

Film & fashion

Actor Jacqueliene Fernandez says cinema always plays a major role in setting trends in the fashion world

LEISURE | P2



Netanyahu's warning

Israel's military calls for a possible resumption of fighting in Gaza if Hamas fails to meet a Saturday deadline to release more hostages

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Inflation subsides

Continuing the downward trend, retail inflation falls to a five-month low of 4.31 per cent in January

BUSINESS | P11



India dominate

Gill's attractive century heralds India's 142-run hammering of England in final ODI as the hosts complete a 3-0 clean sweep

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 13, 2025

the bench said people got free

rations and money without

working. "We quite appreci-

ate your concern for them but

would it not be better to make

them a part of the mainstream

of society and permit them to

contribute to the development

of the nation?" the bench said.

appearing for one of the petition-

ers, said there was hardly any-

body in the country who did not

want to work, if they had work.

"You must be having only

one-sided knowledge. I come

from an agricultural fami-

ly. Because of the freebies in

Maharashtra which they just

announced prior to elections,

agriculturists are not getting

labourers." The court, however,

said it did not want to enter into

Attorney General R Venkatara-

mani, was on the same page that

providing shelter to the home-

less merited due attention, "But

at the same time, should it not

be balanced?" the bench asked.

tre was in the process of finalis-

ing the urban poverty alleviation

mission, which would address

various issues, including the

provision of shelter for the ur-

ban homeless. The bench asked

him to verify from the Centre

the time frame within which the

scheme would be applicable and

also place on record the aspects

Venkataramani said the Cen-

It said everybody, including

a debate on this matter.

To this, Justice Gavai said,

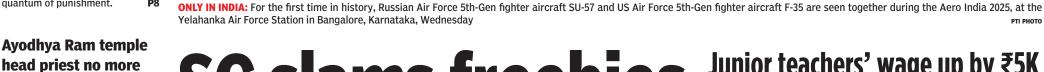
Advocate Prashant Bhushan,

Simplified I-T Bill to be tabled today

New Delhi: A crispier and simplified Income Tax Bill 2025, having 536 sections, and 23 chapters running into 622 pages, is likely to be introduced in the Lok Sabha Thursday. The Bill once enacted will replace six-decade old Income Tax Act 1961, which over the years became bulkier and complex with amendments. The proposed law replaces the term 'previous year' as mentioned in the Income Tax Act, 1961 with 'tax year'. Also, the concept of assessment year has been done away with.

Second conviction for Sajjan Kumar

New Delhi: With a Delhi Court finding former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar quilty, it is his second conviction with respect to 1984 anti-Sikh riots and he faces two more cases. Kumar's conviction came in a case over the murders of two persons, namely, Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh during the violence in Delhi's Saraswati Vihar November 1, 1984. The judge would hear February 18 the arguments on the quantum of punishment.



Lucknow: Mahant Satyendra Das, the chief priest of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, died at a



Wednesday. The 85-year-old was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) earlier

this month after he suffered a brain stroke. The mortal remains of Das were later taken to his residence in Ayodhya. His successor Pradeep Das said, "We are waiting for all his disciples to arrive. It is expected that he will be given a 'water burial' Thursday afternoon." Condoling the demise of Das, PM Narendra Modi said his entire life was dedicated to the service of Lord Ram. CM Yogi Adityanath termed the death of Das as

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



language-just don't touch anyone except stand-up comics!

SC slams freebies

The promise of freebies before elections in India has become a common political strategy, with parties offering cash giveaways, free utilities like power and water, grain distribution, and loan waivers to gain voter support. More than a third of India's 36 states and Union Territories have announced or are currently running various handout programmes. With six more states due to vote over the next two years, analysts expect the practice to gain ground in the coming months. While these initiatives may reflect a welfare state's intention to support vulnerable populations, they often prioritise short-term political gains over long-term economic stability. Though the PM and the RBI have earlier warned against the detrimental impact of such giveaways on the country's financial health by pushing fiscal deficit, the political parties, including the ruling party, are turning a blind eye to the consequences while vying for power. The apex court, citing schemes such as Maharashtra BJP's 'Ladki Bahin', called the practice a creation of a "class of parasites" unwilling to work, further highlighting the negative impact of these freebies. The top court called for a balance, without which the practice of free giveaways could perpetuate a cycle of dependency, rather than promoting sustainable growth



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Supreme Court Wednesday deprecated the practice of political parties promising "freebies" just ahead of elections and asked "are we not creating a class of parasites" instead of bringing people into the mainstream and contribute towards national development.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih also observed that people were not willing to work as they were getting free ration and money.

