



**WELCOME:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi presents a memento to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inaugural function of 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## Value addition must: PM

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 28:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said he cannot accept raw materials getting exported and finished products being shipped into the country, asserting that value additions must happen in India.

Inaugurating the 'Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave' at Janata Maidan here, Modi said he considers eastern India as the growth engine of the country, and the state plays an important role in it.

"The country's development is not possible only by exporting raw materials. Therefore, we are changing the entire ecosystem and working with a new vision," he said.

"The minerals are extracted here and exported to some other country where value addition is done and finished products are then sent back to India. This trend is not acceptable to Modi," he added, citing the example of the export of marine products for processing in other countries. Urging all to recognise the challenges of the global supply chain in a changing world, the PM said India cannot rely on fragmented and import-based supply chains.

"Instead, a robust supply and value chain must be built within India to minimise the impact of global fluctuations. This responsibility lies with both the government and the industry," he said.

The PM said the milestone of a USD 5 trillion economy was

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not far away for India.

He said India's economy rests on two major pillars -- the innovative service sector and quality products. "The potential for green jobs is also growing significantly. There is a need to adapt to the demands and requirements of the times. India is focusing on green technology and a green future, including solar, wind, hydro, and green hydrogen, which will power the energy security of a developed India," he said.

The PM said the aspirations of crores of people were driving India's movement on the path of development.

"Today, India is moving on a path of development driven by the aspirations of crores of people. This is an era of AI. However, the aspiration of India, not just AI, is the power of our country. Aspiration grows when the needs of the people are fulfilled. In the last decade, the country has witnessed the benefit of empowering crores of people. Odisha represents the

same aspiration," he said.

Modi said the 21st century is about connected infrastructure and multi-modal connectivity.

"India is building specialised infrastructure at unprecedented speed and scale. It will make India a great destination for investment," he said.

The PM said ASEAN countries have shown interest in strengthening trade ties with Odisha. "I consider eastern India as the growth engine of the country, with Odisha playing a crucial role in this. History shows that during times when India significantly contributed to global growth, eastern India also made important contributions," he said.

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### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Not the Nagas--they booked their tickets around the auspicious dates!

## Trump threatens tariffs on India

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump vowed to work towards a 'trusted' partnership with a focus on boosting India-US cooperation in areas of trade, energy and defence, Trump Tuesday threatened to impose tariffs on countries that 'harm' America, naming India, China, and Brazil as those with high tariffs. To justify his move, Trump said the US will create a 'fair system' where funds will flow into the nation's coffers, ensuring that America becomes 'very rich again'. Earlier, Trump had talked about slapping '100 per cent tariffs' on the BRICS grouping, a bloc that includes India as well. Significantly, Trump's announcement comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to the White House next month.

AGENCIES

**Washington, Jan 28:** President Donald Trump has said that the United States will impose tariffs on countries that 'harm' America, naming China, India, and Brazil as those with high tariffs.

"We're going to put tariffs on outside countries and outside people that really mean harm to us. Well, they mean us harm, but they basically want to make their country good," Trump told House Republicans at a Florida retreat Monday, the first after he became the president for the second term last week.

"Look at what others do. China

is a tremendous tariff maker, and India and Brazil and so many other countries. So we're not going to let that happen any longer because we're going to put America first," he said.

He said that the US will establish a "very fair system where money is going to come into our coffers and America is going to be very rich again", adding that it will happen "very quickly".

Trump underscored that it was time for the US to return to the system that made it "richer and more powerful than ever before." Referring to his inaugural speech last week, Trump said: "Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich foreign nations, we should be tariffing and taxing foreign nations to enrich our citizens."

"Under the American first economic model, as tariffs on other countries go up, taxes on American workers and businesses will come down and massive numbers of jobs and factories will come home," he said. Earlier, Trump has already talked about slapping "100 per cent tariffs" on the BRICS grouping, a bloc that includes India as well.

During his address, Trump asked companies to come and set up manufacturing units in the US if they wished to avoid tariffs.

"If you want to stop paying the taxes or the tariffs, you have to build your plant right here in America. That's what's going to happen at record levels," he said.

### Kumki elephant 'Bhabani' dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Jan 28:** Bhabani, one of the most distinguished elephants in Similipal Sanctuary, passed away during treatment in the Jenabil Range elephant enclosure at 6:08 am Tuesday. The 68-year-old elephant, who had become visually impaired due to old age, had been a significant figure in the sanctuary's efforts to protect wildlife and promote tourism. Dr Prakash Chandra Gogineni, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF) and Field Director of Similipal Tiger Conservation Project, confirmed the death.

Bhabani was brought to Similipal from Karnataka's Forest department in November 2001 as part of a programme for wildlife protection and tourism development.

## DeepSeek disrupts global AI scene

**LONDON/SINGAPORE:** Global technology shares sank Tuesday, as a market rout sparked by the emergence of a low-cost Chinese artificial intelligence model entered its second day, making investors question the sky-high valuation and dominance of AI bellwethers.



Shares of Nvidia, a leader in the AI chip market, fell 17 per cent Monday, wiping \$593 billion from its market value - a record one-day loss for any company - and dragged US stocks lower.

By Tuesday, Nvidia shares were up nearly 6 per cent in Frankfurt, while those in Oracle rose 3.4 per cent and AI data analytics company Palantir rose 2.97 per cent, while tech shares in Europe wilted.

The sell-off was prompted by the release of a free AI assistant launched by China's DeepSeek last week that the startup said uses less data at a fraction of the cost of services currently available. That garnered attention worldwide, although scepticism over DeepSeek's cost claims lingers.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman called it an "impressive model", while US President Donald Trump called it "a wakeup call for our industries."

"We will obviously deliver much better models and also it's legit invigorating to have a new competitor!" Altman, the head of the AI firm behind ChatGPT, said in a social media post.

DeepSeek bursting onto the AI scene, seemingly out of nowhere, has upended the industry's perception that China was years behind its bigger US rivals.

Investors have dumped tech stocks everywhere, with ripples felt from Tokyo to Amsterdam to Silicon Valley.

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

**UTKARSH ODISHA**  
MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE '25  
BHUBANESWAR | 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> JAN | 2025

Join us on the journey to "Utkarsh Odisha"

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**Chief Guest**

**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

**Guests of Honour**

**Shri Jual Oram**  
Minister of Tribal Affairs  
Government of India

**Smt. Pravati Parida**  
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha  
Women & Child Development, Mission Shakti & Tourism Department

- This landmark event will feature thought-provoking panel discussions with Industry Leaders on Enabling Earning Opportunities for Women of Odisha
- Be part of the conversation shaping the future of SUBHADRA enterprises in Odisha

**29 January 2025 | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Janata Maidan Bhubaneswar**

Department of Women and Child Development  
Government of Odisha

DSPL-368

OIPR-33001/13/0062/2425



# leisure



**ARIANA GRANDE FOR MORE PROTECTION OF CHILD STARS**  
Singer-songwriter Ariana Grande is urging for more protection of child stars. The 31-year-old singer shot to fame as a teenager when she took on the role of Cat Valentine in the Nickelodeon sitcom *Victorious* in the late 2000s.

**GWYNETH PALTROW SELLS HER LA HOME FOR \$22MN**

American actress and business woman Gwyneth Paltrow has sold her house after dropping the asking price from \$29.99 million to \$22 million. *The Goop* founder had listed her 8,000 sq. ft. home in Mandeville Canyon, Brentwood, Los Angeles, last May.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
Logic and reasoning will hold court, while creativity takes a backseat today. There are challenges at work, but you are a dynamo and will meet them upfront. All tensions will be relieved by the loving touch of your near and dear. Such is life, sums up Ganesha.

**TAURUS**  
It will be an optimistic day with its share of day dreaming, says Ganesha. You will be submissive at work, giving in or blindly following the advice of your peers. Things at work may be tense and cause some trouble today afternoon, but they will be much more to your liking by nightfall as you return to the comfort of your beloved and your home.

**GEMINI**  
You are likely to be concerned about your finances, jointly held assets and property, says Ganesha. Also, you will be a little edgy today. Even the most insignificant problems will dampen your mood. You will probably take chances in money matters. Ganesha advises you to keep your cool and return to your charismatic self.

**CANCER**  
There is nothing extraordinary about today. You will be busy doing the routine work and will find contentment in the mundane. The absence of thrill and adventure doesn't mean that you'll be free for most part of the day.

**LEO**  
The complete family man that you are, it is your near and dear ones who have always laid the foundation of your success. So why should today be any different. The auspicious tides of the day begin from your home and follow you everywhere. Be it work or play, you have a tempo that is undiminished.

**VIRGO**  
Today, your ingenuity will breed ideas like rabbits. You have the healer's hands, and so shall you make right many a wrong, predicts Ganesha. You shall be most understanding, and reading people's mind will do wonders for you and your beloved.

**LIBRA**  
Put up that 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door today. That's because Ganesha feels the tingle in your bones to want to stick to your preferred subject matter. This will help you achieve good progress in your research. Also, expect to be hit by a wave of nostalgia, as loving memories from the past sweeten your heart.

**SCORPIO**  
Ganesha predicts you will possibly plan to launch a new product today. But put off the launch if you want to supersede certain unscrupulous elements. But after a waiting game, you may go ahead with your plan with much fanfare, says Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

**CAPRICORN**  
Today, you will get back to playing the power game, using both fair and unfair means to achieve your goals, says Ganesha. Intellectual growth will be phenomenal; equally good will be your intuitions. In fact, your gut feelings will guide all the decisions you take today, and rest assured, none will leave you in a soup.

**AQUARIUS**  
Your communication skills will work wonders today. Your eloquence will win you precious brownie points, and may prove highly beneficial in meetings. In fact, all your arguments will sound very persuasive. The trick is not to get ruffled, says Ganesha, when people don't agree with you.

**PISCES**  
'Love thy neighbour' is a commandment you may just end up implementing, literally, considering how religious scriptures provide you food for thought today. Spiritual pursuits will keep you occupied. You may also find yourself visiting places of religious significance, says Ganesha.

## Khusi's honesty

**Mumbai:** The industry of cosmetic enhancements is on a steady rise. The only thing really stopping it from going into a thorough boom in the layman's mind, are the exorbitant price points. Now while every other day, the internet is decoding what 'work' actors may or may not have gotten done, it essentially is a one-sided dialogue with not many of the subjects addressing the topic for what it is.

Slowly but surely however, things are changing and Khusi Kapoor's recent interview with *Curly Tales* is any sign. Addressing the same, Khusi said, "I don't think it's such a big deal. I think people feel that they'll get hate if they come out and admit it, but there's going to be hate anyway." She continued, "This term plastic, people think it's the biggest insult you can give someone. But, I don't think it's bad if someone gets work done. I think the issue is when people enhance themselves cosmetically and say that 'I woke up like this, I'm completely natural'. Then you are setting up an unrealistic standard of beauty. It's unfair for younger boys and girls who look up to you. You might just want to be honest, because people are not going to like you some way or the other."

Internet analysts were quick to give credit where it's due and appreciate Khusi for having, probably the most sensible take on this whole topic. AGENCIES



## Sahiba shares her Coldplay experience

**Mumbai:** Actress and host Sahiba Bali recently shared her excitement and gratitude for being part of Coldplay's pre-concert event in Ahmedabad. Reflecting on the surreal experience, she opened up about the thrill of hosting such a monumental event as the band's Music of the Spheres tour made its way to India. Sahiba hosted the pre-concert show for the Ahmedabad leg of the band's iconic *Music of Spheres* tour on January 26.

Talking about her experience, Sahiba shared, "I have been a massive Coldplay fan

since I was a kid, their music hooked me from the start. I even had a poster of one of their live shows on my wall and always dreamed of being at a concert. Five months ago, I finally made it to Vienna, the music capital, to see them live. But what I never saw coming was not just attending, but actually working at their biggest concert ever in India! It's been an absolutely surreal experience, and I'm so thankful to my team, my colleagues, and Jio Star for making it all possible."

Sahiba has made a name for herself through her work on

*Shark Tank India*, as well as her associations with Star Sports and Zomato. Beyond her career in the business world, she has earned recognition as a versatile actor, cricketer presenter, influencer, and content creator. IANS



## Fatima on her ordeal

**Mumbai:** Several Bollywood actors have opened up about their casting couch experiences, and Fatima Sana Shaikh is the latest to share her unsettling encounters. In a candid conversation with *Bollywood Bubble*, she recounted her ordeal.

Fatima spoke about an uncomfortable interaction with a casting agent for a South Indian film. The agent's repeated insinuations made her uneasy. She shared, "He will be ready to do every-

thing, right?" I told him that I will be working hard and will do what is required for the role, but he kept saying that, and I played dumb because I wanted to see how low can

he get." Reflecting on the incident in Hyderabad, Fatima further said, "The producers would talk about it very openly, 'You know, here you have to meet people'. They wouldn't say things outright but would imply them in strange ways. Of course, they'd say it indirectly but make their intentions clear. They'd say things like, 'You have to meet people', or 'You have to do this and that'."

Despite these challenges, Fatima acknowledged that not everyone in the industry behaves in such a manner. She expressed sadness

ed bond with a 70-year-old indigenous woman in the Himalayas. FSB President Subrata Beura emphasised the festival's vital role, saying, "FSB will continue its efforts to bring fresh works by emerging filmmakers to Bhubaneswar. While the city lacks a major film festival in its cultural calendar, we have managed to create a platform for cinema enthusiasts and students, despite the challenges."

The event was supported by print media partners **OrissaPOST** and **Dharitri**. PNN



The volunteers of Film Society of Bhubaneswar

## 7-day IFFB concludes with screening of restored Odia classic Maya Miriga

**Bhubaneswar:** The 7-day Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB), organised by the Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB), concluded Tuesday at the Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra (GKCM) Odissi Research Centre. The festival wrapped up with a special screening of the newly restored version of Nirad Mahapatra's 1984 Odia classic *Maya Miriga*, a landmark in the state's cinematic history, with support from the Film Heritage Foundation.

The screening marked a celebration of his contribution to the cinema. Mahapatra, who had a close association with FSB in its early days, also conducted master classes for participants during the festival.

Earlier, the last day of the event kicked off with a special screening of the previously unseen director's cut of National Award-winning filmmaker Vetrimaaran's *Viduthalai*, which explores the violent resistance of an oppressed tribal community against state exploitation. This exclusive 4 hour version, starring Vijay Sethupathi, delves into the ethical dilemmas of a police officer



### PEANUTS



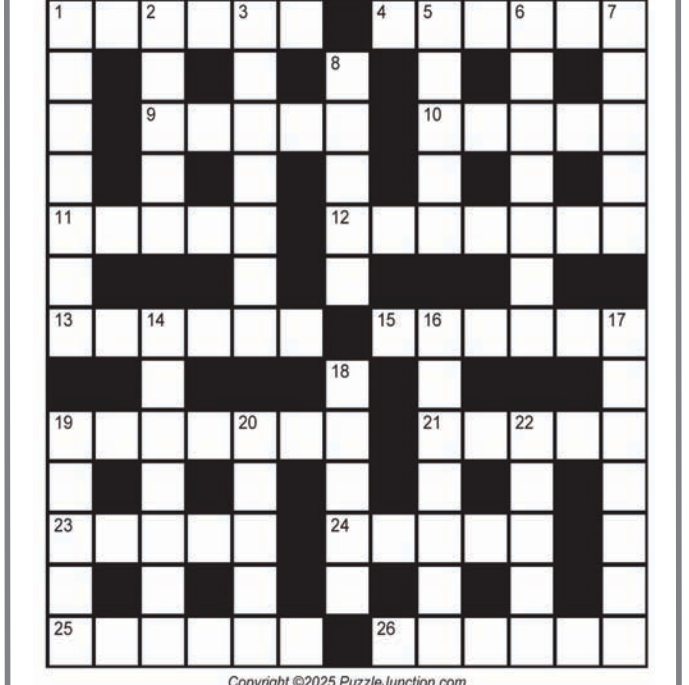
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



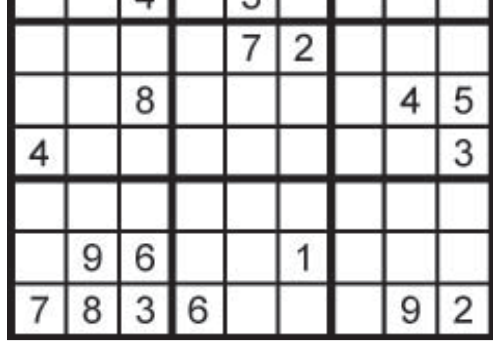
### CROSSWORD



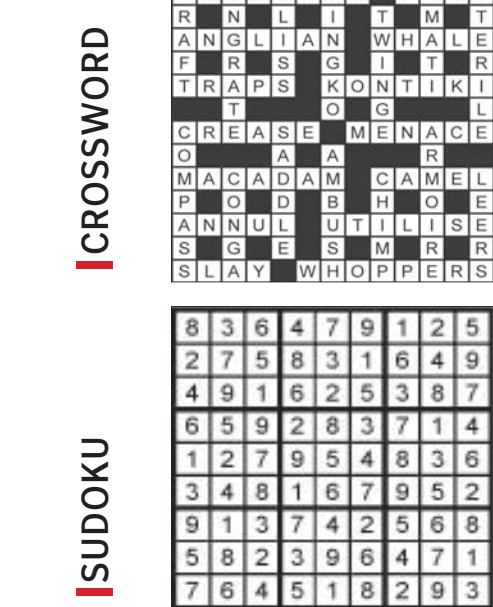
- Across**
- 1 Goes with the flow
  - 4 Tack on
  - 9 Large-eyed primate
  - 10 Tartan
  - 11 Leg bone
  - 12 Overshadow
  - 13 Type of dust or ray
  - 15 Cling
  - 19 Scene
  - 21 Cravat
  - 23 Greek letter
  - 24 Sight-related
  - 25 Sharp as a tack
  - 26 Skin disorder
  - 5 Eye part
  - 6 Model
  - 7 Sidestep
  - 8 Attempted
  - 14 Corrupt
  - 16 Severe
  - 17 Baltic Sea republic
  - 18 Panelist
  - 19 Aquarium fish
  - 20 Glorify
  - 22 Secret store

### 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.



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# Kumki jumbo deaths in Similipal spark concern

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Jan 28:** Two back-to-back deaths of trained kumki elephants - Mahendra and Bhabani - in Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary within a span of just 15 days have sparked concern over safety of the gentle giants while allegations have come to the fore about negligence and inaction by the Forest department in arresting the tragedies, according to reports.

