed a guarantee card pledging that the AAP will start giving women ₹2,100 per month as soon as it forms the government in the national capital.

Kejriwal appealed to the voters to press the AAP's 'jhadu' button, associated with Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity, on the electronic voting machines and not the BJP's 'lotus' button.

SHORT TAKES

Woman killed, 6 hurt in explosion

Giridih (Jharkhand): A woman was killed and six others were injured in an explosion at a house in Jharkhand's Giridih district early Monday, police said.

Tiger found dead

Wayanad (Kerala): A 'man-eater' tiger that killed a woman when she had gone to collect coffee beans in a forest-fringed estate two days ago, was found dead in Kerala's high-range district of Wayanad in the early hours of Monday, forest officials said.

SC gives split verdict on burial of pastor

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday gave a split verdict on the burial of a pastor, whose body was lying in a mortuary in Chhattisgarh since January 7, and directed his last rites to be performed at a site meant for Christian burials in the neighbouring village.

Chandigarh mayoral polls: Former Punjab, Haryana HC judge appointed as observer

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday appointed former judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court Justice (retd) Jaishree Thakur as an independent observer for the Chandigarh mayoral election to be held January 30.

CBI court sentences Himachal IGP, 7 other cops to life imprisonment

Chandigarh: A special CBI court here Monday sentenced Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police Zahur Haider Zaidi and seven other policemen to life imprisonment in a 2017 custodial death case.

Government of Odisha Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Balasore. e-Procurement Notice No. 06/SERW/BLS-II/2024-25

Khadi India CELEBRATING NEW KHADI REVOLUTION-2025 State Level Marketing & PMEGP Exhibitions

Government of Odisha DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RENGALI LEFT BANK CANAL DIVISION

SNIPPETS



I have dealt with him (Trump) in the past. He is a very practical man, he understands leverage and he understands advantage. You have to go to him and explain to him what you bring

AJAY BANGA | PRESIDENT, WORLD BANK

DUCK DNA FOUND IN BOTH ENGINES OF CRASHED SK PLANE

Both engines of the Jeju Air plane that crashed last month contained duck remains, according to a preliminary report Monday, with authorities still trying to determine what caused the deadliest air disaster on South Korean soil



CYBER-SCAM CENTRES

Embassy rescues 67 trafficked Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vientiane, Jan 27: Sixty-seven Indians who were trafficked and forced to work in cyber-scams centres in Laos have been rescued by the Embassy of India in Vientiane, officials here said Monday.

These youth were forced to work there under intimidation and abuse by criminal syndicates operating in Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (GTSEZ) in Bokeo province of Laos, the Indian mission here said in a press release.

"The Embassy of India has successfully rescued 67 Indian youth who had been duped and trafficked into cyber-scams centres operating at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (GTSEZ) in Bokeo Province of Lao PDR," it said.

Acting promptly on their requests for help, the Embassy dispatched a team of officials to GTSEZ, coordinating closely with Lao authorities to secure their release. Following necessary procedures and paperwork, the rescued individuals were transported from Bokeo to Vientiane, where the Embassy provided accommodation, food, and other essential support.

The Embassy has so far rescued 924 Indians, of which 857 have already been safely returned to India, it said.

The Embassy also cautioned Indian youth considering overseas job offers.

Gazans stream home to north

Having been repeatedly displaced over 15 months of war, cheers erupted at shelters and tent encampments when families heard news that the crossings would be opened

REUTERS

Cairo, Jan 27: Tens of thousands of Palestinians streamed along the main roads leading north in Gaza Monday, jubilant to be returning home after months of living in temporary shelter but fearing what might remain of their homes amid the bombed-out ruins.

Their return, which had been delayed at the weekend, went ahead after Hamas agreed to hand over three Israeli hostages later this week and Israeli forces began to withdraw from a main corridor across the enclave under the terms of an agreement on a ceasefire in the 15-month-long war.

In Israel, families of hostages waited anxiously for news of the fate of their loved ones.

Along a road running by Gaza's Mediterranean shore, a mass of people, some holding infants in their arms or carrying bundles of belongings on their shoulders, trekked north on foot.

"It's like I was born again and we were victorious again," said a Palestinian mother, Umm Mohammed Ali, part of the mile-long throng that moved slowly up the coastal road.

Witnesses said the first residents arrived in Gaza City in the early morning after the first



crossing point in central Gaza opened at 7:00 am (05:00 GMT). Another crossing opened around three hours later, letting in vehicles.

"No sleep, I have everything packed and ready to go with the first light of day," said Ghada, a mother of five. "At least we are going back home, now I can say war is over and I hope it will stay calm," she told Reuters via a chat app.

Children in warm jackets and carrying backpacks walked hand in hand, men pushed the elderly in wheelchairs and families posed for photos as Hamas-hired officials in red vests directed them along the road.

DESTRUCTION

Around 650,000 Palestinians were displaced from northern Gaza during the war, which was triggered by Hamas' October 7, 2023 assault on southern Israel in which 1,200 people were killed and 251 taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies.