"Rather than promoting them to be a part of the mainstream of the society by contributing to the development of the nation, are we not creating a class of parasites?" Justice Gavai asked. Justice Gavai then went on to add, "Unfortunately, because of these freebies, which just on the anvil of elections are declared, like 'Ladki Bahin' and other schemes, people are not willing to work.

Hearing a matter concerning the right to shelter of homeless persons in urban areas,

Junior teachers' wage up by ₹5K PNN & AGENCIES date of issue of the resolution, the department said. Chief Min-

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The state government Wednesday increased the monthly remuneration of junior teachers working in the state's elementary schools under the 'Samagra Sikshva' programme.

According to a resolution issued by the School and Mass Education department, the monthly remuneration of junior teachers (under various schemes) has been increased from ₹11.000 to ₹16.000 per month.

The revised rate of remuneration will be effective from the ister Mohan Charan Majhi approved a proposal in this regard January 17. Besides the monthly remuneration hike, their EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) contribution will be increased from ₹1,443 to ₹1,950 per month.

At present, around 13,740 junior teachers (under the Samagra Sikshya scheme) are employed in the state.

The state government will bear an additional annual exnenditure of ₹89 15 crore for the enhanced remuneration of the

iunior teachers

Modi wraps up France visit, heads to USA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Feb 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday left for the US after wrapping up his France visit that included co-chairing a summit on Arti ficial Intelligence and bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron on trade, defence and energy. President Macron came to see off Modi at the airport in Marseille.

"Thank you France!" Modi said in a post on X and added. "A productive visit concludes, where I attended programmes ranging from AI, commerce, energy and cultural linkages. He also expressed gratitude to "President Macron and the people of France."

During the bilateral talks, Modi and Macron Wednesday called for enhancing trade and investment ties between the two countries and committed to further deepening their engagement in the Indo-Pacific and various global forums and initiatives



Modi and Macron jointly inaugurated India's new consulate in France's Marseille.

Modi will be the fourth foreign leader to visit Trump in the weeks after the American leader's inauguration as the 47th President of the US in

Assembly goes paperless

ALL-PARTY MEETING HELD; BUDGET SESSION STARTS TODAY

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday inaugurated the 'Digital House' under the e-Vidhan Application, transforming the Odisha Assembly into a paperless institution where members will now use tablets to access documents and other information during proceedings.

Majhi inaugurated the facility in the presence of Speaker Surama Padhy and her deputy Bhabani Shankar Bhoi. The 'Digital House', devel-

oped by the National Informatics Center (NIC), is part of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project, aimed at reducing paper usage and enhancing transparency in the legislative process. The Assembly has installed tablets for all 147 members to use during sessions. This digital shift will begin just before the start of the Budget session Thursday, where legislators will participate in question-and-answer sessions and proposals via digital platforms

In his address, Majhi said, Odisha Assembly is now part of the digital revolution in the country. It is a historic day for the state, adding that Odisha Assembly is now one of the

few paperless legislative bod ies in the nation. Odisha is the 17th state to implement NeVA after Gujarat, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar (Council), Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh Haryana, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Tripu ra, and Sikkim.

Opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik welcomed the initiative, stating it would enhance the efficiency of the members. However, Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam stressed the importance of training for the 84 new MLAs, saying, "Members should be properly trained to use this facility." **MORE P3**

All videos of India's Got Latent deleted from YT to ensure their inquiries are

and prosperity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Comedian Samay Raina Wednesday said he has removed all episodes of India's Got Latent from his YouTube channel, days after the show landed in a controversv over a remark by influencer Ranveer Allahbadia

In his first response since the controversy erupted earlier this week, Raina said he will fully cooperate with all the investigating agencies in their probe.