During a memorial gathering for Mahendra, animal lovers expressed apprehension that elephants in Similipal are increasingly becoming vulnerable to threats. The sanctuary spread over 2,750 sq km, had deployed trained elephants alongside forest personnel for wildlife security and anti-poaching activities.

Mahendra along with two other female elephants—Shobha and Bhabani—had been brought from Karnataka to aid in guarding the sanctuary, driving out poachers, and preventing illegal timber business.

The trained elephants played a critical role in conservation efforts under tiger protection programme. Forest staffers relied on them to access the core areas of the reserve forest for monitoring tiger movements, which are otherwise difficult to navigate. These elephants facilitated tasks that were otherwise beyond the



Bhabani



Mahendra

reach of the department's personnel.

The deaths began with Shobha, whose passing reportedly altered the behaviour of the remaining elephants, Mahendra and Bhabani. Following Shobha's death, Mahendra fell ill and was under veterinary care. Despite efforts, Mahendra died at 10pm, January 12. Distressed over the loss, Bhabani also stopped taking food and

water, and was found unresponsive Tuesday morning and died.

Animal lovers and conservationists have criticised the Forest department for failing to provide adequate care and monitoring for the trained elephants, which were integral to the sanctuary's protection efforts. The series of deaths has raised questions about the management and welfare of the animals entrusted to safeguard the biodiversity of Similipal.

Similipal is now home to only one trained elephant, Rajkumar. Previously, Rajkumar and Mahendra were relocated to Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in Angul district to bolster tiger conservation efforts. However, after four years, both the elephants were taken back to Similipal.

According to Bhanumitra Acharya, an independent director of Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) and a former honorary wildlife warden, frequent relocations and a lack of proper medical care have led to the death of many elephants. Recently, the unexplained death of elephants in Similipal has sparked concerns about wildlife protection measures.

On January 5, forest officials rescued a baby elephant from a murrum pit in Pakamunda village, about 4 km from Karanjia range

office. The calf was sent to Nandankanan Zoological Park for treatment but unfortunately it died there. The death of three kumki elephants in a month has raised questions about the adequacy of departmental actions to ensure the safety of these animals.

Despite being recognised as an elephant conservation project, Similipal lacks proper resources to safeguard its elephant population. This inadequacy has forced elephants to stray into rural and urban settlements.

The latest elephant census report shows the presence of 384 elephants in Baripada circle, while 295 of them are residing in the five forest divisions of Similipal. However, Baripada circle, spanning seven forest divisions, has seen a decline of 49 elephants as compared to previous census. However, the Forest department is yet to address this decline or the factors contributing to it.

Environmentalists like Sanjukta Basa have criticised the lack of stringent measures against elephant deaths caused by electrocution, which remain alarmingly high due to negligence of both Railway and Forest departments. Despite efforts by the state and Union governments to implement various conservation measures, their impact has been minimal.



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**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

## SECTORAL SESSION

**Theme: Renewable Energy for Viksit Odisha**

29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (10:00 - 11:30 Hrs)  
Hall-1, Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar - 13

NB: Entry through registration only

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4 get life term jail for 2012 couple's murder



Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: The District and Sessions Court, Khurda here Tuesday awarded life imprisonment to four persons after holding them guilty of killing an elderly couple in the City in 2012.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (III) Himanshu Sekhar Mallick handed down life imprisonment to Bijay Yadav, Ranjit Jena, Priyaranjan Pati and Butu Jena for killing Kunjabihari Panigrahy, 73, and his wife Jyotsnadevi Panigrahy, 72, of Acharya Vihar area under Saheed Nagar police limits after looting valuables from their residence September 13, 2012, Special Public Prosecutor Bidhu Bhushan Mohanty said.

According to the case details, the couple stayed at L3-134 in Acharya Vihar, a major residential area of the City. The multi-storey building, owned by

The couple stayed at L3-134 in Acharya Vihar, a major residential area of the City. The multi-storey building, owned by Panigrahys, also housed at least 90 students who were rented out rooms

Panigrahys, also housed at least 90 students who were rented out rooms by the couple.

Bijay, then a business administration student and residing at the couple's house on rent, was aware of the property and hatched a conspiracy with the three others to loot the senior citizens. Around midnight, they first tried to rob Kunjabihari, a

retired superintending engineer, of his belongings. When he resisted their attempts, they hit him with a wooden stick and smacked his head with an empty gas cylinder even before he could shout. The old man fell unconscious.

All this while Jyotsnadevi was on the ground floor of the building. When she went upstairs, they strangled her to death with a computer cable wire. It was at about 5am the next day when Bhanumati, their house help, came in and found that the grill was ajar but the door to bedroom was closed. She called the couple a few times and received no answer. After cleaning the room, she went away thinking the Panigrahys must be at the temple but when she did not find them there, Bhanumati returned at about 10am and went inside to discover the terrible scene of the couple lying in a profusely bleeding condition on the second floor of their home. When police came in after being intimated by one of the boarders, an ambulance had also been called in. Kunjabihari was shifted to a nearby private hospital where he died during treatment a few days later.

Later, the culprits were arrested and trial began. The incident sent shock waves in the City, raising serious questions about safety and security of senior citizens.

Pope urges bishops to prioritise the poor

Pontiff, in his message, calls for opening the doors of the Church to the marginalised during the 36th CCBI plenary assembly in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: Pope Francis called on the Indian Bishops to prioritise the poor and the vulnerable in their misery, urging them to open the doors of the Church, in his message at the 36th plenary assembly of the Conference of

Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) at XIM University here, Tuesday.

The assembly was inaugurated by Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal archbishop Leopoldo Girelli who also presided over the solemn eucharistic celebra-



tion marking the event's commencement. SVD Archbishop John Barwa welcomed the bishops and dignitaries, highlighting Odisha's rich history, cultural diversity, and blend of tradition and modernity.

In his presidential address,

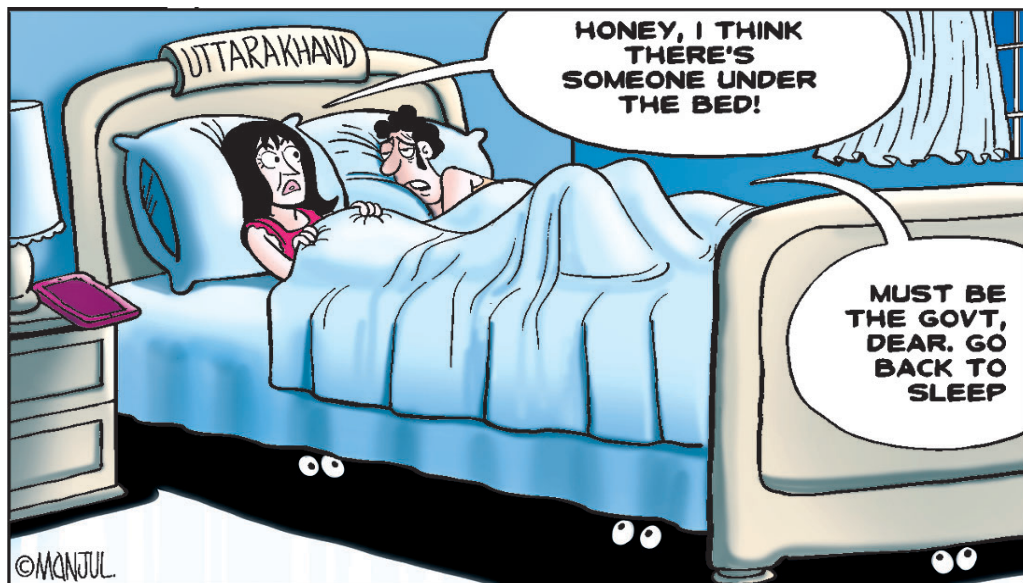
CCBI and Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences president Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao emphasised solidarity, prayer, and action to safeguard the dignity and freedom of the Church.

CCBI secretary general Archbishop Anil Couto presented

the annual report, while XIM University vice-chancellor Rev Antony Uvari delivered the felicitation message. CCBI Deputy Secretary General Rev Stephen Alathara proposed the vote of thanks. The assembly, with the theme "Discerning Synodal Pathways for Mission," aims to foster collaboration and renewal as the Church reflects on its future path in mission and synodality.

The gathering marks a significant moment for the Church in India, focusing on its mission to serve the marginalised and promote unity.

POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



CUO hosts workshop on visual content verification

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Jan 28: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) in Koraput hosted a one-day workshop on visual content verification at its Sunabeda campus Tuesday. The workshop was jointly organised by the CUO department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the NSS Bureau.

The event, attended by more than 100 students, aimed to educate participants on the importance of verifying digital content before sharing. Dean of Students' Welfare (DSW) Ramendra Kumar Parhi graced the event as the chief guest.

In his address, Parhi encouraged students to familiarise themselves with basic techniques and tools for verifying visual content to avoid the spread of misinformation.

Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and a trainer with the Google News Initiative in India Manash Pratim Goswami was the resource person for the workshop.



He provided practical training to students on using various tools for verifying visual content's authenticity.

Goswami shared his expertise on the process of verifying text, images, and videos. He emphasised the importance of cross-checking information in the digital age, particularly in light of the growing influence of social media.

He warned of the harmful effects of misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information, stressing that it is crucial to verify content before sharing or forwarding it.

The workshop was welcomed by the department of Journalism and Mass Communication head Nikhil Kumar Gouda who highlighted the need for verification tools for media professionals. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by CUO NSS coordinator Anjaneyulu Thotapally.

SSEPD dept holds 2-day review meeting in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: The department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) inaugurated a two-day review meeting for district social security officers at the Loka Seva Bhawan convention centre Tuesday.

The event was presided over by Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Nityananda Gond.

Minister Gond, in his address as the chief guest, expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for increasing the monthly pension for beneficiaries aged 80 years and above, as well as individuals with 80 per cent or higher disability under the Madhubabu Pension Scheme and National Social Security Programme. The pension amount was raised from ₹1,200 to ₹3,500.

Emphasising the importance

of proper implementation, Minister Gond offered guidance to district and block-level officials. He also listened to challenges faced in various districts and discussed possible solutions with departmental representatives.

SSEPD director Niyati Pattnaik welcomed participants from across districts, while additional secretary Deepak Routrai delivered the vote of thanks.

Presentations on departmental schemes and programmes were made by FA-cum-Special Secretary Jayashree Tripathy and Additional Secretary Sonia Behera. Additional Secretary Santosh Kumar Pradhan coordinated the meeting.

Experts from various fields were invited to share their insights, enriching the discussions. On the second day, visits to different institutions under the department's purview are scheduled. The meeting aimed to enhance coordination and address challenges in the department's programmes.



Relevance of Upanishads in governance discussed at UU



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: The department of Public Administration at Utkal University, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) regional branch, hosted the second edition of the 'Policy Dialogue Series' for 2025.

The event, held at the university's e-Library premises Tuesday, was themed 'Democracy at Crossroads: Ethical Dilemmas and Demurs for Governance.'

The session brought together prominent administrators, academicians, scholars, and students to engage in discussions on governance and its

ethical implications. OOPA chairman Karunakar Patnaik, who chaired the event, emphasised the timeless relevance of Indian philosophical traditions, such as the Upanishads and the Vedas, in shaping good governance. He highlighted the concept of self-governance and urged youth to adopt these values for personal and societal growth.

The keynote speaker, Sanjaya Kumar Pattanayak, chairman of the Biju Patnaik Film and Television Institute of Odisha (BPFTIO), delivered a thought-provoking address on 'Upanishads and Governance.' He stressed the importance of integrating moral principles and ancient wis-

dom into administrative practices to improve governance. Reflecting on the teachings of the Mundaka Upanishad, he quoted 'Satyameva Jayate' (Truth Alone Triumphs) and invoked the Katha Upanishad, urging perseverance despite obstacles. He likened the path of public service to a razor's edge, difficult yet essential for progress.

The event began with a welcome address by Pratima Sarangi, Head of the Department of Public Administration, while Chitra Kanungo, IIPA vice-chairperson, introduced the distinguished guests. The event was coordinated by assistant professor Hemant Kumar Dash.

WEATHER table with columns for BBSR, CTC, Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, Rainfall, and FORECAST.

MARKET WATCH table with columns for INDEX, VARIATION, SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, SILVER.

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AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit No. 152/19.03.24, sworn before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I, Barsarani Samal, aged about 29 years, D/o. Ajaya Samal, Resident of At/P.O.: Bangara, P.S.: Binjharpur, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha - 755016, Aadhaar No. xxxx xxxx 5346 declare that, I have changed my name from Barsarani Samal to Varsha Samal. Henceforth I will be known as Varsha Samal for all future purposes.

Unurum 3.0 to kick off at Fakir Mohan University today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Jan 28: Fakir Mohan University, in partnership with the department of Language, Literature, and Culture, will kick off the much-awaited cultural festival, Unurum 3.0, from January 29 to 31 at its new campus.

The event, which will bring together artists, cultural enthusiasts, and literary figures, aims to celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of Odisha and offer a platform for traditional and modern expressions of art.

The festival will open with a formal inaugural ceremony, followed by the opening of four specialized workshops focused

on different cultural activities. Fakir Mohan University vice-chancellor and principal advisor, Santosh Kumar Tripathy, expressed excitement about the festival's potential to engage the local community in a range of artistic and cultural expressions.

On the inaugural day, the festival will showcase Jhota Chita competitions, where students will create traditional designs using rice flour, and a handicraft exhibition, highlighting local artisans' work. A mixed workshop will offer hands-on opportunities for participants to explore different art forms. A book exhibition will be held, along with a Pitha corner,



where visitors can sample traditional Odia sweets, and a Baleswari Paan stall, offering a local delicacy.

The evening will feature a cultural programme inspired by the works of renowned Odia writer Fakir Mohan Senapati, including poetry recitations, folk music, and performances like horse dance, Sri Lankan

folk dance, Bodo dance, Tagore dance, Tiva Borat tribal dance, and mime performances.

Day two will highlight a poetry recitation festival focused on the lives and cultures of Odisha's tribal communities. Thirty distinguished poets will participate, bringing tribal traditions to the forefront.

The evening will showcase

Odissi, Manipuri, Rabha dance, Santali dance, Rabindra Sangeet, Dhensa dance, Mundari dance, and Ahamiya dance, offering a diverse array of performances.

The festival will conclude day 3 with a storytelling festival dedicated to Odisha's folktales, immersing attendees in the region's rich oral storytelling tradition.

Evening cultural programmes will feature Bihu dance from Assam, Nagaland's folk dance, Sambalpuri dance, Khejani Bhajan, Ghumura dance, Meghalaya's folk dance, and additional mime performances.