More than 47,000 Palestinians have since been killed in the Israeli assault on Gaza, according to the Gaza health ministry. Many of those displaced have had to move several times as Israel designated parts of Gaza as humanitarian zones and then cleared them out before mounting bombardments and ground operations there.

Much of Gaza now lies in

- Israel gives greenlight to start of return of Gazans to north
- Hamas to free Israeli hostage Yehud, two others, before Friday
- 650,000 Gazans ready to go back to the north, Palestinians say
- Gazans reject Trump's proposal they leave the enclave

ruins. The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said returnees to the north need at least 135,000 tents and shelters as they try to reestablish their lives in the rubble-strewn landscape of their former homes.

HOPE

Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement, residents of northern Gaza were due to return at the weekend. But Israel said that Hamas had broken the deal by failing to release civilian female hostage Arbel Yehud and kept its forces in the Netzarim corridor that cuts across the enclave south of Gaza City.

Late Sunday, Qatari mediators resolved the dispute after Hamas agreed to release Yehud, along with female soldier Agam Berger and another hostage on Thursday, two days before the

MAJOR ESCALATION

Rwandan-backed rebels enter Congo's Goma

Fear and uncertainty after Rwanda-backed rebels claim takeover of eastern Congo's largest city

REUTERS

Goma, Jan 27: Rwandan-backed rebels marched into east Congo's largest city Goma Monday and Congolese troops exchanged fire with the Rwandan military across the border, in the worst escalation of the long-running conflict for more than a decade.

A rebel alliance led by the ethnic Tutsi-led M23 militia said it had seized the lakeside city of over 2 million people, a major hub for displaced people and aid groups which lies on the border with Rwanda and was last occupied by M23 in 2012.

The deep pounding of heavy artillery fire and rapid rat-a-tat of gunshots could be heard in a video of Goma airport, posted on social media and verified by Reuters, that showed unidentified armed men running on airport grounds.

"We can still hear gunfire coming from the airport. A rocket landed close to the church, behind our house," said one resident, speaking from Goma's



northeast Majengo neighbourhood.

Residents reported hearing or seeing clashes between government-aligned militia and M23 fighters in other areas too.

Corneille Nangaa, leader of the Congo River Alliance that includes the M23, told Reuters his forces were in control of Goma. "They (army soldiers) have started to surrender, but it takes time," he said. This could not be independently verified and it was unclear if the whole city was under M23 control.

Congo accused Rwanda of sending troops into its territory and threatening "carnage". The government urged residents to stay at home and refrain from

looting.

Congolese soldiers positioned on Mount Goma, a hill within the city, exchanged artillery fire with Rwandan troops on the other side of the border, in the town of Gisenyi, according to two UN sources speaking from a UN site between the two.

A Reuters reporter in Gisenyi saw columns of people fleeing, some holding children by hand or carrying heavy bags. One man had a mattress on his head. Gunfire could be heard in the background.

LOOTING AND JAILBREAK

Unverified videos posted on social media showed local residents looting merchandise outside the

airport customs warehouse. Adding to the chaos, thousands of inmates broke free from Goma's main prison during the night, a prison official said.

Hundreds of thousands of people displaced by recent fighting or earlier waves of conflict have sought refuge in Goma and in surrounding camps. The arrival of M23 rebels in the city risks causing a new displacement and humanitarian crisis.

Roughly the size of Western Europe, the Democratic Republic of Congo is home to 100 million people and its plentiful mineral supplies have long been coveted by Chinese and Western companies as well as by armed groups.

Its eastern borderlands are a tinderbox of rebel and militia fiefdoms stemming from two regional wars after Rwanda's 1994 genocide, when Hutu extremists murdered close to 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

War I. Under Horthy, Hungary instituted Europe's first anti-Jewish laws in 1920. Believing that Nazi Germany could help restore those lost territories in what are today Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, Horthy cooperated with Adolph Hitler throughout the war. However, despite existing anti-Jewish laws, he resisted German demands to deport Hungary's large Jewish population.

But, fearing Horthy would defect to join the Allies, Hitler ordered the invasion of Hunga-

ry in March 1944, and the mass deportations began.

In less than two months between March and May of that year, some 435,000 Hungarian Jews, primarily from countryside cities and villages, were deported to Auschwitz in Poland, most of whom were sent to gas chambers on their arrival. As the war approached its end, thousands of others were murdered by Hungary's own fascist Arrow Cross party, whose death squads shot Jews en masse into the Danube River in Budapest.

The Nazis killed some 6 million European Jews during the Holocaust – nearly 10% of them from Hungarian territories. An estimated 1.1 million people, mostly Jews, were killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau, some 435,000 of them Hungarians, more than any other nationality

Lukashenko extends 31-year rule as prez

Putin ally Lukashenko declared winner of Belarus vote that West calls a charade

REUTERS

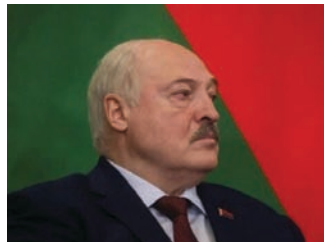
Minsk, Jan 27: Belarusian leader and Russian ally Alexander Lukashenko extended his 31-year rule Monday after electoral officials declared him the winner of a presidential election that Western governments rejected as a sham.