"Everything that is happening has been too much for me to handle. I have removed all 'India's Got Latent' videos from my channel. My only objective was to make people laugh and have a good time. I will fully cooperate with all agencies

concluded fairly. Thank you,' Raina, 27, posted on X. The controversial episode of the show was removed by YouTube Tuesday following orders from the Central government. India's Got Latent, which started in June 2024, had aired 18 episodes till now.

Allahbadia, 31, found himself at the centre of a major controversy after his comments on parents and sex on Raina's show went viral on social media Monday, sparking widespread criticism and police complaints in Mumbai and Guwahati.

Meanwhile, the Mumbai Police Wednesday recorded the statements of four persons, including social media influencer Apoorva Mukhija. who also appeared on the show.

MAKE CALIFORNIA Danes dream of buying golden state

"Let's buy California from Donald Trump!" the site Denmarkification.com says, in a nod to "Californication", a word

covered by it.

the Red Hot Chili Peppers band immortalised with its 1990s hit song

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Copenhagen, Feb 12: In the wake of US President Donald Trump's threats to take control of Greenland, some Danes are California dreaming, offering to buy the golden state and infuse it with a Nordic vibe and universal health care.

A satirical website has launched a petition for Denmark to buy America's most populous state, with more than 200,000 people signing up to the idea so far. Greenland is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.

Mocking Trump's favourite slogan, the tongue-in-cheek petition urges Denmark to "Make California Great Again", rewriting the phrase with letters from the Danish language.

"Let's buy California from Donald Trump!" the site Denmarkification.com says, in a nod to "Californication", a word the Red Hot Chili Peppers band immortalised with its 1990s hit song.

"Let's be honest -- Trump isn't exactly California's biggest fan. He's called it 'the most ruined state in the Union' and has feuded with its leaders for years."



'We're pretty sure he'd be willing to part with it for the right price," it says. "We'll send our bestest negotiators -- Lego executives and the cast of Borgen," it mused, referring to the Denmark-based global tov behe moth and the Danish-produced drama series, respectively.

"We'll bring hygge to Hollywood, bike lanes to Beverly Hills, and organic smorrebrod to every street corner. Rule of law, universal health care and fact based politics might apply."

"Hygge" is a word in Danish that describes a cozy atmosphere while "smorrebrod" is a multi-ingredient sandwich ubiquitous in the Nordic country and its neighbours.

Why would the Scandinavian country want the US state? For its sunny climate, tech industry and wealth of avocados, the site says. And of course Disneyland, which it proposes renaming "Hans Christian Andersenland", in reference to Denmark's famed fairy tale writer. "Mickey Mouse in a Viking helmet? Yes, please."

Whether Americans would want to offload the state is not much of a concern. "Let's face it -- when has that ever stopped him? If Trump wants to sell Cal ifornia, he'll sell California."

At 11:45 am (0945 GMT) Wednesday, almost 207,000 people had signed the petition.

eisure



ZELLWEGER 'ALMOST DIED' DURING AUDITION

Hollywood actress Renee Zellweger has confessed she thought she was going die during her first acting audition after lying about her ability to rollerblade in a bid to land a starring role in a beer commercial.

ARIANA GRANDE: THERAPY HAS HELPED ME TO NAVIGATE FAME

American singer and songwriter Ariana Grande has explained how she's coped with the stresses and strains of fame. "Therapy has helped me to navigate fame" shares the 31-year-old singer.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You will focus your attention today on your beloved. You will feel very energetic, but your commitment to work will falter. So don't be surprised if your superiors are annoyed. However, Ganesha says today is a day for romantic pursuits.

Professionals in all spheres of

work are due for a field day today. The day will be particularly outstanding for Administrators and executives are likely to get richer by the end of the day. Even if you are engaged in some other work, you will stand out and get noticed for your overall excellence. Businessmen can expect to get into new partnerships and joint ventures. This is a very auspicious day for launching new projects

A hectic and busy day awaits

leave you feeling bored and listless. Find creative ways to beat the boredom, or take a break and do things which appeal to you today, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You wish to display your social prestige and monetary clout in front of your relatives. But you have to pay a heavy price for that. Your past experience will teach you something, which will stand in good stead for future dealings.