International guests, includ-

ing Jaya Sharma from Nepal, Svetlana Gadlina from Russia, and Chandini Kasturi Arachi from Sri Lanka, will add a global dimension to the festival. Diana Mohapatra will lead a folk art event, with Varna Dekha from Assam also taking part.

This year's festival adopts the Matighoda (clay horse) as its symbolic representation, reflecting rural Odisha's cultural essence.

Organizers, including PG Council chairman Bhaskar Behera and Debasish Patra from the Odia department, have called on the people of Balasore, Remuna, and Nilgiri to actively participate in making the festival a grand success.

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**NGT NOTICE TO GOVT**

**BAJABATI STONE QUARRY: GREEN NORMS BITE DUST**

**Jajpur, Jan 28:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Chief Secretary of Odisha to submit a reply within four weeks over grant of environmental clearance to black stone quarries under Dharmasala tehsil in this district as the lessees have submitted false information while applying for the quarries and are resorting to illegal mining practices, according to a report.

Arun Kumar Jena and others had filed a petition before the NGT alleging that several business entities have committed irregularities to secure lease of black stone quarries under Dharmasala tehsil. It was alleged that false information and forged documents were submitted to obtain environmental clearance (EC) for three quarries—BSQ 1, 3, and 5 located on Bajabati hill. The matter has been brought before the apex environmental



watchdog under case number 11/2025/EZ. A bench of NGT comprising Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Arun Kumar Verma heard the matter,

January 23, 2025 and issued notices the Chief Secretary, the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the Deputy Director General of Forests. According to the petition, out of six mines covering 35.66 acres operating on Bajabati hill, three have been acquired

by Agarwal Infrabuild Private Limited. However, it is alleged that illegal mining is being carried out in violation of lease agreements. Complaints indicate that unsafe blasting practices are taking place, by making excessive depth in the quarry—surpassing the permissible 6-metre limit. Dharmasala tehsildar issued a show-cause notice to the leaseholders regarding the illegal quarrying March 16, 2023.

Bajabati stone quarry is situated within a 200-metre radius of Bajabati village, an Anganwadi centre, Baba Gaudabudha temple, and Nakapola-Mandia road. This is in violation of the statutory norm of 500 metres. Moreover, Bajabati primary school, community ponds, and temples, and other facilities like Kanhupur Anganwadi centre, primary schools at Nukhunta, Jharsahal, and Kantamalia villages fall within a 500-metre range.

**Man dies in road mishap**

**ROURKELA:** A 47-year-old man was run over by a truck near Birkera Relaposh under Brahmanitarang police limits in Sundargarh district Monday night. The deceased was identified as Mahadeb Khalkho, a resident of Ranto Tungurutola. According to sources, Khalkho was on his way home in a bicycle when a truck (OR 15-P-3945) hit him near Birkera Relaposh leading to his death on the spot. On being informed, Brahmanitarang police reached the spot, seized the body and sent it for post-mortem. Police also seized the truck from the spot. The body was handed over to the family members of the deceased after the post-mortem was conducted, said the police.

**Rourkela DFO feted for using AI to save elephants**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Jan 28:** Divisional forest officer (DFO), Rourkela Jasobant Sethi has been conferred with 'Elite 100 Changemakers of Odisha 2024' award for innovative use of artificial intelligence (AI) in protection of wildlife.

He received the award from Governor Haribabu Kambhampati at a function held in Bhubaneswar during the Republic Day celebration. Sethi, in a pilot project, innovatively used AI in protection of wildlife under Rourkela Forest Division. Implementation of the AI-backed tracking system immediately showed results as it managed to save five elephants that were



perilously closer to the railway tracks. These elephants were part of a larger herd consisting of 28 elephants. Rourkela and its nearby areas have criss-crossing railway tracks. And the place has an infamous history of elephant deaths due to collisions with

moving trains. Two months ago, one elephant died and another injured near Bisra. "Keeping these facts in mind, I thought about devising an alarm system with 24 hours monitoring at my office so that precious wild lives can be saved. And AI came as an answer to that," said the DFO. When the towers were established, a chief engineer from Indian Railways visited the spots along with the forest officials.

At this moment as part of the pilot project in Odisha four towers have been set up at strategic locations. "The cameras have the capacity to send real-time pictures to our control room 24x7," informed the officer. During night the thermal images appear at the control room, making it easier to keep track of things like forest fire, poaching, jumbo deaths due to collision of trains," he added.

"Our mock drills using our staff as poachers to spot at night have been successful," he asserted. Each tower costs ₹52.8 lakh for installation and maintenance throughout the year.

**AI camera helps nab poachers in Similipal**

POST NEWS NETWORK


**Baripada, Jan 28:** Forest department officials Tuesday arrested two poachers using artificial intelligence (AI) cameras at Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district. The accused were identified as Rajkishore Naik, 29, of Nachhipur village, and Kalicharan Dehuri, 23, of Pagadadihi village under Kaptipada police station.

The department seized five country-made firearms, explosives, and hunting equipment from the accused. During a raid at their homes, officials also confiscated a Sambar deer horn, a spotted deer horn, two snares, a bow, and three arrows. A case has been filed against the poachers under Wildlife (Protection) Act, and they have been sent to court. Additionally, a separate case will be filed under Arms Act for illegal possession of firearms, according to Samrat Gouda, deputy director of Similipal Tiger Conservation Project, Southern Division.


According to sources, five poachers had entered the south-western core region of the Similipal Sanctuary with the intention of hunting wildlife. The AI cameras in the forest captured their images, prompting an immediate alert to the authorities. Forest department personnel, along with a special enforcement squad, launched a search operation during which the poachers were apprehended. However, three others managed to flee. The department has requested the court to remand the accused for further investigation, and efforts to capture the absconding poachers are underway.

Despite the use of AI cameras to track poachers, hunting in Similipal remains a persistent issue. Poachers manage to breach security measures such as AI technology, watchtowers, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and sniffer dogs, and continue to hunt in the sanctuary's core areas. While smaller herbivorous animals, such as Sambar, spotted deer, and wild boar, are targeted, large-scale poachers, including those hunting elephants and tigers, continue to operate with increased sophistication.

Animal lovers have called for urgent action to fill vacant positions in Forest department and enforce stricter laws to completely eliminate poaching in Similipal.



# Mahasangam of Unity and Faith





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Mahakumbh 2025  
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Amrit Snan on  
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29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025






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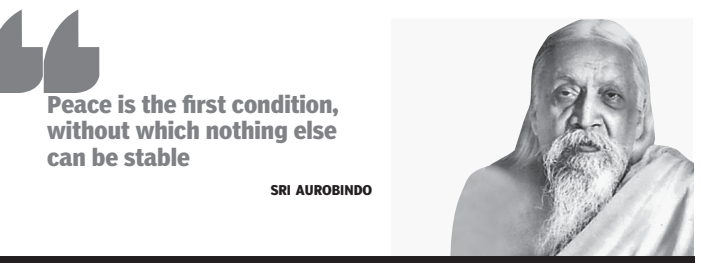
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SRI AUROBINDO

## AI Push

When US President Donald Trump unveiled his government's plan for big investment for the development of artificial intelligence (AI) and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a stark warning about AI's global threats at the recent World Economic Forum summit in Davos, the two underlined both the promise and danger that AI poses to the world.

Trump announced what he called "the largest AI infrastructure project in history" – a \$500bn joint venture between OpenAI, Oracle and SoftBank that aims to build a network of data centres across the US. The new partnership, dubbed Stargate, aims to construct essential data centres and computing infrastructure needed to power artificial intelligence development and, according to Trump, create more than 100,000 American jobs "almost immediately."

However, POTUS Trump and all the US tech companies as well as UN's Guterres must have hit a very bad patch in their respective careers when China launched the latest versions of DeepSeek and Kimi out of the blue a couple of days ago. Tech moves very fast. What America thought would be its moment in the sun was very quickly overturned by the Chinese announcement. While many may argue over the low cost that DeepSeek claims to have invested in its development, the Chinese have snooked the middle finger at the US. Analysts are of the view that DeepSeek's large language model can compete with US giants but at potentially a fraction of the cost. DeepSeek had already hit the top of the chart for free apps on Apple's App Store by Monday, and analysts said such a feat would be particularly impressive given how the US government has restricted Chinese access to top AI chips. Those who have used either or both of the Chinese apps vouch that these AI products are way beyond what OpenAI/ChatGPT or anybody in the US tech industry has ever imagined. The release of DeepSeek and Kimi gave such a jolt to the US stock markets that the American tech companies lost billions of dollars in market capitalisation in a single day. Semiconductor giant Nvidia alone has lost a whopping 590 billion dollars in its market value following a 16.9 per cent fall in its stock price on 27 January. Other Big Tech stocks also took heavy beating, and they pulled the Nasdaq composite index down 3.1 per cent. One can very well guess the disastrous effects of these Chinese apps. Undoubtedly, the Chinese launch has proven that the US is no more the sole tech leader of the world as was being touted till yesterday.

It is interesting to note here that eight years ago Russian President Vladimir Putin had proclaimed that mastering AI would make a nation the "ruler of the world." Western tech sanctions after Russia's invasion of Ukraine may have frustrated Putin's ambitions to lead in AI by 2030. However, it is not for nothing that one of Putin's first moves in 2025 was to align with China on AI development.

The upshot of the latest developments is that the AI race is as much about global influence as technological dominance. Significantly, Putin urges developing nations to unite to challenge the US tech leadership. But, without global regulation the whole AI push is fraught with immense risks. It would be pertinent to remember the prophetic words of Geoffrey Hinton, the AI pioneer and Nobel laureate. He had warned that the breakneck speed of progress may precipitate catastrophe for mankind. In the race to dominate this technology, he reminds the world, the greatest risk is not falling behind, but losing control entirely. It may also be pertinent to remind that such may sayers have, in history, always warned about technological developments that would endanger mankind. Interestingly, till going to print, it has not done so.

### WISDOM CORNER

**"To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float."**  
ALAN WATTS

**"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."**  
HENRY DAVID THOREAU

**"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. All is riddle, and the key to a riddle is another riddle."**  
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1819:** British East India Company administrator Sir Stamford Raffles established the port of Singapore.
- 1845:** British East India Company administrator Sir Stamford Raffles established the port of Singapore.
- 1860:** Russian author Anton Chekhov—who was known for his plays and short stories, which often lacked complex plots and neat solutions—was born.
- 1886:** German mechanical engineer Karl Benz patented the first practical automobile powered by an internal-combustion engine.
- 1964:** The British film *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*, a landmark Cold War farce directed by Stanley Kubrick, was released in theatres.
- 1966:** Brazilian football (soccer) player Romário, who was one of the most prolific goal scorers in the sport's history, was born in Rio de Janeiro.
- 1967:** The Mantra-Rock Dance takes place in San Francisco. The event is considered to have been the major spiritual event of the San Francisco hippy era.

### LOL GIVING AWAY A HORSE

A retiring farmer in preparation for selling his land, needed to rid his farm of animals. So he went to every house in his town. To the houses where the man is the boss, he gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, a chicken was given. He got toward the end of the street and saw a couple outside

gardening. "Who's around here?" he asked. "I am," said the man. "I have a black horse and a brown horse," the farmer said, "which one would you like?" The man thought for a minute and said, "The black one." "No, no, no, get the brown one." the man's wife said. "Here's your chicken," said the farmer.

### FOCUS IMMIGRATION

# AMERICA'S OWN RAID-RAJ



**Immigrants move to the US for a better life, but this push will have no impact without the strong pull from the US market that accommodates workers for economic reasons**

The world watches aghast as Donald Trump, the 47th President of the United States, runs riot. From an Indian perspective, the immediate fallout stems from the evolving US immigration policy enforcement, given that an estimated four million Indians live and work in the US. This makes Indian Americans the second largest immigrant group in the US, after Mexico. But Indians are also said to be the third largest as a group among unauthorised immigrants in the US, behind Mexico and El Salvador, according to the Pew Research Centre. The number of such Indians is estimated to be between 725,000 (by Pew) and 375,000 (by the US-based Migration Policy Institute, MPI). The term being used for this category now is "illegal aliens," a derogatory and dehumanised framing that was banned under President Joe Biden but is now back in use under Trump. A statement of Jan. 26 by the US Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) spoke of raids to keep "potentially dangerous criminal aliens out of our communities."



Jagdish Rattanani

**ALL INDIANS SAVE THOSE AT OR NEAR THE TOP OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LADDER MAY WELL BE LIVING UNDER A SHADOW OF SUSPICION ALREADY**

Under Biden, the preferred usages were "undocumented non-citizen" or "undocumented non-US citizen" or "undocumented individual," in line with US seeing itself as "a nation of opportunity and of welcome." All that is history as the ICE police acquire a new and nasty edge, raiding homes, schools, bars and places of worship. Any mass operation of this kind will tend to stigmatise all Indians as the license to question, search and detain people is interpreted and executed in a variety of ways that inevitably lead to racial profiling, reinforcing negative stereotypes with minority groups as targets. All Indians save those at or near the top of the socio-economic ladder may well be living under a shadow of suspicion already. This marks a remarkable fall for a land where Indians are among the most visible

and most successful group of immigrants working often in mid and senior roles in corporate America and in the vast services sector.

Reports coming in at the beginning of the week about "raids" on gurudwaras across the US in the search for undocumented Indians only serve to underline the severity of the strain that Indo-US goodwill and diplomatic relations will soon come under, if the trend continues beyond its initial frenzy and zeal. Already, we have on hand the reported deportation of some 18,000 Indians who allegedly are illegal migrants, so declared before Trump took office. On a national scale, the number is insignificant, but this is just the beginning, and it speaks of the speed and efficiency with which the process of deportations will likely play out in the US. The manner and time span in which the 18,000 are deported can serve to embarrass the Narendra Modi government and hurt Indo-US ties. It will bring new questions for an image-sensitive government that projects India as a growth engine while an increasing number of Indians, as alleged by the US, look to settle in a foreign land. For now, India is right in asserting that it will take back deportees after verifying that they indeed are Indian citizens. It'll need deft diplomacy to negotiate relationships with

a mercurial Trump, who will likely fire away on multiple fronts, notably the threat of new tariffs and barriers and the scope and size of the H1-B visa programme where Indians are the top baggers. One response would be to lie low, to bide time and to allow Trump to settle. His bark may well be worse than his bite though the world and India must be prepared for nasty surprises. Do note that among recent Presidents, it was Barack Obama rather than Trump in his first term who deported the most people. George W. Bush (2001-2009) deported a little over a million, Trump in his first term (2017-2021) deported just 3.25 lakh whereas Obama (2009-2017) had almost 1.25 million deportations under his watch, according to a 2021 report by the US-based think tank, Cato Institute. Thus, so far, Obama stands with the title of "Deporter-in-Chief," but this was achieved as part of a carefully laid out policy rather than wildcat raids or arrests.

Modelling how Trump's push will play out or how many people will be deported has little value since the subject, i.e. Trump, remains tricky, unpredictable and fickle-minded. He may do irreparable damage, and yet, he may not really make much of a difference given that the flow of immigrants is essentially dictated by the market. Immigrants move to the US for a better life, but

this push will have no impact without the strong pull from the US market that accommodates workers for economic reasons. They are a) available for hire, b) are cheaper to hire, c) are diligent and dependable and d) are willing to put in extra hours. At the mid and lower rungs, they are also exploited, bringing unparalleled benefits for hirers.

So for purely selfish reasons, business lobbies may not be supportive of the raids for long. Yet, there remains the underlying risks of white supremacists in powerful positions leading deportation operations that will leave many scars for the Indian American population – the most successful and productive of immigrant groups.

Reports coming in from the US have already raised concerns within that country on US citizens being detained, questioned without access to a lawyer and allowed to go after several hours of detention. As of now, raids continue to expand in response to demands from the new administration that more numbers should be rounded up. Yet, such blunt instruments rarely succeed.

In 1902, the United States Commissioner General of Immigration, Terence Powderly, called for stricter health controls on immigrants at a time of peak migration and great diseases; during 1880-1924, 23.5 million immigrants came to the US, mostly through Ellis Island in the New York harbour – a port of immigration that was busy and corrupt. President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902 appointed a young lawyer, whose job it became "to root out dishonest inspectors who had been bilking immigrants of money in exchange for fraudulent naturalisation papers," writes Prof. Alan M. Kraut, a MPI fellow.

America has of course come a long way from 1902, or has it?