Lukashenko, who faced no serious challenge from the four other candidates on the ballot, took 86.8% of the vote, according to initial results.

European politicians said the vote was neither free nor fair because independent media are banned in the former Soviet republic and all leading opposition figures have either been jailed or forced to flee abroad.

"The people of Belarus had no choice. It is a bitter day for all those who long for freedom and democracy," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock posted on X.

Exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya called for an expansion of Western sanctions against Belarusian companies and individuals in-



I don't give a damn about the West. We have never refused relations with the West. We have always been ready. But you do not want this. So what should we do, bow before you or crawl on our knees?

ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO | LEADER, BELARUS

involved in repressing opponents of Lukashenko and supplying munitions for Russia's war effort in Ukraine.

"As long as Belarus is under Lukashenko and Putin's control, there will be a constant threat to the peace and security of the entire region," she said.

EU foreign affairs chief Kaja Kallas and Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos said in a statement the bloc would keep imposing "restrictive and targeted measures against the regime" while supporting civic society.

Jews remember Holocaust tragedy 80 years after Auschwitz liberation

The world observes International Holocaust Remembrance Day Monday, 80 years after the Nazis' most notorious death camp at Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviet Red Army Jan 27, 1945

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, Jan 27: On the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, in which nearly half a million Hungarian Jews lost their lives at the hands of the Nazis, Tamás Léderer still can't shake the sense that the world hasn't learned from the horrors of the 20th century.

Born in Budapest in 1938, Léderer, unlike most of Hungary's Jewish population, survived the Holocaust and evaded deportation to German camps by hiding in basements in Hungary's capital. His parents, he said, ripped the mandatory yellow star from his

clothing to conceal the fact that he was Jewish.

"I must not forget," he said of the fate of the some 565,000 Hungarian Jews that perished in the Holocaust, the mass murder of Jews and other groups before and during World War II. "In my subconscious, I can never get over the possibility that a six-pointed star could be placed on my gate again at any moment. It is always in my mind."

Tamás Vero, a prominent rabbi in Budapest, lost many of his family members in the Holocaust. His grandmother, who returned alive from Auschwitz, once told him that she thanked God that he'd become a rabbi so he could ensure the genocide



would never be forgotten.

"We carry in our genes what our grandparents' or our parents' generation went through," he told The Associated Press. "I think that in order for us to happily observe Jewish holidays or to have Jewishness in our homes, what they experienced must remain a fresh memory, and that mem-

ory has to be part of our lives."

At the outbreak of World War II, Hungary, then a kingdom, joined with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy to become an ally of the Axis powers. Hungary's leader, Regent Miklós Horthy, pursued an irredentist agenda which sought to regain territories Hungary had lost after World

of the day quote

Islamabad's unwavering commitment to the foundational principle of the One-China policy, which is a consistent cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and remains unchanged

MOHSIN NAQVI | INTERIOR MINISTER, PAKISTAN

Just hearing the Taliban is holding more American hostages than has been reported. If this is true, we will have to immediately place a VERY BIG bounty on their top leaders, maybe even bigger than the one we had on (Osama) bin Laden

MARCO RUBIO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

To keep NATO strong, we must, however, continue to adapt and to guarantee our security in the future, we also need to ramp up our efforts now. That also means we need to spend more on our defence

MARK RUTTE | SECRETARY GENERAL, NATO

SHORT TAKES

Iran purchases Sukhoi-35 jets

Dubai: Iran has purchased Russian-made Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, a senior Revolutionary Guards commander said Monday, amid Western concerns about Tehran and Moscow's growing military cooperation. This is the first time an Iranian official has confirmed the purchase of Su-35 jets. However, Ali Shadmani, who was quoted by the Student News Network, did not clarify how many jets were purchased and whether they had already been delivered to Iran. "Whenever necessary, we make military purchases to strengthen our air, land, and naval forces. ... The production of military equipment has also accelerated," the deputy Coordinator of the Khatam-ol-Anbia Central Headquarters said. "If the enemy acts foolishly, it will taste the bitter taste of being hit by our missiles, and none of its interests in the occupied territories will remain safe," Shadmani warned referring to Iran's arch-rival in the region, Israel.

EU prolongs its Russia sanctions

Brussels: The European Union agreed a 6-month extension Monday for a raft of sanctions aimed at depriving Russia of funds to finance its war against Ukraine after Hungary lifted its objections to the move. The sanctions target trade, finance, energy, technology, industry, transport and luxury goods. They include a ban on the import or transfer of seaborne crude oil and certain petroleum products from Russia to the EU. They will now remain in place at least until July 31. Some measures were introduced in 2014 after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, but the list grew significantly after Moscow's full-fledged invasion of its neighbour almost three years ago.