You will see some change in your daily schedule today. It is a good day to start a new job or business activity. You will focus more attention on your personality today You will try to improve yourself and bring your hidden talents to the fore. Make the most of this opportunity to implement your plans, says Ganesha.

Today you will feel monetarily much stronger than you have ever felt, says Ganesha. You will realise the need to make monetary arrangements for some unforeseen financial instability that may occur in the future. Your leadership qualities will be appreciated by people around you. Ganesha warns that there may be wild fluctuations in monetary transactions.

Ganesha says today you may be able to undertake travel for business or pleasure purposes. It may be a busy day for you work wise and you may not be able to completely focus on your family or family issues. Try your luck in the stock market today, as it may prove beneficial to you.

SCORPIO

Your sixth sense would work wonders today, as per to what Ganesha has to say. Trust your instincts and work accordingly. Work enthusiastically and dedicatedly. When the pressure of work mounts on you, take a break and unwind with the help of soft music.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees a day full of promises. People in the creative field. especially artists are going to benefit more. Radio jockey and television anchors can make a note of this day in their diary, as it may serve as a memorable day, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Opportunities don't knock on the door twice. Today, you'll answer the door and utilise the opportunity to the most, predicts Ganesha. Positive results will be visible and you'll stand a chance to overtake your competitors. Even if the competition is fierce and opponents try everything to pull you down, you'll not let them win the battle. Socially, you will be very popular today.

AQUARIUS

The game is set; you are put up against those who are holding a grudge against you and are waiting for an opportunity to pull you down. But, the Lion - the King of the jungle doesn't fear anyone. You are confident, skilful, and know your strengths very well.

PISCES

You will find yourself in a philosophical state of mind today. You will be able to see things for what they really are, rather than what they appear to be. You are unlikely to try and swim against the flow today, given your mental state. You will take things are they come to you, one at a time. Some bad news could come your way and likely keep your mind convulsed with stress, says Ganesha.



Mumbai: Sri Lankan beauty and Bollywood star Jacqueliene ion means, you know, being Fernandez agrees cinema plays creative and being unique. It's a major role in setting trends in a gateway to that, you know to the fashion world align your person to the one Jacqueliene told this agency: and only So you're one and only

"Does cinema play an importpersonality, which you have. ant role? Of course, yeah, it She added that fashdoes. Because certain roles, ion is a celebration figures and certain charof "who you are acters are so fashionable every day. So and stylish that they've it's a beautiful exploded or once people thing." have, like, taken a liking to them or once their style has kind of been liked. She shared that films do influence



The top filmmaker and his son invite Majhi to the event, scheduled for February 16 at Barabati Stadium

BHUBANESWAR: Bollywood film producer Boney Kapoor and his actor son Arjun Kapoor paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the Odisha Assembly Chamber Wednesday. The duo extended an invitation to the CM for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) event, which is set to take place at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack February 16.

Boney highlighted that Odisha boasts vast natural beauty and adequate facilities for film shooting. He emphasized that with proper promotion, the state could become a preferred location for many filmmakers, thereby boosting the local tourism sector.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singhdeo, along with members of the Council of Ministers and MLAs, were

Chiranjeevi draws flak

HYDERABAD: Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi

has sparked controversy with his comments

about wanting a grandson to continue his

The popular star is facing a backlash on social

The megastar, as the top actor is popular-

media for his comments seen as 'sexist' by many.

ly known, made the remarks at a pre-release

event of the Telugu movie Brahma Anandam.

He expressed his desire for a grandson to car-

only a male heir could carry forward his fam-

ily's legacy The veteran actor also said that

he is scared his son Ram Charan might have

at least this time, to have a boy so that our

legacy continues, but his daughter is the apple

of his eye... I'm scared that he might again

Meanwhile, YSR Congress Party spokesper-

son Syamala expressed surprise over Chiran-

ieevi's remarks. "Will only a son carry for-

ward the legacy, not a daughter," she asked.