*The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.*  
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### IN JEST THIS

## Good habits take time: Don't give up



Melvin Durai

**THERE'S A COMMON BELIEF THAT IT TAKES 21 DAYS FOR A NEW HABIT TO FORM**

If you made New Year's resolutions this year, it's time to take stock of them. One month has passed and there's a good chance you fall into one of these three categories:

You have kept all your resolutions and are very proud of yourself. You're just waiting for the announcement that you've been awarded the Padma Shri.

You have kept some of your resolutions, but not others. (If you've kept 50 per cent of them, give yourself a passing grade.)

You have failed to keep any of your resolutions and have decided to maintain all your bad habits until 2026.

I made only two resolutions this year, one pertaining to reading and the other to writing. My writing resolution lasted two weeks, while my reading resolution lasted just two days. I was proud of myself for those two days though.

Should I wait until 2026 to try again? No, I'm going to jump-start both resolutions

again on February 1. I'm going to climb back on the wild horse that threw me off, hoping that this time I'll be able to tame it.

Just because you've failed once doesn't mean you'll keep failing. For evidence of this, look no further than Donald Trump. It took him many tries, but he finally managed to stick to his habit of insulting someone every day.

Some of the good habits I have today, such as exercising regularly and brushing my teeth at night, are ones that I struggled to sustain for many years. But I kept trying and failing – until I finally succeeded.

There's a common belief that it takes 21 days for a new habit to form. If you just keep doing something for three weeks, it will be part of your routine and you won't need much willpower to keep it going. After pushing yourself to avoid alcohol for 21 days, you'll have no trouble sipping a Fanta at a party, while your friends are all enjoying cock-

tails. If only that were true!

Habits can take a lot longer than 21 days to form, as a study co-authored by Dr. Ben Singh has shown.

Singh and other researchers at University of South Australia conducted a systematic review of 20 studies involving 2,601 participants and found that health-related habits take about two months to form, but this can vary considerably from one person to another. It might take my wife, for example, just four days to adopt the habit of going for an early-morning walk, but it might take me almost a year to adopt the habit of waking up and saying, "Enjoy your walk, dear!"

The research team, whose study was published in the journal *Healthcare*, found that certain factors can help you be more successful in creating a new habit.

Frequency is important. It's easier to make a habit of something you do every day than something you do three times

a week. That's why I try to exercise every day. Missing a few days due to illness is okay, but it's very important to get back into the routine right away. A habit is like a nervous dog you brought home from the animal shelter – you can lose it faster than you adopted it.

Timing is also important, Singh said. "If you add a new practice to your morning routine, the data shows that you're more likely to achieve it."

We usually feel refreshed in the morning, more energetic and alert. Distractions have not yet had a chance to derail our plans for the day.

"You're also more likely to stick to a new habit if you enjoy it," Singh said.

That's why many people listen to music or podcasts while they exercise. I enjoy challenging myself, trying to lift a heavier weight in the gym or run faster than I did before. Most of all, I enjoy the feeling that I get when I've finished exercising and can be lazy the rest of the day.

### 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)



### It's raining freebies

Sir, This refers to "Kejriwal lists 15 guarantees," *Orissa POST*, Jan 28. All the three national parties the BJP, the Congress and the AAP have decided to pull out all stops and have laid on the table the list of promises to whet the voters' appetite for the Delhi Assembly elections. These vary for different parties except for one common denominator—cash doles. The other offers include subsidies on cooking gas, health insurance/care facilities, rebates for student travel, free medical treatment for senior citizens, etc, relegating issues to address infrastructure development, and civic woes of the national capital. While the AAP aims to retain power for a third term, the BJP seeks to replace the incumbent, and the Congress hopes to gain a foothold. Interestingly, all three parties have promised cash doles and subsidised living costs, despite criticism over their offer of freebies. However, none are certain which offer will ultimately sway the voters. Fiscal prudence is what confronts the policymakers in the light of grand promises which the government finds difficult to fulfill. There is an American adage: "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch," which means someone or the other is paying for it. In the case of welfare measures, these are supported by tax-payers who should have the right to know that the money is spent in an efficacious manner and benefitting those who need it the most.  
N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Landmark move

Sir, The implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand is a landmark move with nationwide implications. Politically, it has reignited the debate on uniform laws, with the BJP advocating it as a step toward equality, while Opposition parties and minority groups see it as a threat to India's pluralistic ethos. Legally, the UCC may face challenges from groups arguing it infringes on religious freedoms under Article 25 of the Constitution. If successful, it could harmonise personal laws on marriage, divorce, and inheritance, simplifying legal processes and promoting gender equality. Socially, concerns about cultural and religious autonomy are significant, particularly among minority and tribal communities.  
Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI





Assam is very very vigilant when it comes to attempt of infiltration from Bangladesh  
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

**COUNTDOWN FOR ISRO'S 100TH MISSION BEGINS AT SRIHARIKOTA**

The 27-hour countdown commenced Tuesday for ISRO's historic 100th mission—launch of a Navigation satellite onboard a GSLV rocket— from this spaceport, sources in the space agency said. Also, this would be the first mission for ISRO Chairman V Narayanan, who assumed office January 13



**SHORT TAKES**

**Two workers killed in boiler explosion**

**Tumakuru (Karnataka):** Two workers died after a boiler at a rice bran oil factory in Antharasanahalli industrial area here allegedly exploded Tuesday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Chandan Sharma (24) and Santosh (27), from Bihar, they said. According to police, the blast occurred at around 5.30 pm.

**Jawan shoots himself dead**

**Dhamtari:** A 45-year-old police constable allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in Chhatisgarh's Dhamtari district Tuesday. Constable Salik Ram Patre shot himself with his INSAS rifle while on security duty at the district election office here, a police official said.

**Tramadol worth ₹40 crore seized**

**Ahmedabad:** The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has seized opioid pain-reliever Tramadol worth Rs 40 crore from a warehouse owned by a trader recently arrested for allegedly manufacturing 'alprazolam' without a license.

**Police arrest five armed men from UP**

**Kolkata:** Five people from Uttar Pradesh were arrested allegedly with arms and ammunition in central Kolkata's Sealdah area, police said Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, the Special Task Force (STF) of the Kolkata Police arrested them from near the Surendranath Women's College in the Muchipara police station area late Monday night, an officer said.

**7 killed in Baghpat stage collapse**

AGENCIES

**Baghpat (UP), Jan 28:** Seven people died and about 60 were injured after a temporary wooden structure collapsed at a religious event in Baraut city of this district Tuesday, officials said.

The incident occurred at around 8 am during a programme organised for the 'Abhishek' of Lord Adinath on Shri Digambar Jain Degree College ground on Gandhi Road in Baraut, they said. The event was part of the Moksha Kalyanak Nirvana Mahotsav of the Jain community under the aegis of Shri 1008 Adinath Bhaktaambar Prachar.

Of the injured, 20 were discharged after they were administered first aid while 39 are undergoing treatment at a hospital, the officials said, adding that about 100 people were present at the event.

The wooden stairs of the 65-foot temporary stage built in the Maanastambh Complex broke due to which the devotees on the stage and standing near it fell down, police said.

A case has been registered against a contractor in connection with the incident, the officials said, adding a magisterial inquiry has been ordered.



Earlier in the day, District Magistrate Asmita Lal told reporters that five people were killed and 39 sustained injuries in the accident.

She added that the annual event has been held here for the last 30 years. Later, Additional District Magistrate Pankaj Verma told PTI that two more people died during treatment, taking the toll to seven. He said 39 people were undergoing treatment in the hospital.

Some eyewitnesses claimed that the injured could not get immediate medical assistance and had to be taken to hospital in e-rickshaws as there were no

ambulances available.

A government spokesperson said that a case has been registered against a contractor who had made the wooden structure. The district magistrate has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident, which will submit its reports in a week, the spokesperson said.

Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya said permission was taken for the programme by the organisers. "We are probing the incident," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the district administration officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured and also wished a speedy recovery to them.

**2 girls among 5 killed in Delhi building collapse**

**New Delhi:** Five people, including two girls, were killed in the four-storey building collapse in north Delhi's Burari area, police said Tuesday. The newly-constructed building near Oscar Public School collapsed late Monday. So far, 12 people have been rescued and five bodies retrieved from the debris, they said. The victims have been identified as Saadhna (17) and seven-year-old Radhika. The other three persons -- all men -- are yet to be identified, they added.

**SC gives 6-day custody parole to Tahir Hussain**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 28:** The Supreme Court Tuesday granted six-day custody parole to former AAP councillor and February 2020 riots accused Tahir Hussain, who is contesting on an AIMIM ticket, to campaign for Delhi Assembly polls.

Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of visit.

A full bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta allowed Hussain's plea to campaign in police custody from January 29 to February 3.

The court said he would only be allowed to leave jail along with security for 12 hours, according to the jail manual.

The top court said the former councillor could walk out of jail at around 6 am and return by 6 pm. The bench said Hussain's custody parole would be subject to the deposit of Rs 2.47 lakh per day as part of security expenses, including the police escort. Hussain, said the court, should not visit his Karawal Nagar home, an alleged site of the riots, while restraining him from making any public comments over the case's merits.

It clarified the order will not be treated as a precedent as it was passed in the "peculiar facts and circumstances" of the case. The court said Hussain's bail application in the Delhi High Court should be decided on its own merits without being influenced by the bench's order. Senior advocate Siddharth Aggarwal, appearing for Hussain, argued only four-five days were left to campaign.

Aggarwal said his client was contesting from the Mustafabad seat and he won't visit his house and stay at a hotel aside from sharing the details.

**SAIF ATTACK CASE**

**Police claim strong proof against Shehzad**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 28:** The Mumbai police probing the attack on Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan said they have ample and strong evidence against the Bangladeshi national arrested in the case.

Khan was attacked in the early hours of January 16 at his Bandra residence in Mumbai, where he was stabbed six times. On January 19, the police arrested Bangladeshi national Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir alias Vijay Das from neighbourhood Thane in this connection.

In a press conference, Additional Commissioner of Police (West Region) Paramjit Dahiya shared the development in the probe, and said it was an "excellent, proof-based detection" made by DCP Zone 9 team along with the crime branch.

"The Mumbai police have ample and strong evidence against the accused person, including documentary, physical and technical," he said.

"As for ascertaining the identity of the accused as part of evidence collection before the

filing of the chargesheet, the police have an option of face recognition and we will explore it," he said.

The police are questioning the people he was in contact with, he added. "We have sent the samples of fingerprints to the Crime Investigation Department (CID). As on today, we have not received any official report about his fingerprints," he said. "The arrested accused is the same (person involved in the attack) and the police have oral, physical and technical evidence against him," he said adding that they will produce all the evidence before the court.

Last week, Mohammad Ruhul, the father of Shariful Islam, claimed that his son was being framed in the case and that he would soon approach Bangladesh's foreign ministry and the Indian High Commission for his release. Ruhul alleged that the man seen in the CCTV camera footage was not Shariful.



Muslim devotees offer prayers while having a glimpse of the holy relic on the occasion of Shab-e-Meraj, at Hazratbal Shrine, on the outskirts of Srinagar

**DELHI POLLS**

**Trinamool, SP to campaign for AAP**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 28:** With several INDIA bloc parties backing the Aam Aadmi Party for the February 5 Assembly elections in Delhi, Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders are set to campaign for the Arvind Kejriwal-led outfit, leaving aside the Congress, the largest constituent of the Opposition bloc.

Formed ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to challenge the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the INDIA bloc includes the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Samajwadi Party (SP) as its key constituents, among others.

Some other member of the bloc, including the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT), have also extended their support to AAP for the Delhi polls. A source told PTI that actor-politician and TMC MP from Asansol, Shatrughan Sinha, will canvass for AAP in at least three constituencies February 1-2. These include former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's constituency New Delhi, Chief Minister Atishi's Kalkaji, and Jangpura, where the party has fielded its senior leader Manish Sisodia. Sinha, who hails from Bihar, could mobilise Delhi's Purvanchali voters, a term that refers to primarily Bhojpuri-speaking migrants from Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2025-T-232

**NAME OF WORK :** ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH RAISING OF HIGH LEVEL PLATFORM AT MAHASAMUND & BAGBAHRA AND SURFACING WORKS AT MAHASAMUND, BAGBAHRA, KHARIAR ROAD, NAWAPARA ROAD, LAKHNA, HARISHANKAR ROAD, TUREKELA ROAD & KANTABANJLI OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

**Approx. cost of the work :** ₹ 30,46,611.95, EMD : ₹ 60,900.00, Completion Period of the Work : Six Months from the date of issue of LOA.

**Tender Closing Date and Time :** At 1530 hrs. of 24.02.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Note :** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen (15) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

**The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (check-list) of tender form (second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of tender documents, submission of Annexure-B, G and G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.**

**Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G/Sambalpur)** | **Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Con-II) Shubaneswar**

**Bank of India** | Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jaydev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249

**Gold Auction Notice**

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by 17.02.2025, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at **Buddheswari Colony Branch Premises on 18.02.2025 at 11.00 AM**. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the date and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to interested bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Gross Wt. in Gram	Net Wt. in Gram	Total Dues as on 31.12.2024 (excluding unapplied interest Charges, Cost & Expenses)
<b>BANK OF INDIA, BUDDHESWARI COLONY BRANCH, PLOT NO.: 796, CUTTACK ROAD, NEAR BUDDHESWARI TEMPLE, BHUBANESWAR-751006, KHANDHARA, ODISHA, MOB.: 8144967427</b>					
1.	513677610001208	Madhusmita Priyadarshini Sahu, W/o- Manoj Kumar Sahu, Plot No. 1597, Chintamaniswar Area, Bhubaneswar-751006.	15.480	15.000	₹ 77,912.00
2.	513677610001209		43.600	42.200	₹ 2,18,790.00
3.	513677610001210		62.920	61.060	₹ 3,16,980.00

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 28.01.2025 | Zonal Manager, Bank of India

**UCO BANK** | Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

**POSSESSION NOTICE** | For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the UCO Bank, Khandapara Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/ Partners/Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Partners/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/ Partners/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, Khandapara Branch for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon.

KHANDAPARA BRANCH / Name and Address of the Borrower/ Partners/Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
<b>Borrower: Mr. Kunmun Maharana, S/o.: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Moharana / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Bijaya Kumar Moharana, S/o.: Judhishthir Moharana, 2) Mrs. Deepika Kiran Sahoo, W/o.: Mr. Kunmun Maharana, All are At/PO.: Khalisahi, P.S.: Khandapara, Dist.: Nayagarh</b>	₹19,57,509.83 as on 30.11.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	09.10.2024 / 27.01.2025	All that part & parcel of the Land & Building Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Kunmun Maharana</b> , situated at Village: Kismat Ichhapur, Taluk: Khandapara, SRO: Khandapara, Dist.: Nayagarh, Khata No.: 186/140 & 186/167, Plot No.: 27/744 & 23/757, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec & Ac.0.020 Dec, Bounded by North: Canal (Own Land), East: Snehalata Rath, South: Rupei Sahoo, West: Jogeswar Mahapatra & Rabindra Mahapatra
<b>Borrower: M/s. Omm Agencies, Prop.: Mr. Santosh Sahoo, S/o.: Satrugna Sahoo / Guarantor: Mr. Manas Kumar Sahoo, S/o.: Satrugna Sahoo, Both are At: Patharganda, P.O.: Singhapada, P.S.: Khandapara, Dist.: Nayagarh</b>	₹9,72,756.84 as on 30.11.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	09.10.2024 / 27.01.2025	All that part & parcel of the Land & Building Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Santosh Sahoo &amp; Mr. Manas Kumar Sahoo</b> , situated at Village/Mouza: Natabarpur Sasan, At: Patharganda, PO.: Singhapada, P.S.: Khandapara, SRO: Khandapara, Dist.: Nayagarh, Khata No.: 329/190, Plot No.: 1544/1645, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec, Bounded by North: Madan Sarangi, East: Madan Sarangi, South: Village Road, West: Hrushikesh Dash
<b>Borrower: M/s. Baigunia Indane Gramin Vitrak, Partners: 1) Mr. Ananda Chandra Maharana, S/o.: Mr. Ananta Maharana, 2) Mrs. Puspanjali Maharana, W/o.: Mr. Ananda Chandra Maharana / Guarantor: Mr. Narayan Maharana, S/o.: Mr. Ananta Maharana, All are At/PO.: Baigunia, P.S.: Fatehgarh, Dist.: Nayagarh</b>	₹20,19,784.96 as on 24.12.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	09.10.2024 / 27.01.2025	All that part & parcel of the Land & Building Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Ananda Chandra Maharana</b> , situated at Village/At/PO.: Baigunia, P.S.: Fatehgarh, Taluk: Bhapur, SRO: Khandapara, Dist.: Nayagarh, Khata No.: 693/411, Plot No.: 813/3784 & 813/3808, Area: Ac.0.185 Dec, Plot No.: 813/3784 is Bounded by North: Own Land, East: Road, South: Govt. Road, West: Mr. Narayan Maharana, Plot No.: 813/3808 is Bounded by North: Own Land, East: Road, South: Own Land, West: Tank
<b>Borrower: Mr. Tapan Kumar Samantara, S/o.: Mr. Purna Chandra Samantara / Guarantor: Mr. Purna Chandra Samantara, S/o.: Mr. Harihar Bishoi, Both are At/PO.: Baigunia, P.S.: Fatehgarh, Dist.: Nayagarh</b>	₹11,33,040.53 as on 21.05.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	09.10.2024 / 27.01.2025	All that part & parcel of the Land & Building Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Purna Chandra Samantara</b> , situated at Village/At/PO.: Baigunia, P.S.: Fatehgarh, Taluk: Bhapur, SRO: Khandapara, Dist.: Nayagarh, Khata No.: 693/585, Plot No.: 2664/3913, Area: Ac.0.050 Dec, Bounded by North: Kanhu Bisoi, East: Agadhu Maharana, South: Road, West: Benudhar Maharana