Graves desecrated in Pakistan's Punjab

Lahore: Nearly 40 graves belonging to the minority Ahmadi community have been desecrated by religious extremists believed to be the members of a radical Islamist party in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said Monday. Hateful graffiti targeting Ahmadis also appeared outside their houses in Sheikhpura, some 50kms from Lahore, a Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan official said. Police said that it would take action against those targeting the Ahmadi community's graveyards.

Business



India's exports are approximately USD 250 billion in the technology sector. And for us to be successful, I think we need to allocate a lot more to skilling and upskilling. We need to involve the academia. We need to involve the schools...we would need the government's support there

CP GURNANI | FORMER TECH MAHINDRA CEO

RUPEE FALLS 9 PAISE

The rupee depreciated 9 paise to close at 86.31 against the US dollar Monday, as strong dollar demand and a muted trend in domestic equities weighed on investors' sentiments. Forex traders said the Indian rupee gained Friday but opened on a lower note Monday due to added uncertainties over 'Trump Tariffs', while sustained foreign fund outflows dented investor sentiments further.



of the day quote

Today, connected cars drive a significant part of Hyundai's overall sales in India, surpassing half a million sales milestone. With the ever-increasing number of tech-savvy, convenience-seeking, and young car buyers, I am confident that the demand for connected car tech will rise rapidly in the coming years

JAE WAN RYU | HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA FUNCTION HEAD - CORPORATE PLANNING

We recommend increased allocation toward upskilling initiatives aligned with Industry 4.0, creating a future-ready workforce capable of excelling in advanced technologies like AI, IoT, and cybersecurity

WARREN HARRIS | TATA TECHNOLOGIES CEO & MD

If we are focused on bringing a lot of the foreign tourists to India, we also need to make sure that the visa operations, just the application of visa, just the entire process is very frictionless and seamless and convenient for... various countries

RAJESH MAGOW | MAKEMYTRIP CO-FOUNDER & GROUP CEO

Govt to ditch privatisation plans, pour billions in state-run firms

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pouring billions into ailing state-run firms after slowing ambitious investment plans that were intended to reduce the role of the state in business, according to government sources and a document reviewed by Reuters.

Less than a month into 2025, New Delhi has plans to invest about \$1.5 billion in financial rescue packages for two state-owned firms after failing to sell them to private companies.

It has also decided to put in "abeyance" privatisation of at least nine state-owned units after opposition from relevant ministries, according to a document that detailed recommendations of a government panel set up to identify privatisation candidates. The document, reviewed by Reuters, did not cite reasons for the decision.

The nine companies include Madras Fertilizers, Fertilizer Corp of India, MMTC and NBCC (India), the document showed. Housing and Urban Development Corp, that was also identified for privatisation, has now been 'exempted' implying it will not be sold, according to the document. Among the state-owned companies being revived with government funding is helicopter operator Pawan Hans.

The government is planning to infuse around \$230 million-\$350 million in Pawan Hans to modernise its aging fleet of helicopters after four failed attempts to sell the company, two government sources



said. The amount of infusion is still being finalised as the options being considered for fleet modernisation include both outright acquisition and leasing, one of the sources said.

The sources declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue. India's finance and civil aviation ministries did not immediately reply to e-mails seeking comment on the privatisation plans or on the Pawan Hans investment. The fund infusion in Pawan Hans and plans to halt the privatisation of nine firms have not been previously reported.

In 2021, Modi's government announced a major programme to privatise most of India's state-run companies. The plan was so drastic that even in the four sectors that India sees as sensitive, such as telecoms and banking, it wanted to keep only a minimum presence, while exiting from all other sectors.

But now it is planning rescue and revival plans for companies even outside the sensitive sectors.

Last week, the government announced a \$1.3 billion plan to revive debt-laden steel producer Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL). The government has also allocated 80 billion rupees in 2024/25 for bond repayments of state-run telco MTNL that has seen a series of defaults lately, according to budget documents for the current year.

PRIVATISATION SLOWDOWN

Four years since the privatisation policy was announced, the Modi government has had only three successes, out of which Air India's sale to the Tata Group was the largest. The other two were indirect holdings in steel-maker Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd to Tata Steel and Ferro Scrap Nigam to Konoike Scrap Co.

The U-turn in policy was partly driven by the expectation that some large state-owned firms could be overhauled and made more profitable, helping the government earn dividend income, Reuters has reported previously.

GOVT INVITES APPLICATION FOR SEBI CHIEF POST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: The government Monday initiated the process to find a successor for market regulator SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, who was involved in an alleged conflict of interest row.

The three-year term of Buch as Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson ends February 28. Buch turned 60 this month.

The Department of Economic Affairs under the Finance Ministry said the appointment will be for five years or till the candidate attains 65 years of age. Last date to file applications is February 17.

"The chairman should be a person who does not and will not have any such financial or other interests that are likely to affect prejudicially his function as the chairman," the advertisement said.

Similar clause was there last time as well when the government invited applications for SEBI chief in October 2021.

As per the advertisement issued Monday, the candidate should have "high integrity, eminence and reputation preferably above 50 years with more than 25 years of professional experience".