The YSRCP leader said those who be-

lieve that only sons can become successors

should come out of this mentality as wom-

en have made tremendous achievements

22

Across

8 Insult

9 Fortified

deceit

Garden flora

4 Seafood dish

11 Deprive of by

12 Movie genre

in sports

18 Instinctive

13 Friendly rivalry,

20 Weather watcher?

POST

have a girl. Lovely kids," he added.

"I keep wishing and telling (Ram) Charan,

The critics accused him of implying that

ry forward his legacy.

another daughter.

in all fields.



present during the meeting.

The CCL is set to bring its star-studded cricketing action to Cuttack on February 16, 2025. The tournament features two exciting fixtures: Punjab De Sher vs. Bhojpuri Dab-

bangs and Mumbai Heroes vs. Bengal Tigers. Several movie stars, including Sonu Sood, Manoj Tiwari, Riteish Deshmukh, Jisshu Sengupta, and others, are expected



Preet Singh, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film Mere Husband Ki Biwi, says her character Antara is a very headstrong girl and someone who has a lot of self-love as well. Talking about her character, she

is a very headstrong girl, someone who has a lot of self-love as well... She's an adventure-loving girl, you know, and a lot into sports. She added: "And I think the

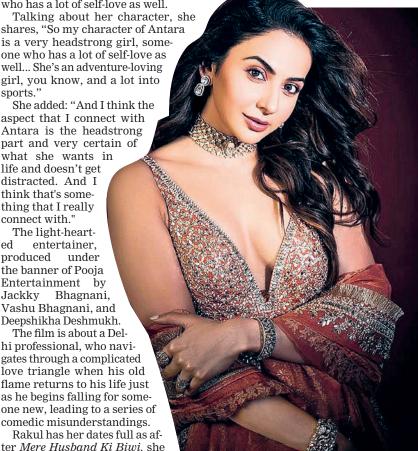
Antara is the headstrong part and very certain of what she wants in life and doesn't get distracted. And I think that's something that I really connect with."

ed entertainer, produced under the banner of Pooja Entertainment by Jackky Bhagnani, Vashu Bhagnani, and

The light-heart-

Deepshikha Deshmukh. The film is about a Delhi professional, who navigates through a complicated love triangle when his old flame returns to his life just as he begins falling for someone new, leading to a series of

comedic misunderstandings. Rakul has her dates full as after *Mere Husband Ki Biwi*, she has De De Pyaar De 2 and Ameeri. While *De De Pyaar De 2* brings back the charm of the hit rom-com Ameeri promises a fresh and intriguing narrative.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



CROSSWORD

5 Great divide

6 Reminder of

past events

7 Fabulist

14 Indignation 15 Upheaval

16 Fairy tale

opener

17 Sock pattern

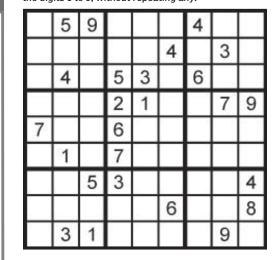
19 Sine or cosine

21 Pilotless plane

10 Title

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.

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

O N X O

DRIFTWOOD MEDDLES 2 3 6 8 9 4 5

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

23

22 Make into law

24 Spotted wildcat

1 Hematologist's

3 Ballroom dance

2 Abominable

study

(3-4)

25 Garment part

23 Biological

science

<u>Down</u>

owntown

RICH TRIBUTE

Artistes perform during 'Antardrishti' organised by Srjan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa in collaboration with Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre on the birth anniversary of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra at Utkal Rangamancha in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



Govt plans organic Mahaprasad



KEY TAKEAWAYS

A SPECIAL PROJECT CALLED 'AMRUTA ANNA' WILL BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER WHICH MAHAPRASAD PREPARED FROM ORGANIC RICE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO DEVOTEES THROUGH A SPECIAL

INITIALLY, ORGANIC RICE VARIETIES LIKE KALAJEERA, PIMPUDIBASA AND JUBARAJA BEING PRODUCED IN THE STATE WILL BE USED IN THE MAHAPRASAD UNDER THE PROJECT

STATE GOVT HAS SET A TARGET TO BRING 100 TO 200 ACRES OF LAND UNDER ORGANIC PADDY CULTIVATION

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: In what would provide a major fillip to organic farming in the state, the government has decided to launch a special project called 'Amruta Anna' under which the Mahaprasad at Puri Srimandir will be prepared by using organic rice and vegetables. This was revealed during a consultation meeting at Krushi Bhavan Conference Hall here Wednesday.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator and Principal Secretary to Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Arabinda Kumar Padhee.