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 28.01.2025 | Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No.A-893

**PROJECT: DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**PHASE-II (DRIP-II)**

**REQUEST FOR BIDS NO. NCB-02/DRIP-AMIC/2024-25**  
Letter No.40 Dt.13.01.2025

**NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT**  
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)  
(FOR ITEM RATE / ADMEASUREMENT CONTRACTS IN CIVIL WORKS)

<b>NAME OF WORK</b>	: Rehabilitation, Improvement and Basic Facility of Gundurapasi Dam in Dhenkanal District under DRIP-II
<b>PERIOD OF SALE OF BIDDING DOCUMENT</b>	: From Time 10.30 hours on 15.01.2025 to time 15.00 hours on 13.02.2025
<b>TIME AND DATE OF PRE-BID MEETING</b>	: Date 31.01.2025, Time 11.30 hours
<b>LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS</b>	: Date 13.02.2025, Time 15.00 hours
<b>* TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF BIDS- Technical Part</b>	: Date 14.02.2025, Time 16.00 hours
<b>PLACE OF OPENING OF BIDS</b>	: O/o The Additional Chief Engineer, Angul Minor Irrigation Circle, Dhenkanal, At- Dhenkanal, P.O./Dist.- Dhenkanal, Odisha, Pin- 759001
<b>OFFICER INVITING BIDS</b>	: Additional Chief Engineer, Angul Minor Irrigation Circle, Dhenkanal, At- Dhenkanal, P.O./Dist.- Dhenkanal, Odisha, Pin- 759001, Email: ace.dk2023@gmail.com

January, 2025 | Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer | Angul Minor Irrigation Circle, Dhenkanal | OIPR-32522/11/0003/2425

**Khadi India**

**Khadi Revolution**

नए भारत की नई खादी

Inauguration of

**State Level Khadi & PMEGP Exhibition**

By

**Shri Bhartuhari Mahatab**  
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Cuttack, Odisha

Inaugust Presence of

**Shri Manoj Kumar**  
Hon'ble Chairman, KVIC  
Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India

&

**Shri Manoj Kumar Singh**  
Hon'ble Member (East Zone), KVIC

Wednesday, 29th January 2025, Time: 3.30 P.M.  
Venue: Christian Sahi Ground, Cuttack, Odisha

State Office, Khadi and Village Industries Commission  
Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, Bhubaneswar.





# READY TO GO EXTRA MILE TO FACILITATE INDUSTRIES: CM

# PM urges states, pvt players to develop infra for concerts

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 28:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday urged industrialists to invest in Odisha, stating that the government is ready to go the extra mile to facilitate the investment process.

Majhi said this in his welcome address in the 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025', which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by around 7,500 delegates including several from 17 foreign countries.

Noting that more than two dozen states in the country are vying to attract investment which is great for Indian economy, Majhi said, "We are geared up to walk the extra mile to make your (investors) lives a little easier. The state government is ready to walk three steps, if you choose to walk half a step."

Informing the industrialists that Odisha government has taken several measures to facilitate growth of industries in the state, Majhi said decisions included single window clearance and doing away with avoidable documentation.

The CM said Odisha is not only the land of opportunities but also going to be the 'driving engine' of India, especially in eastern India as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Purvodaya', a plan for the development of the eastern region.

The state has a rich and wide variety of natural resources, impressive road, rail and port infrastructure, decent air connectivity including direct flights to important business destinations like Dubai and Singapore, a skilled workforce, a peaceful social fabric, a stable government and above all industry-friendly



olicies, he said.

Majhi said his visits to business hubs like Delhi and Mumbai as well as Singapore to explore opportunities are bearing fruits today as industries have reposed to come and invest in Odisha.

"Just a week ago, we had the privilege to welcome the President of Singapore and signed eight transformative MoUs with the leading Singaporean entities," he said.

Majhi said his government's focus is on the development of world-class industrial infrastructure by setting up plug-and-play industrial parks including a new FDI park in the state along with sectoral parks for technical textiles, food processing, aluminium and MSME parks across all the 30 districts.

He said that the state government has ensured that the benefits of industrialisation reach remote areas. Regions like Malkangiri, Rayagada and Keonjhar, historically un-

der-served, are now emerging as focal points for sectors such as food processing, textiles, and renewable energy.

"We urge you all to take advantage of this unlimited opportunity on the offer," he said.

Along with mining and metallurgy sectors, the state would also like to get investments in the fields of chemicals and petrochemicals, green hydrogen, IT services, textiles, pharmaceuticals and metal downstream industries, all aligned with global growth trends, the CM said.

Majhi said the state has also been taking steps to ensure continuous supply of skilled workforce, by starting the 'Skilled in Odisha' initiative.

"We are equipping our youth with new-age skills for emerging industries like semiconductor, advanced manufacturing, and IT-ITes so that industry-ready trained manpower are ready to enter into the labour market," he said.

## Majhi lays stone for 2nd semiconductor unit

**C**hief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday performed the groundbreaking ceremony of the state's second semiconductor unit to be set up here at an investment of Rs 2,500 crore. The ceremony was virtually held from the venue of 'Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave'. SiCSem Private Ltd will set up the compound semiconductor facility in Bhubaneswar. "SiCSem is investing Rs 2,500 crore for the project in Odisha," an official release issued by the CMO said. Earlier, the groundbreaking ceremony for a silicon carbide manufacturing unit by RIR Power Electronics was held in September 2024. All these processes lead to manufacturing of electronic power devices that will cater to key sectors such as electric vehicles, energy storage, fast chargers, green energy, industrial tools, data centres and consumer appliances, an official said.

"Come, invest in Odisha. This is the right time to be a part of the state's growth story," Majhi said, lauding PM Modi's support for the state's growth.

Majhi said that the state is expecting three times more investment intents from the participants of the conclave than Odisha's target of securing Rs 5 lakh crore worth of projects. "There is a wave of investors at the conclave here," the CM said.

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 28:** Noting the success of the Coldplay concerts in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said India has immense possibilities in the concert economy and urged the state governments and the private sector to invest in creating the necessary infrastructure and skills for hosting live events.

Addressing the 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' at Janata Maidan here, he said that in the last 10 years, the demand for live events has increased.

"A country that has such a rich heritage of music, dance and storytelling and a huge pool of youngsters who are big consumers of concerts, there are many possibilities in the concert economy. You have witnessed that in the last 10 years, the demand and trend for live events have increased. Over the last few days, you must have seen the beautiful pictures of Coldplay concerts in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. This proves that there is a massive scope for concerts in India," he said.

"Big artistes from around the world are attracted to India. I expect the state and the private sector to focus on developing necessary infrastructure and skills for the concert economy," he added.

The PM said that next month, India will host the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time, and showcase the country's creative power to the world.

He emphasised that such events generate revenue and shape perceptions, contributing to the economy's growth.

He also noted that Odisha has immense potential for hosting such events. Highlighting that India



## Visited Odisha nearly 30 times as PM: Modi

**P**hime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said that he has visited Odisha nearly 30 times as the PM and toured most of the state's districts.

Modi said this while addressing the Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave, 2025 attended by around 7,500 business delegates from around the country and abroad. "I have great affection for Odisha. As a Prime Minister, I have visited Odisha nearly 30 times. In independent India, I am the Prime Minister who has visited the state the most number of times," he said.

Modi asserted that Odisha is the most suitable place for investment and it plays a significant role in building a developed India. Stating that this is his second visit to the state in January this year, Modi said the love and affection of people has dragged him to Odisha.

He highlighted that the people have resolved to build a prosperous state, and the Union government was providing all support to achieve this goal.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the investments made by all partners will elevate both their businesses and the state's progress to new heights.

has significant potential for conference tourism, the PM said venues like Bharat Man-

dapam and Yashobhoomi in Delhi were becoming major centres for this.

# INVESTMENT INTENTS POUR IN FROM INDUSTRY CAPTAINS

## Adani commits ₹2.3L-cr investment

**NEW DELHI:** Adani Group Tuesday committed to investing Rs 2.3 lakh crore over the next five years across a host of sectors in Odisha.

According to a statement by the group, the investment commitment was made during 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' in Bhubaneswar.

Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and SEZ Limited, met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and exchanged MoUs for investment in Odisha over the next five years, it added.

"The Adani Group committed to invest Rs 2.3 lakh crore over the next five years across power, cement, industrial parks, aluminium, city gas etc," the statement said.

It, however, did not give details. This is the biggest investment intent by any group in Utkarsh Odisha 2025.

Also, the first test flight landed at Dhamra Airstrip successfully Tuesday.

Additionally, on the occasion of the conclave, six projects of ATGL in Odisha were commissioned.

## Vedanta's ₹1L-cr project in Rayagada

**BHUBANESWAR:** Mining conglomerate Vedanta Tuesday said the company's Rs 1-lakh crore aluminium refinery and smelter project will be set up in Rayagada district the first phase of which is to be commissioned in the next three years, company Chairman Anil Agarwal said.

Speaking on the sidelines of Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha, Agarwal said, "We will establish the aluminium refinery of 6 MTPA capacity and aluminium smelter of 30 lakh tonne capacity in Rayagada district. The total investment will be around Rs 1 lakh crore."

He said the mining conglomerate has got Sijimali bauxite mine in Rayagada district, which is now being developed for exploration. During his meeting with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi here in October, the Vedanta chairman had promised to set up an alumina refinery and an aluminium plant in the state with an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore.

Vedanta group has already made significant investments in Odisha, amounting to more than Rs 1 lakh crore, Agarwal said.

## JSP to invest addl ₹70K-crore

**BHUBANESWAR:** Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) Tuesday said it will invest an additional Rs 70,000 crore in Odisha in the coming years. The announcement was made by the company's Chairman Naveen Jindal during the 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' here.

"Our vision is to make Odisha a global industrial leader, while improving the quality of life for its people consistently. This additional Rs 70,000 crore investment will not only drive industrial growth, but also uplift the quality of life of thousands of families in Odisha," Jindal said. He also said the company was exploring the possibility of setting up a steel plant in Keonjhar district to fulfil the vision of the CM. Jindal Steel & Power operates India's first coal gasification plant for steel production in Angul with focus on reducing dependence on imported coking coal. "The company's Angul plant, currently at 6-MTPA capacity, will double to 12-MTPA this year and is set to reach 25.2-MTPA by 2030, positioning it as the world's largest and greenest steel plant, and a leader in hydrogen-based green steel production," Jindal said.

## JSW's steel plant in Keonjhar

**BHUBANESWAR:** Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Group Tuesday inked a pact with the state government to set up a 5-million tonne per annum (MTPA) steel plant in Keonjhar district.

The agreement was signed in presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Sajjan Jindal here on the first day of 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025'.

"The JSW (Group) will set up a 5-MTPA steel plant in Keonjhar district at an investment of around Rs 35,000 crore," Industries department Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Sharma told reporters.

Keonjhar district is located in the iron ore reserves belt, and the minerals were being exported to other areas from the district. As a result, the locals did not get any benefit from the mineral resources, Jindal said.

Asked whether South Korean steel major POSCO is also a part of the proposed Keonjhar project, Jindal said, "It has not yet been decided whether we will go for collaboration with some other firm. It will be decided in the future course."

## Avaada pledges ₹20,700cr

**NEW DELHI:** Avaada Group Tuesday said it has inked a pact to invest Rs 20,700 crore to develop renewable energy projects in Odisha.

The investment will be utilised for the development of 1,500 MW of floating solar projects, two 1,000 MW Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) and green energy equipment manufacturing units in the state, the company said in a statement. The company has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable growth by signing a Rs 20,700-crore agreement with the Odisha government in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025', it said.

The event, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlights Odisha's ambition to become a leading green energy hub in India. Avaada Group is showcasing its innovative renewable energy portfolio during the conclave. "Our Rs 20,700 crore investment in renewable energy projects, including floating solar and pumped storage, demonstrates our commitment to sustainability and innovation," Avaada Group Chairman Vineet Mittal said.



OP PHOTOS





**UCC has the same team spirit as sports and discriminates against none**  
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

## DERA SACHA SAUDA CHIEF GRANTED 30-DAY PAROLE

Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was released from a jail in Haryana's Rohtak Tuesday after being granted a 30-day parole, a development which came ahead of the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls



### SHORT TAKES

#### HC dismisses Netflix' plea against Dhanush

**Chennai:** The Madras High Court Tuesday dismissed an application filed by Los Gatos, an Indian entity of OTT platform Netflix, which sought to reject actor Dhanush's plea over alleged copyright infringement by well-known actor Nayanthara, her husband Vignesh Sivan and others, at the preliminary stage itself. Justice Abdul Quddus dismissed the application filed by Los Gatos and posted to February 5, further hearing of the application filed by Dhanush's production house Wunderbar, seeking interim injunction against Los Gatos and others.

#### Amritsar attack: 2 operatives detained

**Chandigarh:** The Punjab Police Tuesday said it has arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in the hand grenade lobbing incident outside the Gurmata police post in Amritsar. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the accused were operatives of US-based terrorist Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passion and US-based drug smuggler Sarwan Bholia.

#### Dalit bodies, BJP protest in Punjab

**Phagwara:** Many markets remained shut in Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Moga and some other places in Punjab Tuesday after Dalit organisations called for a 'bandh' against an attempt to vandalise a statue of BR Ambedkar in Amritsar.

# Police can't serve notice via WhatsApp: Top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 28:** The Supreme Court has said police cannot serve notices to accused persons through WhatsApp or other electronic modes under the Criminal Procedure Code or Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal directed all states and union territories (UT) to issue appropriate directions to police for issuing notices under Section 41A of CrPC, 1973 or Section 35 of BNSS, 2023 only through the mode of service permitted under the law.

"All the states/UTs must issue a standing order to their respective police machinery to issue notices under Section 41-A of CrPC, 1973/Section 35 of BNSS, 2023 only through the mode of service as prescribed under the CrPC, 1973/BNSS, 2023," the bench said on January 21. The top court went on, "It is made amply clear that service of notice through WhatsApp or other electronic modes cannot be considered or recognised as an alternative or substitute to the mode of service recognised and prescribed under the CrPC, 1973/BNSS, 2023."

The direction came when the court accepted a suggestion by



**SC bench directs all states and Union territories to issue appropriate directions to police**

senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appointed amicus curiae in the matter.

Luthra flagged instances where a notice under Section 41-A of CrPC, 1973 was sent through WhatsApp, but the accused did not appear before the investigating officer. He said the police machinery must not circumvent the mandate of Section 41-A of CrPC, 1973 or Section 35 of BNSS, 2023 by serving notices via WhatsApp or other electronic modes, instead of following the normal mode of service.

The court passed the directions on plea related to the case of Satender Kumar Antil who was assistant provident fund commissioner at Regional Office EPFO in Noida. He was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act by the CBI.

The court had passed a slew of directions in his case and recommended the Centre to introduce a special enactment in the nature of a "Bail Act" to streamline the grant of bail.

The top court had appointed Luthra to assist the court in the matter and submit suggestions on various issues including grant of bail, issuance of notice by police etc.

The bench further directed all high courts to hold its respective committee meetings to ensure both its past and present decisions were implemented on a monthly basis "at all levels" and monthly compliance reports were submitted by the authorities concerned.

The apex court directed the registrar generals of high courts and chief secretaries of all the states and UTs to ensure compliance within three weeks.