The candidate is also required to have a "shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to securities markets, or has special knowledge or experience of law, finance, economics, accountancy" which in the opinion of the central government shall be useful to the board.

RBI's liquidity bazooka raises rate cut hopes

REUTERS

Mumbai, Jan 27: India's central bank announced Monday a host of measures to inject liquidity into the banking system, including bond purchases and dollar/rupee swaps, which analysts and traders said could be a precursor to a rate cut next month.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) measures, expected to collectively infuse 1.5 trillion rupees (\$17.39 billion) into the banking system, come after months of a cash crunch in the banking system that had pushed up overnight and short-term lending rates.

"The urgency that was being felt in the market has been addressed by the RBI through these steps," said A Prasanna, head of research at ICICI Securities Primary Dealership.

"I think a rate cut would be the next logical action," Prasanna said, adding the announcements signal that the central bank is more confident about inflation management.

The RBI's rate-setting panel will announce its policy review Feb. 7, after the annual federal budget Feb. 1.

As part of the package, the RBI will buy government bonds worth 600 billion rupees in three tranches and conduct a 56-day variable rate repo auction worth 500 billion rupees Feb. 7, it said.

It will also conduct a USD/INR buy/sell swap auction of \$5 billion for a tenor of six months Jan. 31.

The RBI "will continue to monitor evolving liquidity and market conditions and



take measures as appropriate to ensure orderly liquidity conditions," it said.

India's banking system liquidity deficit had widened to a one-year peak in the previous fortnight.

The daily average banking system liquidity deficit jumped to 2.39 trillion rupees in the fortnight that ended on Jan. 24, as per latest RBI data. Liquidity has been in short supply due to slow government spending.

Treasury officials, who had met the central bank three weeks ago, had suggested longer-term repos, forex swaps and bond purchases to bridge the cash deficit in the banking system.

The benchmark bond yield could drop 5 basis points when it opens on Tuesday, said Ritesh Bhusari, joint general manager for treasury at South Indian Bank.

Yields had dipped Monday after data showed the RBI had already started buying bonds to infuse liquidity after announcing regular overnight repo auctions intended to give comfort to the markets.

"The measures are a signal to the market that inflation worries are behind us and that the RBI could begin easing monetary policy," Bhusari said.

SHORT TAKES

Canara Bank profit grows 12%

New Delhi: Canara Bank Monday reported 12.25 per cent increase in standalone net profit at Rs 4,104 crore for December quarter 2024-25 driven mainly by higher income and lower non-performing assets. The public sector bank's net profit was Rs 3,656 crore in October-December period of last financial year. Total income rose to Rs 36,114 crore during the third quarter of 2024-25 from Rs 32,334 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by the bank. Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio improved to 3.34 per cent as on December 31, 2024 from 3.73 per cent in September quarter and 4.39 per cent at the end of the year-ago period.

Coal India profit drops 17%

New Delhi: State-owned Coal India Ltd Monday reported a 17.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 8,491.22 crore in the quarter ended December 2024, mainly due to lower sales. The company had posted a profit of Rs 10,291.71 crore for the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE. Sales during October-December FY25 dropped to Rs 2,358.98 crore from Rs 33,011.11 crore a year ago, the filing said. Total expenses of the coal behemoth rose to Rs 26,201.55 crore during the latest third quarter from Rs 25,132.87 crore a year ago. On a standalone basis, CIL's profit during the reporting quarter rose to Rs 9,646.26 crore from Rs 9,316.40 crore in the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

IOC profit tanks on inventory losses

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, Monday reported a 64 per cent drop in its December quarter net profit as inventory and foreign exchange losses eroded gains from record fuel sales. Standalone net profit was at Rs 2,873.53 crore in October-December 2024 - the third quarter of April 2024 to March 2025 fiscal year (FY25) - compared with Rs 8,063.69 crore earnings in the same period a year back, according to a stock exchange filing of the company.

Credit cards more than doubled in 5 yrs: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 27: The number of credit cards has more than doubled to around 10.80 crore in five years through December 2019 but the number of debit cards has remained relatively stable, says a Reserve Bank report released Monday.

The report also said digital payments in India have grown exponentially in the last decade. While in calendar year (CY) 2013 there were 222 crore digital transactions valued at Rs 772 lakh crore, it has increased 94 times in volume and more than 3.5 times in value to over 20,787 crore transactions valued at Rs 2,758 lakh crore in CY-2024.

"In the last five years alone, digital payments in India have increased 6.7 times in volume and 1.6 times in value. This amounts to a five-year CAGR of 45.9 per cent in terms of digital payments volume and 10.2 per cent in terms of digital payments value," said the Payment System Report, December 2024.

It further said at end-December 2024, the number of credit

cards has more than doubled to around 10.80 crore as compared to December 2019, when there were 5.53 crore cards in circulation.

In contrast, the number of debit cards has remained relatively stable, with a marginal increase from 80.53 crore in December 2019 to slightly more than 99.09 crore in December 2024. The report further said that the Reserve Bank of India has been working towards enhancing cross-border payments by linking UPI with the fast payment systems of other countries.