The meeting revealed that the state government has already taken steps to make Lord's Mahaprasad chemical-free. The decision to use organic rice and vegetables in Srimandir Mahaprasad was welcomed by Suara-Mahasuara Nijog and SJTA as well.

According to Padhee, "Organic rice will be used in 'Kotha Bhoga' of the 12th-century shrine in the initial phase. A proposal was also presented regarding use of organic rice and vegetables in preparation of the 'Bhoga' during Rath Yatra. A ta Anna' will be implemented under which Mahaprasad prepared from organic rice will be made available to devotees through a special counter at Ananda Bazaar."

Initially, organic rice varieties like Kalajeera, Pimpudibasa and Jubaraja being produced in the state will be used in the Mahaprasad under 'Amruta Anna' project, the SJTA chief added.

Significantly, Koraput Kalajeera rice has already been accorded GI (Geographical Indication) tag. And, this year, Kalajeera rice has been cultivated in 1,365 acres of land in Koraput district while a Kalajeera rice mandi has been opened in Kotpad for the first time.

In order to promote organic farming, measures like organic certification and subsidies were proposed at the meeting. Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be encouraged to produce organic rice through cluster approach. A steering committee will be formed to implement the entire process smoothly. The committee will have representatives from SJTA, Suara-Mahasuara Nijog, other producer groups, NGOs and other departments.

In initial phase, the government has set a target to bring 100 to 200 acres of land under organic paddy cultivation. Seeds will also be saved for further promotion of organic paddy production.

Organic farming will not only help people get healthy food, but will also help protect the livestock as use of cow urine, cow dung and other organic fertilisers are intrinsic to this alternative method of cultivation.



All-party meeting ahead of Budget Session

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: An all-party meeting was held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Speaker Surama Padhy ahead of the Budget Session of Odisha Legislative Assembly which is scheduled to commence Thursday.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling, senior BJD leader Pramila Mallik, and Congress Legislative Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam were present during the meeting at the

Speaker's chamber on the Assembly premises.

Speaking to media after the all-party meeting, Mallik said, "Discussions were held for the smooth functioning of the Assembly during the Budget Session. The Governor will address the House and the Budget will be tabled in Assembly. The House will function as per the procedures.'

Mallik also welcomed the move to ensure the paperless functioning of the Assembly. Notably, all 147 MLAs have been provided with tablets to carry out their legislative duties by replacing paper documents.

"This session marks a signif-

icant transition as the Odisha Assembly adopts a paperless approach, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'One Nation, One Application' vision through the e-Vidhan Applica-

He added that members can now digitally record their attendance, and all data, including questionnaires, answers, and their work, will be tracked digitally within the Assembly. Meanwhile, the CM called

tion," Mahaling said.

on Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati at Raj Bhavan here ahead of the Budget Session.

The third session of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly will begin with the Governor's address Thursday.

"Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, called on me at Raj Bhavan this morning. During our meeting, we engaged in a comprehensive discussion on various developmental initiatives, the state's achievements. and the roadmap for future progress," the Governor wrote on his X handle.

The Budget Session is scheduled to have 28 working days and will continue till April 5. The annual Budget for 2025-26 will be tabled in the House February 17.

Bodies under bridges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Bonai, Feb 12: In separate incidents, two bodies were discovered under bridges in Cuttack and Sundargarh districts, sparking investigations by local police.