# Man kills wife, flushes dismembered remains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, Jan 28:** An ex-serviceman allegedly murdered her wife, dismembered her body, crushed her bones into powder and flushed down the remains in a toilet, all during a day-long 'operation', police said Tuesday after arresting the accused.

Giving the chilling details of the crime, police described the act as "rarest of rare" and of "barbaric nature".

Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu said P Gurumurthy (39) was arrested after he gave a "confessional" statement that he killed his wife and then cut her body into small parts, boiled them and later burnt them before crushing the bones into powder.

The accused left his two children at a relative's house with an intention to murder his wife Madhavi (35). On January 16, he had an argument with her and later smashed her head against the wall due to which she fell down, Babu told reporters here.

The accused later strangulated the hapless victim to death. Seeking to cover up the murder, he cut his wife's body into small parts, which he placed in a bucket. He then heated the water using a water heater, boiled the parts, and later burnt them on the single burner gas stove, the police official said.

After that, the accused crushed the bones with a stone roller into powder. The

bone powder and small pieces of flesh were disposed of in the toilet, flushed with water several times.

The leftover small bones (remnants) were kept in the household trash bin, intending to be disposed of later. To minimise the foul smell while burning, he kept the doors and kitchen windows open.

He carried out the grisly act of disposing of the body from 10 AM to around 6 PM January 16. Later, he cleaned up the bathroom by using detergent and phenyl to remove any traces of evidence.

"I am not able to understand how a person can behave like this. It is ultimate stature of barbaric nature. Utterly, rarest of rare ways of killing a person," the Commissioner told reporters.

Gurumurthy is a native of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh and was employed as a security guard with a defence establishment here.

He had even accompanied his in-laws when they lodged a complaint with the Meerpet police January 18. Police had registered a 'woman missing' FIR then.

Later, during police interrogation, Gurumurthy told them he had killed his wife and dismembered her body, following which the investigation was expedited.

The accused had also dumped some remnants of the body parts at a nearby lake, the police official said.

# BJP richest party with ₹7,113Cr fund balance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 28:** The BJP, which claims itself as the biggest political party in the world, has a whopping cash and bank balance of ₹7,113.80 crore against the principal Opposition Congress party's ₹857.15 crore as on March 31, 2024, according to figures provided to the Election Commission.

The BJP spent as much as ₹1,754.06 crore during 2023-24 when Lok Sabha elections were announced, a whopping 60 per cent rise than ₹1,092 crore spent in 2022-23.

In comparison, the Congress spent as much as ₹619.67 crore during 2023-24, against ₹192.56 crore in 2022-23. The Lok Sabha elections were announced March 16, 2024. According to the figures provided to the EC in their annual audit reports, the BJP has received voluntary contributions through the now banned electoral bonds of ₹1,685.69 crore during 2023-24, against ₹1294.15 crore in the previous year. The ruling party has also shown having received other contributions to the tune of ₹2,042.75 crore during the year, against ₹648.42 crore in the previous year - 2022-23.

In its audit report to the EC, the Congress has shown having received total contributions of ₹1,225.11 crore during 2023-24, including ₹1,129.67 crore through grants, donations and contributions. This also includes ₹828.36 crore received through electronic bonds during the year ended March 31, 2024, which have now been banned by the Supreme Court.

# Sanatan Dharma embodies inclusiveness: Adityanath



**Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 28:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised the inclusive and universal nature of Sanatan Dharma, stating that it thrives on the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family).

Addressing devotees at the Sadbhavna Sammelan organised by the Manav Utthan Seva Samiti Monday, Yogi praised the efforts of Sadguru Satpal Maharaj for promoting the values of Sanatan Dharma globally. The Chief Minister remarked, "Sadguru Satpal Maharaj's Gurudev was a Siddha Yogi whose spiritual practices transcended traditions, paving the way for human welfare. Today, Satpal Maharaj is upholding and spreading the principles of Sanatan Dharma through initiatives like the Sadbhavna Sammelan."

Highlighting the relevance of Sanatan Dharma in the current global context, Yogi added, "When humanity is in turmoil, Sanatan Dharma provides a path of goodwill and unity for the world. The spirit of goodwill present in this gathering represents a beacon for humanity."

Despite a busy schedule, the Chief Minister made time to attend the conference. He stated, "Service to humanity is the true Mahakumbh, and this Sadbhavna Sammelan embodies that mission."

In his address, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath shared a personal moment from his day, stating that he was about to board the state plane at the airport when he spoke to Sadguru Satpal Maharaj and learned that the Sadbhavna Sammelan was still ongoing. He decided to return from the airport and attend the conference to connect with the gathering and pay his respects.

The event saw the presence of Satpal Maharaj, Mata Amrita Rawat, and his sons Vibhu Maharaj and Suyash Maharaj, along with Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi. Speaking on the occasion, Sadguru Satpal Maharaj lauded the arrangements for the grand and divine Maha Kumbh and praised Yogi Adityanath's leadership. He remarked, "When a saint is in politics, politics becomes selfless and pure."

# Court relief for CM Atishi

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court Tuesday dismissed a criminal case filed by a BJP leader against Chief Minister Atishi, saying there was "absolutely no defamation of the media head of the BJP" if the AAP leader "accuses the BJP of trying to buy their MLAs with huge sums of money". In his judgment, special judge Vishal Gogne said while such tactics may be "part and parcel" of political strategy, a court of law couldn't be a party to the creation of a chilling effect on freedom of speech by admitting or acting upon such efforts to silence whistleblowers or smaller political opponents. The judge therefore underlined there was "absolutely no defamation of the media head of the BJP if the leader of the AAP accuses the BJP of trying to buy their MLAs with huge sums of money". "It is the freedom of speech as an overarching principle which permits one man's subaltern to be another man's naxal; it permits one man's freebie to be another man's welfare; it even permits one man's martyr to be another man's militant."

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

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

Science & Technology Department

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Odisha

# NIA conducts raids at 6 locations in J&K

**Srinagar/New Delhi:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Tuesday conducted searches at six locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the killing of two migrant workers from Punjab in Shaheed Ganj area of Srinagar last year. On February 7, 2024, Amritpal Singh and Rohit Masi -- hailing from Chamyari in Amritsar -- were shot by suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists. Singh died on the spot while Masi succumbed to his injuries at a Srinagar hospital the next day. The NIA took over the probe June 15 last year on the directions of the Union Home Ministry. The NIA had earlier file charge sheet against four accused in the case. "The agency sleuths carried out the searches at the residences of three persons identified as Javaid Ahmad Sheikh, A R Shalla and Nisar Ahmad. Simultaneous raids were also carried out at two places in Srinagar, including a residential house and an office premises belonging to a man hailing from Sopore town," an NIA statement said.

**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
REFERENCE NO-E.E. (A),  
**MAYURBHANJ DIVISION, BARI PADA-06/24-25**  
No.93, Date:27.1.25

No.L-154: Bid documents consisting of work, estimate cost, cost of tender papers, EMD/BID Security Declaration, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of term and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen/downloaded from Govt. website i.e. <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

1. No. of Work	: 8
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.3,69,222.00 to Rs.33,66,759.00
3. Period of Completion	: 1 Calendar month to 3 Calendar months
4. Date & Time of availability of the Bid documents	: Dt.28.01.2025 at 10.30 AM to Dt.06.02.2025 at 5.30 PM in Portal
5. Online submission last date in Portal	: Dt.06.02.2025 at 5.30 PM
6. Last date & time receipt of bids in offline drop	: Dt.29.01.2025 at 10.30 AM to Dt.07.02.2025 at 1.00 PM
7. Bids received online shall be opened on	: Dt.07.02.2025 at 04.00 PM
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bids	: Executive Engineer (Agril.) Mayurbhanj Division, Baripada

Further details can be seen/downloaded from the procurement portal i.e. <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>

**Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)  
Mayurbhanj Division, Baripada**

OIPR-01474/11/0008/2425

**OFFICE OF THE VYASANAGAR MUNICIPALITY**  
**VYASANAGAR, JAJPUR**  
E-mail Id:-[vyasanagarmunicipality@gmail.com](mailto:vyasanagarmunicipality@gmail.com)  
Website:-[vyasanagarmunicipality.in](http://vyasanagarmunicipality.in)  
Letter No.281.....// Date 24.01.2025

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**SELECTION OF AGENCIES FOR MANAGING VARIOUS RELATED ACTIVITIES OF VYASASAROBAR MAHASTAV-2025**

No.C-1542:1. The Executive Officer, being empowered by the Vyasanagar Municipal Council vide meeting on Jaipur Road invites tenders in sealed covers in conformity with detailed tender call notice to be eventually drawn up in prescribed Municipal form, from the intending registered Agencies having experience, expertise and financial standing, in similar nature of the works of the following assignments for smooth management of VYASA SAROBAR MAHASTAV-2025 scheduled to be organized from 08.02.2025 to 18.02.2025 under Vyasanagar Municipality as per the scope and schedule of work as spelt out in the detailed tender call notice. 2. Bid documents consisting of selection criteria scope of work and the set of terms and conditions of contracts and other necessary documents can be obtained from Municipality website i.e. [www.vyasanagarmunicipality.in](http://www.vyasanagarmunicipality.in) & District website i.e. [www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in](http://www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in). The bid cost Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) & the EMD Rs.35,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Thousand) only in shape of Demand Draft of any scheduled Bank payable at Jaipur Road duly pledged in favour of "Executive Officer, Vyasanagar Municipality". Must be submitted with the bid documents in the separate envelope. The copy of GST registration certificate & PAN must be accompanied with the tender. So as to reach before the undersigned on or before 03.02.2025 up to 01:00 PM which shall be opened on the same day at 03:30 PM in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives if any. 3. The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason therefor. For details can be seen in the district website i.e. [www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in](http://www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in) & [vyasanagarmunicipality.in](http://vyasanagarmunicipality.in)

**Sd./- Executive Officer  
Vyasanagar Municipality**

OIPR-13092/11/0009/2425





We may have different views on issues that matter deeply to us. But we cannot let our differences pull us apart. In a world that is increasingly divided and polarised, our unity is a precious asset that we must continue to protect and nurture

LAWRENCE WONG | PRIME MINISTER, SINGAPORE

SIKH SERVES MEALS TO LA FIRE VICTIMS

A Sikh American nonprofit body has come forward to provide free meals and essential items to thousands of people impacted by the devastating fire in Los Angeles and neighbouring areas



of the day quote

Microsoft is among the US companies looking to take control of TikTok to help the popular app avert an effective ban that could kick-in in April



DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

Being smart means retaliating where it hurts. Our counterpunch must be dollar-for-dollar — and it must be precisely and painfully targeted. Florida orange growers, Wisconsin dairy farmers, Michigan dishwasher manufacturers, and much more



CHRISTIA FREELAND | FORMER FINANCE MINISTER, CANADA

Our presence in the Gulf is both pervasive and crucial. More than 9 million Indians live and work here, but the Gulf also serves as a gateway to the MENA region and the Mediterranean



S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

India, China agree to resume air travel

Analysts say sluggish economies and trade threats from US President Donald Trump are encouraging China and India to work more closely together



- Direct air routes between two countries cut in 2020
China and India agree to continue cooperation on cross-border rivers
Countries agree to push for resumption of pilgrimages by Indians to Tibet in 2025

REUTERS

Beijing/New Delhi, Jan 28: India and China have agreed to resume direct air services after nearly five years and work on resolving differences over trade and economic issues. New Delhi said, as relations continue to thaw after a deadly 2020 border clash.

Following a meeting Monday in Beijing between India's top diplomat Vikram Misri and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, India's foreign ministry said that both sides would negotiate a framework on the flights' resumption at an "early date".

China's foreign ministry confirmed Tuesday that flights would resume, and said Wang had told Misri that China and India should commit to "mutual support and mutual achievement" rather than "suspicion" and "alienation".

"Specific concerns in the economic and trade areas were discussed with a view to resolving these issues and promoting long-term policy transparency and predictability," the Indian statement said, without going into detail.

Analysts say sluggish economies and trade threats from US

President Donald Trump are encouraging China and India to work more closely together.

Trump has warned he will impose tariffs on China and India is a large market for China, while New Delhi wants Chinese expertise, components, and machinery to fuel exports and the economy, which is coming off recent highs.

"Economic headwinds are being faced by both India and China and both have an interest in ensuring the economic relationship continues to be managed in a (mutually beneficial) way," said Harsh Pant, foreign policy head at the Observer Research Foundation think tank in New Delhi.

"If the threat from Mr Trump increases for China's economy, then China would want a relationship with India that is economically robust and strategically relatively sound compared to 2020."

China said a separate meeting on Monday between officials at the vice-ministerial level had agreed to facilitate the exchange of journalists between the two countries.

Bilateral trade between India and China rose 4% to \$118.40 billion in the last fiscal year

ended March 2024, much of it Indian imports from China.

Several high-level meetings have also taken place, but China's approval in December of a hydropower dam in Tibet, in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo river, raised eyebrows in India.

The dam, the largest of its kind in the world, with an estimated capacity of 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, will be located on the river that flows into India as the Brahmaputra, a key water resource for millions.

Chinese officials said that hydropower projects in Tibet would not have a major impact on the environment or on downstream water supplies.

In Monday's talks, China said both sides had agreed to continue cooperation on "cross-border rivers" and work towards a new round of meetings on the matter.

UK cautions against satellite phone use in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Jan 28: The UK government Tuesday updated its travel advisory for India for a second time within weeks to warn British nationals that they could be "fined or arrested" for carrying or operating satellite phones in the country without a licence.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) reviewed the "Safety and Security" section of its Indian advisory to flag that Britons have been arrested for bringing in such devices illegally to India.

"It is illegal to possess and operate satellite phones and GPS devices in India without a licence, even if you are only transiting through India," reads the FCDO update.

"This may also cover other satellite-enabled devices, including handheld or cycling GPSs. You can be fined or arrested for possession of these devices without permission and the item can be confiscated," it cautions.

The FCDO travel advice notes that a number of British nationals have been "arrested or detained for bringing satellite phones and other satellite-enabled navigational devices" into India without prior permission and goes on to provide a link to the Department of Telecommunication to request a licence for any such devices in advance.

"Activities involving cameras and binoculars, like photography, birdwatching or plane spotting, may be misunderstood. Be particularly careful near military sites, government buildings, airports and railway stations," the advisory adds.



ANTI-CORRUPTION PROTESTS GROW

Serbia PM resigns

The anti-government demonstrations sprang up in the wake of the roof collapsing at a railway station in the city of Novi Sad, killing 15 people and leading to calls for Vucevic to quit



REUTERS

Belgrade (Serbia), Jan 28: Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucevic resigned Tuesday, becoming the highest-ranking official to step down amid a wave of anti-corruption protests that have spread across the country.

The anti-government demonstrations sprang up in the wake of the roof collapsing at a railway station in the city of Novi Sad, killing 15 people and leading to calls for Vucevic to quit.

What began as small gatherings in Novi Sad have ballooned and spread to the capital Belgrade as students, teachers and other workers have turned out in their thousands to blame the station disaster on corruption within the government of President Aleksandar Vucic.

The minister for construction, transportation and infrastructure, and the trade minister have already stepped down because of the incident, but that failed to quell the protests.

"I opted for this step in order to defuse tensions", Vucevic told a news conference Tuesday, announcing his resignation. He said the mayor of Novi Sad would also resign.

"With this we have met all demands of the most radical protesters." The protests, which included students putting up a blockade at a main junction in Belgrade this week, have been largely peaceful.

But three protesters in Novi Sad were attacked Monday and blamed members of Vucic's Ser-

bian Progressive Party (SNS). A young woman sustained head injuries and was hospitalised.

Vucevic said an investigation is underway. He blamed foreign interference for stoking the protests, without providing evidence.

The focus for many analysts now is how much this will affect the president, whose party easily won a snap election in 2023 but who has come under increasing pressure.

Opposition parties and rights watchdogs accuse him and the SNS of bribing voters, stifling media freedom, violence against opponents, corruption and ties with organised crime. Vucic and his allies deny these allegations.

Mario Bikarski, senior Europe analyst at risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft, did not expect Vucic to be forced out, in part because of a lack of trusted and viable political alternatives. But he expected the protests to continue.

Vucic is also seen as a strategic player on the international stage in view of Serbia's historic ties with Russia and the West. Serbia is a candidate to join the European Union, although it must normalise relations with its neighbour and former province Kosovo.

The opposition Kreni-Promeni party has called for an interim government made up of experts sanctioned by students who have led the protests. It has urged other opposition parties not to boycott elections if they are held.