Such linkages, it said, aid in addressing the issues of high cost, low speed, limited access and lack of transparency in cross-border remittance payments. The fast payment systems of India (UPI) and Singapore (PayNow) were linked in February 2023. Retail digital payments in India have grown from 162 crore transactions in the financial year 2012-13 to over 16,416 crore transactions in the financial year 2023-24 i.e., approximately 100-fold increase over 12 years.

76TH REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

- JSW Steel Odisha Mines Division**: A group of officials in uniform and civilian attire participating in a ceremony.
- Jindal Steel & Power**: A group of people in formal wear standing on a red carpet.
- ODM Public School**: A large group of children and staff members in school uniforms celebrating.
- NALCO**: A group of people in various uniforms standing in front of a banner.

Sensex tumbles 824 pts to end at over 7-month low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 27: Benchmark BSE Sensex tanked 824 points to settle at more than seven-month low Monday following heavy selling in IT and oil & gas shares amid weak global trends and increased uncertainty over US trade policy.

The 30-share BSE barometer plunged by 824.29 points or 1.08 per cent to close at 75,366.17 with 23 of its constituents ending lower and seven with gains. During the day, the barometer plummeted 922.87 points or 1.2 per cent to a low of 75,267.59.

The broader 50-share Nifty dropped by 263.05 points or 1.14 per cent to close at 22,829.15, tanking below the 23,000-level for the first time since June 6, 2024. In the intraday session, the NSE Nifty declined 305.3 points or 1.32 per cent to 22,786.90.

IT, telecom, utilities, power,

consumer durables, oil and gas and healthcare sector shares were major losers as investor sentiment was hit by uncertainty over US trade policy.

US President Donald Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs on Colombia after the latter blocked planes carrying deported migrants. The US reversed the decision after Colombia, a close US ally, agreed to take back deported migrants.

"Broad-based selling across sectors plummeted the Indian market amidst tepid earnings and weak sentiments across the globe," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

"The weak sentiments were further exacerbated as the US trade confrontation continued, like with Colombia this time. Heightened volatility is here to stay this week ahead the upcoming events risk like the FOMC meeting, expiry week,



and Union budget," Nair added. Among Sensex shares, HCL tech fell the most by 4.49 per cent followed by Zomato, Tech Mahindra, PowerGrid and Tata Motors.

Shares of Infosys, Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, Reliance Indus-

tries and Bharti Airtel also declined, dragging the index to more than seven-month lows. ICICI Bank, however, bucked the trend and rose 1.39 per cent following upbeat third-quarter results. Hindustan Unilever, M&M, SBI and L&T were

among the other gainers. "A combination of factors like weak US and European market cues, monthly F&O expiry later this week, persistent FII fund outflows, and muted third quarter corporate earnings so far have continued to push investors in reducing their equity exposure," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Strong selling in IT, telecom, metals, oil & gas and realty dragged Sensex below the 76k mark, whereas investors continued to exit mid and small-cap stocks on worries that slowdown in earnings will fail to match the higher valuations assigned to them, Tapse added.

The BSE SmallCap gauge declined 3.51 per cent and Midcap index slumped 2.68 per cent.

Among the sectoral indices, telecommunication plummeted the most by 3.83 per cent and

EVES CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THE INAUGURAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE 2024-25

Odisha Warriors script history



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Jan 27: Odisha Warriors were crowned champions of the inaugural women's Hockey India League after eking out a hard-fought 2-1 win over JSW

Soorma Hockey Club in the final here Sunday. Rutuja Dadaso Pisal scored a brace for the champions. She gave the Warriors the lead in the 20th minute but Penny Squibb (28th) equalised for

Soorma soon after. However, Rutuja found the back of the net again in the 56th minute to help the Warriors seal the match and lift the trophy. It was a high intensity clash right from the start with Odisha Warriors' Freeke Moes making the first circle entry while JSW Soorma Hockey Club continued to be exemplary in defence and rotated possession slowly to gain control of the game.

The back and forth exchanges, however, did not result in a significant shooting chance until the Warriors' Neha found Rutuja in front of goal but Soorma goalkeeper Savita charged out to diffuse the situation and the first quarter ended goalless. The midfield battle continued in the second quarter but the breakthrough came out of nowhere as Victoria Sauze looked to pass into the circle but it was deflected high and

JSW Soorma Hockey Club dominate end of season awards

JSW Soorma Hockey Club may have ended on the losing side in the final, but their players dominated the end-of-season awards. Savita was named the 'Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament,' while Jyoti received the 'Player of the Tournament' award. JSW Soorma Hockey Club's Sonam was named the 'Upcoming Player of the Tournament.' Meanwhile, Yibbi Jansen of Odisha Warriors and Charlotte Englebert of JSW Soorma Hockey Club finished as the top scorers of the tournament.

Soorma took the initiative as soon as the third quarter began with Charlotte Englebert and Olivia Shannon testing Jocelyn Bartram on multiple occasions. They went on to earn a penalty corner within five minutes, but Jyoti's attempt on goal was deflected away. The Warriors then attempted to regain control, making it an end to end game but neither was able to score till the end of the third quarter.