SHORT TAKES

New name for Gulf of Mexico

Washington: Google says it will take its cue from the US government if it has to change the names of the Gulf of Mexico and Denali on its maps. The company said Monday that it will only make changes when the government updates its official listings for the body of water and the mountain. After taking office, President Donald Trump ordered that the water bordered by the Southern United States, Mexico and Cuba be renamed to the Gulf of America. He also ordered America's highest mountain peak be changed back to Mt McKinley. "We have a longstanding practice of applying name changes when they have been updated in official government sources," Google said in a post on X.

SL ends ban on vehicle imports

Colombo: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka has officially lifted the ban on the vehicle import which was put in place in 2020 to ease the pressure on foreign exchange reserves due to the COVID-19 pandemic, authorities said Tuesday. This will be with effect from February 1. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has issued a gazette dated January 24 which ended the ban on vehicle imports imposed in early 2020 with the COVID outbreak. The ban was continued when Sri Lanka suffered its economic crisis triggered by forex shortage.

Jaishankar meets Abu Dhabi Crown Prince

Abu Dhabi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Tuesday met Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed ways to enhance and develop bilateral ties. Jaishankar, who arrived in the UAE on Monday on a three-day visit, recalled the crown prince's visit to India during the meeting. "Pleased to meet Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi HH Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Recalled his recent visit to India and discussed further advancement of partnership," Jaishankar said in a post on X. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the friendship and cooperation between the UAE and India, and explored ways to further enhance and develop them to serve the common interests of both countries and their peoples, the state-run WAM news agency reported.

SNIPPETS

Trump orders a funding freeze

Washington: The White House is pausing federal grants and loans starting Tuesday as President Donald Trump's administration begins an across-the-board ideological review of its spending.



The funding freeze by the Republican administration could affect trillions of dollars and cause widespread disruption in health care research, education programs and other initiatives. Even grants that have been awarded but not spent are supposed to be halted. "The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve," said a memo from Matthew Vaeth, the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget. The pause takes effect at 5 pm, and it's unclear from the memo how sweeping it will be. Vaeth said that all spending must comply with Trump's executive orders, which are intended to undo progressive steps on transgender rights, environmental justice and diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, efforts.

Gunfire crackles in Congo's Goma

Goma (Congo): Dozens of demonstrators attacked several foreign embassies, including those of Rwanda, France and Belgium, Tuesday demanding that they oppose the advance of Rwanda-backed M23 rebels into a major city in the country's conflict-battered east.



Police fired teargas at the protesters as they marched to the embassies in Kinshasa, looting and setting fires to parts of the buildings. The embassies of Kenya and Uganda were also attacked, according to Associated Press journalists at the scene. Congo's security forces were attempting to slow the rebels, who advanced into Goma, a key eastern city, in a major escalation of the decades-long conflict. The M23 rebels are one of about 100 armed groups vying for a foothold in the mineral-rich region in the conflict, one of Africa's largest. The protesters demanded that the international community pressure Rwanda over the rebel advance. "We denounce the hypocrisy of the international community," said Timothée Tshishimbi, one of the protesters. "They must tell Rwanda to stop this adventure." Residents reported gunfire overnight in Goma, a city of 2 million people which the rebels claimed to have captured on Monday. Explosions and gunfire were heard near the now-shut Goma airport.

Pak's Senate passes PECA amendment bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 28: Pakistan's Senate or the upper house Tuesday passed the controversial cyberspace laws amidst protest by the Opposition and the media.

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2025 or Peca laws was moved by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Husain, days after its approval by the lower house.

The amendment adds Section 26(A) to the original Peca Act of 2016 to penalise perpetrators of "fake news" online, by providing that anyone who intentionally spreads, displays, or transmits false information likely to cause fear, panic, or unrest in society may face up to three years imprisonment, a fine of up to Rs 2 million, or both.

The bill now awaits President Asif Ali Zardari's assent to become law.



The changes add a key provision for the establishment of a Digital Rights Protection Authority (DRPA) tasked with regulating social media platforms and removing unlawful content. The DRPA will have powers to investigate complaints, remove content, and enforce digital ethics. The amendments also redefine social media platforms and mandate compliance from social media companies, which may require registering and appointing local representatives.

While supporters believe the amendments are essential

Journalists in the parliament for coverage boycotted the proceedings and staged a walkout in protest

to combat fake news and hate speech, critics warn of potential censorship and misuse.

The Senate passed the bill despite protests by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and journalists.

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shibli Faraz, spoke out against it, highlighting that the laws were made to protect people while the purpose of the said bill was "to target a specific political party".

Journalists in the parliament for coverage boycotted the proceedings and staged a walkout in protest.

JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Trade dispute with Colombia threatens flower imports

The White House said tariffs on Colombian exports would be put on hold, but added that visa restrictions on Colombian officials and enhanced custom inspections would remain until the first planeload of Colombian deportees is successfully returned

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Jan 28: President Donald Trump's threat to impose a 25 per cent tax on imports from Colombia comes at a most inauspicious time.

The wrangling over the South American country's willingness to accept flights carrying deported immigrants is flaring up just three weeks before Valentine's Day, and Colombia is America's No. 1 foreign source of cut flowers.

But romantics may be spared from becoming victims of a trade dispute. The White House declared victory Sunday, saying that Colombia had reversed itself and agreed to allow the flights to land, backing down just hours after Trump threatened to impose visa restrictions in addition to the steep tariffs on its longtime ally in South America.

The White House said tariffs on Colombian exports would be put on hold, but added that visa restrictions on Colombian officials and enhanced custom inspections would remain "un-



til the first planeload of Colombian deportees is successfully returned."

Earlier, Colombian President Gustavo Petro's had rejected two Colombia-bound US military aircraft carrying migrants. Petro accused Trump of not treating immigrants with dignity during deportation and threatened to re-

taliante against US by slapping a 25 per cent increase in Colombian tariffs on US goods.

The Colombian government signalled late Sunday that the standoff was over, "We have overcome the impasse with the United States government," said Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo. "We will

continue to receive Colombians who return as deportees, guaranteeing them decent conditions as citizens subject to rights."

The US is Colombia's biggest export market but it accounts for just 0.5 per cent of American goods imports, ranking as the world's No 26 importer of goods to the United States.

From January through November, the US ran a \$1 billion surplus with Colombia last year in goods, as US exports of \$17.2 billion — including soybeans and cotton — topped imports of \$16.2 billion.

Here are Colombia's biggest exports to the US

Flowers

Through November, the US had imported \$1.14 billion worth of cut flowers from Colombia, more than it brought in for all of 2023, according to the

US Department of Agriculture. US government aid money has supported the Colombian flower industry, creating jobs for people displaced by terrorist- and drug-related violence.

Coffee

Colombia is the United States' No. 2 source of coffee behind Brazil. The USDA says that US coffee imports from Colombia came to \$1.4 billion in January-November 2024, down slightly from the same period of 2023.

Crude oil

Colombia's biggest export to the United States is crude oil. Through November, the United States had imported 70 million barrels of crude oil from Colombia, worth almost \$5.4 billion. In 2023, the US imported \$5.6 billion worth of Colombian crude.





**“We have launched highly competitive products of all kinds... With the advantage of the strength of 6,000 dealers and service networks covering all the geographies of India, we have increased the unit sales. Now, the number one position is well within our sight”**  
MINORU KATO | HONDA MOTOR CO, HEAD OF MOTORCYCLE AND POWER PRODUCTS

### RUPEE FALLS 26 PAISE

The rupee depreciated 26 paise to close at 86.57 against the US dollar Tuesday, as global risk sentiments were dampened amid tariff threats by the US President Donald Trump. Forex traders said the rupee continued to face pressure due to sustained foreign fund outflows and the strength of the American currency in the overseas market amid unabated dollar demand from oil importers and weak risk appetite.



### of the day quote

**While the challenges persist in the overall market due to global factors, our business fundamentals remain strong, and we remain confident in our ability to leverage our strengths and actively explore potential opportunities to improve our volumes and profitability**



UNSOO KIM | HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

**A long-term vision for favourable tax structure catering to different automotive technologies would certainly benefit the industry**



PIYUSH ARORA | SKODA AUTO VOLKSWAGEN INDIA MD & CEO

**This is not business as usual, it is a priority effort and a once in a lifetime opportunity towards building a global mining powerhouse**



AMITAVA MUKHERJEE | NMDC CMD

# Stocks set for longest monthly losing streak in over 23 years

**India's benchmark indices gained about 8.5% in 2024, the least among major global peers, and their slide in January has been more than these peers**



REUTERS

**Mumbai, Jan 28:** Indian stocks are on a four-month losing streak, set for their worst such run in 23 years as weak earnings, foreign outflows and economic uncertainty have taken the wind out of the sails of a market that hit record highs just four months back.

The Nifty 50 and Sensex have lost about 3% each in January, the second most in the four-month losing run. They have now tumbled 12.6% and 11.7%, respectively, from their record highs hit on Sept. 27, 2024.

They are now even below the levels in early June when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election victory sparked a rally to record highs.

The slide started in October as the quarterly earnings reports started coming in.

About 60% of the Nifty 50 members posted results that either met or missed market estimates, their worst performance since March 2020, hurt by curbed government spending post-elections, above-normal rains and rising inflation.

### Sensex, Nifty rebound

**Mumbai:** Snapping the two-day decline, benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded Tuesday following intense buying in banking and rate-sensitive stocks as the RBI decided to inject liquidity into the financial system. The 30-share Sensex climbed 535.24 points or 0.71 per cent to settle at 75,901.41. During the day, the benchmark surged 1,146.79 points or 1.52 per cent to hit a high of 76,512.96. The broader 50-share Nifty appreciated by 128.10 points or 0.56 per cent to close at 22,957.25. In the intraday session, the 50-share Nifty climbed 308.8 points or 1.35 per cent to 23,137.95. "The national benchmark indices demonstrated optimism today, primarily driven by gains in the banking sector following the RBI's announcement of open market interventions to address liquidity concerns. Large-cap stocks outperformed, as their valuations have now reached fair levels and are further supported by expectations that the market correction is nearing its bottom," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. Among the Sensex shares, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Zomato, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki India and Bharti Airtel were the major gainers. Sun Pharmaceutical, Larsen & Toubro, ITC, HCL Technologies, NTPC, Power Grid, Nestle India, Tata Consultancy Services, and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

The Nifty tumbled 6% that month, also its biggest slide since March 2020.

The gloom continued into the October-December quarter, with the markets now also facing a resurgent dollar and the threat of US tariffs since Donald Trump won the US

presidential elections.

A gauge for measuring Nifty returns in US dollar terms fell 4.25% in January alone, compared with a 7% jump in 2024 and a 21% increase in 2023.

India's benchmark indices gained about 8.5% in 2024, the least among major global peers, and their slide in Janu-

ary has been more than these peers.

### FOREIGN INVESTORS FLEE

Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have pulled out \$8.3 billion from Indian equities this month through Jan. 28, set to second only to the record \$11.18 billion of outflows in October last year.

The stronger dollar, elevated US yields, tariff worries, sluggish domestic economic growth and high stock valuations will only drive more FPIs away, said Sanjeev Hota, vice president and head of research of wealth management at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

### SMALL-CAPS, MID-CAPS CATCH UP

While the large-caps racked up records dating back to 2020 in October, the rest of the market is only just catching up.

This month, the small-caps and mid-caps have plunged about 15% and 10%, respectively, in their worst monthly performance since March 2020.

In fact, the small-caps have fallen nearly 19% from their record highs notched in December 2024, while the mid-caps have dropped 15.5% from their all-time high.

Both indices are headed towards a bear market.

"Most small and midcaps stocks have gone up between 2x and even 6x in the last two years. To justify where these stocks are trading at current levels with their earnings is extremely difficult in a dicey macroeconomic environment," said Mayuresh Joshi, head of equity research India at William O'Neil and Company.

## Adani gets CCI nod to acquire majority stake in ITD Cementation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 28:** The Competition Commission of India Tuesday approved Adani Group's arm Renew Exim DMCC's proposal to acquire a majority stake in ITD Cementation India for about ₹5,757 crore.

ITD Cementation India Ltd is an engineering and construction company undertaking heavy civil, infrastructure and engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) business and operating in India and overseas.

"The proposed combination involves the acquisition by Renew Exim DMCC (acquirer) of approximately 46.64 per cent equivalent to 8,01,13,180 shares of the total issued and voting equity share capital of the ITD Cementation India Ltd (target)," the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said in a release.

Renew Exim DMCC is incorporated in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and belongs to the Adani group. It is a holding company engaged in the business of investment in commercial enterprises and management and does not have any

operations in India.

Pursuant to the Sebi's SAST (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, Renew Exim DMCC has launched an open offer for further acquisition of up to 4,46,64,772 fully paid-up equity shares having a face value of Re 1 each, representing approximately 26 per cent of the voting share capital of the ITD Cementation India, the regulator added.

In total, Renew Exim DMCC will acquire a 72.64 stake in ITD Cementation India.

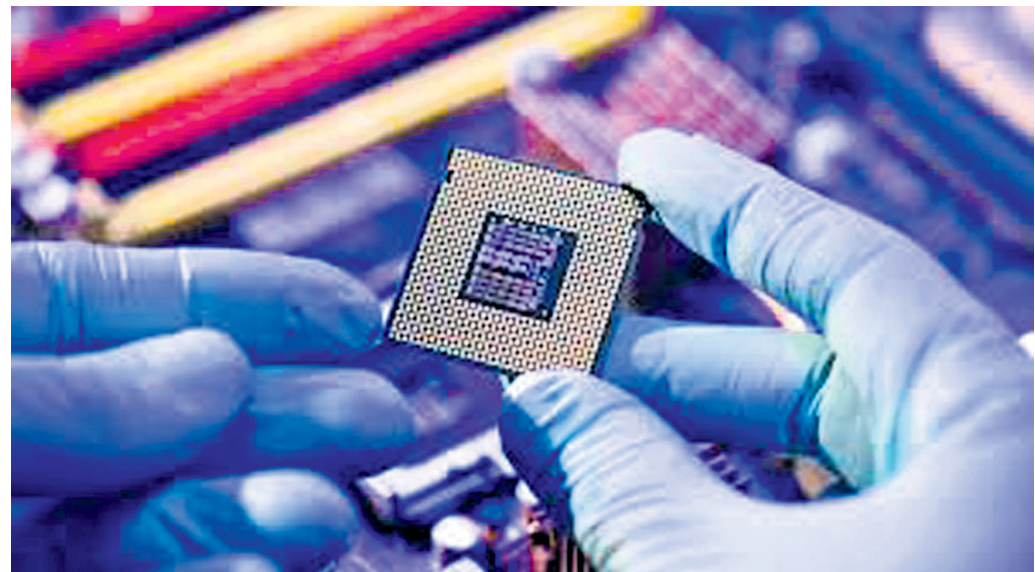
In October 2024, Renew Exim DMCC announced it had entered into an agreement to acquire a 46.64 per cent stake in ITD Cementation India from its promoters for ₹3,204 crore.

The acquisition also comes with an open offer by Renew Exim to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in an engineering and construction firm from public shareholders for ₹2,553 crore, it fully subscribed.

The Adani Group expanded its cement business rapidly through a series of acquisitions. In 2022, it acquired Holcim's Indian assets, which made the conglomerate the country's second-largest cement producer.

# India chip market to reach \$103bn by 2030

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



**Bhubaneswar, Jan 28:** India's semiconductor market is projected to grow to \$103.4 billion by 2030, powering the over \$400 billion electronics market, the Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) said Tuesday.

The government's targeted incentives for fabrication facilities (Fabs) and outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSATs), increased R&D investments and collaborative industry initiatives are key to propelling India's semiconductor sector forward, with significant investment commitments of over \$21 billion by the IESA member companies in last one year, said Ashok Chandak, President of IESA.

At the two-day 'Utkarsh Odisha' - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' here, the industry body also launched "India Semiconductor Market Report 2030" in the presence of Union Minister of Railways and Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav.

The report highlighted key recommendations for achieving India's semiconductor ambitions, like continuing the 'Semicon India' programme beyond the initial outlay of \$10

billion and DLI scheme with some modifications.

Other recommendations include setting a target of 25 per cent local value addition by 2025-26 and 40 per cent by 2030 in electronics manufacturing PLI benefits.

The report presents an in-depth analysis of India's semiconductor market from 2023 to 2030, covering key industries such as handsets, IT, telecom, consumer electronics, automo-

tive, aerospace, and defence.

It also provides actionable insights into critical components like processors, memory, connectivity, and power solutions, along with recommendations for increasing local sourcing.