The last quarter was tense with both teams aiming to play it safe. With eight minutes left in the game, the Warriors earned their first penalty corner but Neha's shot was deflected well over the goal.

Soon after, on a counter attack, Rutuja picked up a loose ball in the circle and thundered it between Savita's legs to hand the Warriors the lead again.

They earned another penalty corner in the next minute but Yibbi Jansen's flick was charged down easily. The Warriors sustained Soorma's advances in the closing minutes and clinched the title with a 2-1 victory.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

CLINICAL SINNER DEFENDS TITLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Jan 26: There's all sorts of ways beyond merely the score to measure just how dominant Jannik Sinner was while outplaying and frustrating Alexander Zverev during the 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory Sunday that earned the 23-year-old Italian a second consecutive Australian Open championship.

The zero break points Sinner faced. Or the 10 he accumulated. The 27-13 advantage in points that lasted at least nine strokes. Or the way Sinner accumulated more winners, 32 to 25, and fewer unforced errors, 27 to 45. The way Sinner won 10 of the 13 points that ended with him at the net. Or the way he only let Zverev go 14 of 27 in that category, frequently zipping passing shots out of reach.

Sinner has held the No 1 spot since last June and is not showing any signs of relinquishing it. This was the first Australian Open final between the men at No 1 and No 2 since 2019, when No 1 Novak Djokovic defeated No 2 Rafael Nadal — also in

Sinner becomes the youngest man to leave Melbourne Park with the trophy two years in a row since Jim Courier in 1992-93, and the first since Nadal at the French Open in 2005 and 2006 to follow up his first Grand Slam title by repeating as the champion at the same tournament a year later

straight sets. "It's amazing," Sinner said, "to achieve these things."

Sinner has won three of the five major tournaments, including the US Open in September last year, meaning he now has claimed three straight hard-court Slams. His record is 80-6 with nine titles. His current unbeaten run covers 21 matches.

This one was joy. We managed to do something incredible this time, because the situation I was in was completely different from a year ago here. I had more pressure

JANNIK SINNER



SHORT TAKES

Kohli gears up for Ranji

New Delhi: Virat Kohli is expected to train with the Delhi Ranji Trophy squad from Tuesday ahead of his first domestic red-ball match since 2012, as the Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) prepares to ensure that all arrangements are in place for the maestro's highly-anticipated homecoming. Kohli was Monday officially named in the Delhi squad, led by Ayush Badoni, for their final group match against Railways at the Arun Jaitley Stadium starting January 30. This will be Kohli's first Ranji match since he played against Uttar Pradesh at Ghaziabad's Mohan Nagar in 2012. At that time, Kohli was a rising star in Indian cricket, and now, he is a legend in his own right, a former India captain, and the owner of 80 international centuries.

Soorma beat Lancers

Rourkela: JSW Soorma Hockey Club secured a hard-fought 5-3 victory against the Vedanta Kalinga Lancers in the Men's Hockey India League here Monday. Dilpreet Singh (5') gave the Lancers the lead but Prabhjot Singh (26') restored parity for Soorma. Harmanpreet Singh (32', 54') and Nicolas Keenan (33') extended Soorma's lead with quickfire goals in the third quarter. However, Theiry Brinkman (44') pulled a goal back towards the end of the quarter. Maninder Singh (51') and Harmanpreet found the back of the net to extend Soorma's lead further and even though Gursahibjit Singh (56') pulled a goal back in the dying minutes, Soorma walked away with all three points. Later, The Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers made a comeback for the ages by scoring two goals in the final five minutes to beat the Delhi SG Pipers 2-1 to enter the semifinals.

Nagal, Bopanna drop out

New Delhi: After spending 10 straight months in the top-100 in the ATP singles rankings, India's Sumit Nagal Monday dropped out of the much-desired bracket following a string of poor show while veteran Rohan Bopanna lost his place in top-20 due to an early exit from the Australian Open, where he was defending a lot of points. Nagal maintained his top-100 rank since March 2024 after first breaking into top-100 in February same year on the back of a good show at the first Major of the season. However, he has lost 16 places to be at number 106 with 565 points in the latest chart. The feisty tennis player has struggled on the demanding Tour, of late.

OFCW set for Odisha Derby against Nita FA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Odisha FC Women's team is set to play their second consecutive home game in the Indian Women's League (IWL) season 2024-25 against Nita Football Academy in the much-anticipated Odisha Derby Tuesday, 28th January 2025 at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. The kick-off is scheduled at 5 PM.

Odisha FC comes into this match after a tough 2-0 defeat to Sethu FC at home. With mixed results in their last three matches, they sit in 4th place on the league table with 4 points. Despite the loss, the team is looking to bounce back strong in their home ground.

Nita FA, in their inaugural IWL season, is currently in 5th

place, sharing the same number of points as Odisha FC. This marks the first-ever meeting between the two Odisha-based teams in the IWL.

In the pre-match press conference, when asked about the tough loss against Sethu FC, Odisha FC Head Coach Crispin Chettri said, "Honestly, we didn't deserve the point that day based on how we played. But football is like that, sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. When a team down to 10 players, they have more hunger and desire and Sethu proved that. We lacked that confidence and it showed in our performance. But every game is different, and we're focusing on a positive mindset for the next match. We're all eager to bounce back and win."

Tilak Varma's individual

India on course to seal series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, Jan 27: India captain Suryakumar Yadav will be expected to get back to his belligerent best after a prolonged lean run when his uber-aggressive unit takes on a struggling England in the third T20 International, aiming for a series-sealing win here Tuesday.

Since Suryakumar took over as captain last year, India have hardly put a wrong but his own form has dipped. The year gone by was the least productive for arguably the world's best T20 batter as he totaled 429 runs in 17 innings at an average of 26.81. Suryakumar averaged close to 35 in 2021, his first year in international cricket, before raising it to 45 plus in the following two years.

The 34-year-old from Mumbai is yet to fire in the five-match series against England and has a point to prove following his exclusion from the ODI Champions Trophy squad.

Though he is India's very own 'Mr 360', Suryakumar is at his finest when he is toying with the opposition attack with runs behind the wicket.

He perished while attempting his signature pick up shot of a slower ball in the series-opener before playing one on to his stump in the last game.

Tilak Varma's individual



brilliance got India over the line in Chennai but besides Suryakumar's lack of runs, Sanju Samson's short ball shortcomings were highlighted. Samson, who had a memorable series in South Africa, has been dismissed to the short ball from Jofra Archer twice in the series.

It is something he would look to correct on a Rajkot pitch which is usually full of runs and is expected to be another happy hunting ground for the Indians after wins in the first two games of the five-match rubber.

Though Archer and Mark Wood have posed a few challenges to the home batters, one man who has totally looked comfortable against extra pace is Tilak. The southpaw's pick up shot off Archer at Chepauk spoke a lot about his class.

ICC Awards: Bumrah, Mandhana reign supreme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Jan 27: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was chosen for the men's Test Cricketer of the Year, while big-hitting batter Smriti Mandhana bagged the women's Test Cricketer of the Year in the ODI format as Indian cricketers dominated the ICC individual awards that were rolled out Monday.

ICC announced three more awardees from its annual list this afternoon, continuing a process that started Friday. The final two honours – the men's and women's Cricketer of the Year – will be revealed Tuesday and Bumrah is in contention to bag a double after having been named in the Test Team of the Year.

Bumrah was a standout performer in the last 12 months in which he dominated all opposition teams, grabbing 71 wickets from a mere 13 matches at a brilliant average of 14.92.



I am really happy to win the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award. This format is always close to my heart. The last year was really special, to be having a lot of learning and wins

JASPRIT BUMRAH



I thank ICC for giving me the honour of ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year. I was happy to contribute to the team. I would like to thank my coaches and family for all the support and most importantly the teammates who have been with me through all the ups and downs

SMRITI MANDHANA

Bumrah bowled a phenomenal 357 overs in Test cricket in the cycle, maintaining a strike rate of just 30.1.

Bumrah, who was instrumental in India's home series victories over England and Bangladesh, was the fourth In-

dian bowler to take 70 or more wickets in a calendar year after Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble and R Ashwin.

The 31-year-old's brightest moments came during India's tour to Australia, where his astonishing 32 wickets across five Tests earned him the Player of the Series award, despite India going 1-3 down in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

During the series Down Under, Bumrah crossed the 200 Test wickets milestone, becoming the 12th Indian bowler to achieve the feat.

Bumrah also set a unique record while achieving the feat, becoming the only bowler in

Test history with a minimum of 200 dismissals to have an average less than 20 (19.4).

The pacer also led the team in the Perth Test, which India won by a whopping 295 runs, in the absence of Rohit Sharma, who was on a paternity leave.

It was also India's biggest Test win ever by runs.

He is the first male Indian cricketer to bag an individual ICC honour since 2018, when Virat Kohli claimed the Test player of the year as well as the cricketer of the year.

HONOUR FOR MANDHANA

Charismatic opener Smriti Mandhana brought further joy for Indian fans as she was named as the women's ODI Cricketer of the Year. She earlier featured in the women's T20 International and ODI Team of the Year.

The India vice-captain, who was the ICC women's Cricketer of the Year in 2018 and 2022, racked up 747 runs in 13 innings

in 2024 to bag the prestigious award. She put several batting stalwarts, including South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt, England's Tammy Beaumont and West Indies' Hayley Matthews, to shade.

The left-hander's tally was the highest among the leading run-getters in Women's ODIs last year, way ahead of Wolvaardt (697), Beaumont (554) and Matthews (469).

She scored four ODI centuries, a record in the women's game, and found the boundary more than a hundred times in the year, hitting 95 fours and six maximums. The 28-year-old cricketer's runs came at an average of 57.86 and an impressive strike rate of 95.15.

Some of her best innings came against high-calibre opposition, including her back-to-back centuries which guided India to a 3-0 series win against South Africa in June.