Dr V Veerappan, Chairman of IESA, said that India's semiconductor consumption market is valued at \$52 billion in 2024-25 and is expected to grow at a robust CAGR of 13 per cent through 2030.

"Sectors like automotive and industrial electronics present significant value-addition opportunities. Mobile handsets, IT, and industrial applications, which together contribute nearly 70 per cent of the revenue, remain the primary growth drivers," he informed.

The report also emphasised the need for innovative R&D to focus on list of high-priority products that cater to domestic and global markets.

# DeepSeek founder started out as low-key hedge fund entrepreneur

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Bangkok, Jan 28:** The 40-year-old founder of China's DeepSeek, an AI startup that has startled markets with its capacity to compete with industry leaders like OpenAI, kept a low profile as he built up a hedge fund and then refined its quantitative models to branch into artificial intelligence.

Liang Wenfeng, who founded DeepSeek in 2023, was born in southern China's Guangdong and studied in eastern China's Zhejiang province, home to e-commerce giant Alibaba and other tech firms, according to Chinese media reports.

The hedge fund he set up in 2015, High-Flyer Quantitative Investment Management, devel-

oped models for computerised stock trading and began using machine-learning techniques to refine those strategies.

Like many Chinese quantitative traders, High-Flyer was hit by losses when regulators cracked down on such trading in the past year. However, it reportedly manages \$8 billion in assets, ample resources for funding DeepSeek's AI research.

It also has abundant computing power for AI, since High-Flyer had by 2022 amassed a cluster of 10,000 of California-based Nvidia's high-performance A100 graphics processor chips that are used to build and run AI systems, according to a post that summer on Chinese social media platform WeChat.

The US soon after restricted sales of those chips to China.

"Thing is, we are sure now that we want to do this, can do this, and are capable of doing this, so we're among the best-suited candidates to tackle it at this moment," Liang told Waves, a tech media outlet, in 2023.

"Currently, neither

tech giants nor startups have an unassailable lead. With OpenAI paving the way, everyone is working with published papers and open-source code," it quoted him as saying.

Liang said he spends his days reading papers, writing code, and participating in group discussions, like other researchers.

DeepSeek is exploring what intelligence means, he said.

"People may think there's some hidden business logic be-

hind this, but it's mainly driven by curiosity," Liang said.

When DeepSeek was asked, "Who is Liang Wenfeng?" its first answer was to name a different Chinese entrepreneur with the same name, at least as spelled in English letters.

When asked: "Where is Liang Wenfeng from and where did he go to university?" it said that as of October 2023, the most recent knowledge cutoff for DeepSeek's R1 AI model, "there is no publicly available information about Liang Wenfeng's background, including his place of origin or educational history."

"If you are referring to the founder of DeepSeek, details about his personal life or academic background have not been disclosed publicly. For

more information about DeepSeek, you can visit its official website," it said.

Liang's focused approach fits in with his determination to push AI learning forward. After decades of relying on innovation from the West, he says China should be making its own contributions.

"What we see is that Chinese AI can't be in the position of following forever. We often say that there is a gap of one or two years between Chinese AI and the United States, but the real gap is the difference between originality and imitation," he said in another Waves interview in November. "If this doesn't change, China will always be only a follower — so some exploration is inescapable."





# Indian batters falter against England



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rajkot, Jan 28:** Indian batters faltered against an incisive England bowling attack as the visitors raised their game in a must-win scenario to win the third T20I by 26 runs and keep the five-match series alive here Tuesday.

Mohammed Shami made a solid comeback to international cricket after 14 months but it was Varun Chakravarthy's bowling effort that stood out as his five-wicket haul helped India limit England to 171/9.

India should have chased down the target but the batters could only manage 145/9 in 20 overs.

India still lead the series 2-1 with the fourth game scheduled in Pune January 31.

While express pace combine of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood did the job in the powerplay, Adil Rashid applied the choke in the middle overs with a skillful display of leg-spin.

Unsettled by the extra pace of Archer in the first two games, Sanju Samson (3 off 6) fell to the England pacer once again while trying to hit a short of length ball out of the park.

His opening partner Abhishek Sharma (24 off 14) played some crisp shots before falling to Brydon Carse.

Suryakumar Yadav (14 off 7) started with a trademark pick up shot off Archer that went all the way but a similar shot attempted off Wood brought about his downfall, extending his lean run.

The turning point of India's innings was the dismissal of Tilak Varma (18 off 14) who had returned not out in his last four outings including two hundreds and a half-century.

It took a special ball from Rashid to send back Varma as the leg-spinner got one to turn sharply from outside the off-stump and crash into the middle stump.

Hardik Pandya (40 off 35)

took the game deep but was not able to take his team over the line.

Earlier, England lost their way after a whirlwind fifty from Ben Duckett (51 off 28) as the in-form Chakravarthy ran through the opposition batting on a flat track.

From 83 for one, England slipped to 127 for eight before Liam Livingstone (43 off 24) went on a six-hitting spree to end the innings on a high.

Chakravarthy completed his second five-wicket haul in T20s when he bowled Jofra Archer with a googly. While Ravi Bishnoi (4/46 in 4 overs) and Washington Sundar (0/15 in 1) proved expensive, Chakravarthy (5/24 in four), Hardik (33/2 in 4) and Axar Patel (1/19 in 3) kept things tight from their end.

Shami (0/25 in 3) did not set the stage on first but it was important that he had an incident free outing.

After being put in to bat, England made a promising start

by coasting to 52/1.

England have struggled against the Indian spinners in the series but Duckett overcame that challenge with some audacious strokeplay on way to his second T20 fifty. He danced down the track, employed the scoop and reverse hits to unsettle the opposition attack.

He was the aggressor in his 76-run stand with skipper Jos Buttler (24 off 22) but the duo fell in quick succession to lose the momentum in the middle overs. Among the shots Duckett pulled off included a scoop over the keeper's head off Shami's second over.

When Shami marked his run up before toss, it was confirmed that he would be playing his first international since the ODI World Cup final in November 2023. On a flat track, Shami, who replaced Arshdeep Singh as the sole specialist pacer in the playing eleven, was tasked with bowling the opening over of the match.

He induced a couple of play and misses in his opening spell that read 0/15 in two overs. Shami returned to bowl the 19th over which went for 11 runs, capping off an incident free outing.

He bowled balls close to 140kmph and got the ball to shape away, allaying concerns over his fitness.

At 83 for one, England were on course for 200 with Duckett going all guns blazing and deep batting line-up to follow.

However, the momentum shifted India's way when Chakravarthy had Buttler caught behind with the latter getting a faint tickle attempting a reverse sweep.

Duck was holed out at deep mid-wicket in the following over from Axar, leaving England at 87 for three at the halfway mark. Chakravarthy removed Jamie Smith and Jamie Overton off successive balls in the 14th over to make matters worse for England.

# Odisha FC Defeat Nita FA 2-0 in Derby



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 28:** Odisha FC triumphed 2-0 over Nita FA at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar Tuesday in the Indian Women's League 2024-25.

The Kalinga Warriors started strong, with Jennifer's early strike from inside the box deflecting off an NFA defender and going out for a corner. In the 5th minute, Eliane Manbolamo gave the Warriors the lead, scoring a brilliant header off the corner kick.

Lynda Kom showcased her impressive skills in the 14th minute with a powerful strike from outside the box, but the NFA keeper's touch deflected the ball onto the post. In the 33rd minute, Shreya Hooda made a crucial save to deny Nita FA an equalizer.

Just before halftime, in the 43rd minute, Lynda Kom extended Odisha's lead. Neha made a fantastic run down the middle, setting up Lynda for a tussle with the defender before calmly slotting the ball past the keeper with a low driven shot.

**I'm grateful to the coach for believing in me. My confidence grew through the coach's guidance and I've been following his instructions both in training and on the field. I'll continue giving my best for the team in this season and in the Odisha Derby**

**JENNIFER KANKAM YEOBAH |**  
FOOTBALLER, ODISHA FC

The second half saw both teams eager to score. In the 47th minute, Neha made another great run down the left and delivered a perfect cutback to Kajol, but her shot was blocked. Jennifer then had a chance to increase the lead, but her effort missed the target as it the bar and went out.

In the 71st minute, Kajol provided a brilliant through ball to Neha, who dribbled into the box but shot straight at the keeper. Shreya Hooda continued her fine form, making several crucial saves to preserve the clean sheet.

## SHORT TAKES

### Samina, epitome of hope for ice-hockey

**Kargil:** A pair of skiing boots lying idle in her house turned into a catalyst for 15-year-old Kargil girl Samina Khatoon to become the first female from a non-descript village Trespone to pursue ice-hockey. Despite fierce opposition from her mother, Samina could not resist the temptation of putting on the pair, which was originally gifted by her uncle to her elder brother, who had no interest in skiing. The same pair proved to be her glide to glory. The youngest player of Ladakh team, she scored in her team's 4-0 in her team's gold medal match against arch-rivals ITBP at the Khelo India Winter Games 2025, Monday which concluded in Leh.

### Bhamidipaty, Yamalalpalli in second round

**Pune:** Indian wildcard players Sahaja Yamalalpalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty advanced to the second round of the 75k ITF Women's Tennis Tournament here Tuesday. In her first round clash against Japan's Naho Sato, Yamalalpalli came back after losing the first set to win 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-3 in two hours and 35 minutes here at the Deccan Gymkhana Tennis Courts. Bhamidipaty took an hour and 20 minutes to get the better of the USA's Alana Smith 6-1, 6-2. Yamalalpalli will face France's Leolia Jeanjean in the second round, who was the runner-up last week in ITF Bengaluru event.

### Fired Premier League ref says he's gay

**London:** Former Premier League referee David Coote has come out as gay and revealed that struggling to hide his sexuality contributed to the offensive rant that got him dismissed last year. Coote was suspended in November when video circulated of him making offensive comments to friends about former Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp. Coote was fired in December after an investigation by the English referees' body. In an interview with The Sun, Coote said: "My sexuality isn't the only reason that led me to be in that position."

# TRISHA'S HISTORIC FIRST EVER TON

*The all-round show of the Indian opener guides India to 150-run win over Scotland*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kuala Lumpur, Jan 28:** Opener Trisha Gongadi etched her name in the record books by scoring the first ever century in women's U-19 T20 World Cup that powered India into the semifinals with a 150-run victory over Scotland here Tuesday.

Trisha, who was deservedly adjudged player of the match, slammed 110 not out off just 59 balls with the help of 13 boundaries and four maximums after India were sent in to bat by Scotland at toss.

The Indians will next face England in the first semifinal January 31.

She was ably supported by fellow opener and wicketkeeper Kamalini G (51 off 42 balls) and Sanika Chalke, who remained unbeaten on 29 off 20 balls as In-



dia scored 208 for 1 in 20 overs.

In reply, Scotland cut a sorry figure as they were bowled out for 58 in 14 overs.

For Scotland, openers Pippa Kelly (12) and Emma Walsingham (12) were joint top-scorers.

Left-arm orthodox spinner Ayushi Shukla was the star for India with the ball returning with figures of 4 for 8, while left-arterm Vaishnavi Sharma (3/5) and Trisha (3/6), after her exploits with the bat, also performed with the ball in hand.

The 19-year-old Trisha, who hails from Telangana, has been in tremendous form in the tournament and notched up two 40-plus scores before the big knock on Tuesday.

# Kohli checks in after a decade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 28:** At exactly 9am when his jet black Porsche zoomed in through the Feroz Shah Kotla ground's 'Virender Sehwag Gate', it was homecoming for Delhi's very own Virat Kohli, who checked in for a training stint with his first-class team after more than 12 years.

Save for pacer Navdeep Saini, all other 18 members of Delhi's squad had only seen him on TV and grown up listening to the tales of how 'Cheeku', the cherubic talent, became the 'King' of Indian cricket.

In the last 15 years, Delhi's 'Cheeku' became a hazy memory as he turned into the most commercially viable brand in global cricket, the face that ICC sold in its Olympic bid presentation.

He was at his home ground Monday for around three hours and had everyone in his vicinity hypnotised. Whether the young impressionable players, or seasoned head coach Sarandeep Singh or batting coach Bantu Singh -- all of them evidently wanted



to be close to him.

Though courteous with all, the former India skipper seemed more comfortable with his former U-19 coach Mahesh Bhati, who is also the administrative manager of this team.

"Woh badlaa nahi hain. Usko chhole-poori pasand hai aur humne mangaake rakhha tha. Usne bola chole puri nahi khawoonga (He loves chhole poori, we made arrangements for him but he said he didn't want it)," a senior DDCA (Delhi and Districts Cricket Association) official told PTI.

What he did seek out after practice ahead of his first Ranji appearance in 12 years from January 30 was also an old favourite.

"Practice ke baad purane time ki tarah kadhi chawal khaya sabke saath (He had kadhi chawal with everyone)," revealed the official.

Everyone shadowed the icon like it was an event. Ranji Trophy matches are covered by a select bunch of domestic cricket faithfuls but Monday, the numbers trebled.

Every move by the 'King' was followed. The two coaches -- Sarandeep and Bantu -- were by his side throughout and it would be difficult for photographers or videographers to edit them from the frame.

"I remember it was Ajit Chaudhary, the erstwhile manager of the Delhi Ranji team, who nicknamed him 'Cheeku' back in 2006-07," DDCA secretary Ashok Sharma, fondly called 'Mama', recollected as if it was yesterday.

He has seen Kohli since he first came here for U-15 trials.

## WORLD PICKLEBALL LEAGUE

### Mumbai Pickle Power, Pune United dominate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 28:** Mumbai Pickle Power continued their unbeaten run with a commanding 5-0 victory over Hyderabad Superstars, while Pune United edged past Bengaluru Jawans in a nail-biting 3-2 thriller to register their first win of the season in the World Pickleball League here.

Mumbai's dominance began in the men's singles, where Brandon Lane displayed nerves of steel to overturn a 17-12 deficit and defeat Hyderabad's Max Freeman 19-17, maintaining his flawless record Monday.

The women's doubles saw Glauka Carvajal Lane and Katie Morris edge past Ava Cavataio and Madalina Grigoriu in a tightly fought match, clinching a 9-7 win to extend Mumbai's lead.

The men's doubles was a showcase of resilience as Hyderabad's Max Freeman and Ben Cawston raced to an 8-1 advantage. However, Mumbai's Eung Gwon Kim and Mayur Patil mounted a stunning comeback, displaying impeccable defense to win 15-14, securing the tie for Mumbai at 3-0.

Mihae Kwon further asserted Mumbai's dominance in the women's singles with an 11-8 victory over Karolina Owczarek, capitalising on her composure in critical moments.

In a more closely contested tie, Pune United delivered a gritty 3-2 victory over Bengaluru Jawans.

Pune's 17-year-old Mateusz Matysik set the tone in the men's singles, demonstrating maturity beyond his years to overcome Bengaluru's Jack Foster 18-15.

However, Bengaluru responded emphatically in the women's doubles as Trang Hyunh-McClain and Alexandra Borobia crushed Mollie Knaggs and Talia Saunders 28-6, leveling the tie at 1-1.

# PM attends the 38th National Games' opening ceremony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun, Jan 28:** A colourful opening ceremony showcasing Uttarakhand's religious heritage and bio-diversity marked the start of the 38th National Games here Tuesday as around 10,000 athletes geared up to compete for podium finishes across 32 disciplines.

The Games will run till February 14 and events will be held across seven cities of the hill state with Dehradun being the main venue. Around 450 gold medals, and a similar number of silver and bronze medals are at stake.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived at the stadium along with Uttarakhand

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama and will inaugurate the Games in a short while.

An estimated 25,000 spectators have packed the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium despite the chilly weather to catch the ceremony live. The PM had also opened the last two editions of the Games in 2022 (Gujarat) and 2023 (Goa).

After taking a round of the stadium on a decked-up golf cart, Modi was presented a traditional cap, shawl and a memento containing replicas of Games mascot 'Mauli' and the medals.

Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh, Union Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse, and



Uttarakhand Sports Minister Rekha Arya were the dignitaries present on the occasion. Indian Olympic Association

President PT Usha and Commonwealth Games Federation chief Chris Jenkins were also in attendance at the ceremony.

Hosting the National Game holds a special significance for Uttarakhand as the state is celebrating the 25th year of its creation. 'Mauli', inspired by Uttarakhand's state bird 'Monal', is the Games mascot, symbolising the region's unique natural beauty, diversity and cultural heritage.

Most of the established sporting stars of the country such as javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, shuttler PV Sindhu, shooter Manu Bhaker are giving it a miss, leaving the stage for other athletes to make a mark.