Police recovered the body of a Plus II student, identified as Prateek Das, from the bank of Kathaiodi river under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose bridge in Cuttack, Wednesday morning. Prateek, a resident of Niladri Vihar in Bhubaneswar, had been missing since Tuesday. His family had been unable to trace his whereabouts despite extensive searching. The body

While the body of **Prateek Das was** recovered from Kathajodi riverbank under Netaji Subhas **Chandra Bose bridge** in Cuttack, police were yet to identity the woman whose half-burnt body was found under Kumakela bridge in Sundargarh

was spotted by locals, who immediately alerted the authorities. Police are probing the circumstances surrounding

In a separate case later in the day, the half-burnt body of a woman was found under Kumakela bridge in Chandiposh police limits of Sundargarh district. Preliminary investigations indicate the woman was murdered by slashing her throat and then set on fire using petrol. The charred remains were discovered by locals, who informed the police. A team from Rourkela, along with Chandiposh police, is conducting an investigation. Police have registered a murder case and are working to identify the victim. If the body remains unclaimed within 72 hours, it will be cremated. The identity of the victim is yet to be established.



3-day MPSO 2025 starts Feb 14

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) department is all set to organise Matsya-Pranee Samavesh Odisha (MPSO) 2025 from February 14 to 16 at Biju Patnaik Stadium in Baramunda here. F&ARD Minister Gokulanan-

da Mallik unveiled the logo and mascot for MPSO 2025 at Veterinary College Auditorium and said, "The three-day state-level event will go a long way to help fish farmers and animal rearers. Mallik also highlighted the

steps being taken by the state government to make Odisha self-reliant in milk, meat, egg and fish production.

The theme for this year's MPSO is 'Fisheries and animal husbandry for life, livelihood and climate resilience' According to the F&ARD

department, as many as 8,164 fish farmers and animal rearers from across the state will participate in the event. "10 interactive panel discus-

sions will be held. There will be



an interactive session - Ask the Minister - wherein fish farmers and animal rearers will ask questions and the F&ARD Minister will respond," they said.

As many as 200 stalls in two hangars will showcase products related to fisheries and animal husbandry. Animal and fish of different species will also be displayed in two open hangars. Cultural programmes will also be held ev-

ery evening, they added. "Successful animal rearers and fish farmers from each subdivision will be felicitated on the occasion. This apart. 24 officers of the department will be felicitated for their outstanding contribution. Prizes will also be given to the winners of quiz and debate competitions," they said.

MAN ARRESTED IN **HIT-AND-RUN CASE**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Lingaraj police Wednesday arrested a 32-year-old pick-up truck driver for allegedly knocking down a man near Balakati Market, leading to his death. The accused, identified as Anshuman Mohanty, a resident of Balakati, was absconding after the mishap that took place under Balianta police station.

Balianta inspector-in-charge (IIC) Rabindranath Meher said, Chhabina Sahoo had stepped out to purchase some grocery items January 26 night when Anshuman rammed him.

Chhabina sustained grievous injuries on his neck and face. Instead of attending to Chhabina. Anshuman fled the spot after a heated exchange with locals. Chhabina was rushed to Capital hospital where doctors declared him 'dead on arrival'.

IIC Meher said Anshuman surrendered before the cops Wednesday, along with his pick-up truck. He was booked under Sections 281 and 106(1) of BNS and produced before a local court Wednesday.

absence of private secy POST NEWS NETWORK

Oram writes to CS over

THE 2013-BATCH

ODISHA CADRE

IAS OFFICER WAS

APPOINTED THE

TO ORAM AT THE

INISTRY OF TRIBA

AFFAIRS FOR

FIVE YEARS

LEVEL OF DEPUT

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram Wednesday wrote a letter to Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuia for initiation of disciplinary proceedings against

his private secretary Parag Harshad Gavali for his 'unauthorised' absence from duty. In the letter, the

minister said, Parag has been absent from duty without authorisation since January 23, 2025. His continued unauthorised absence is in violation of the service rules and has caused

disruptions in the functioning of the office.

"In light of the above, I have requested secretary of Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to initiate appropriate disciplinary action against Dr Parag Harshad Gavli as per the relevant provisions of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules," the letter reads.

Last year, the Centre had appointed Gavali as private secretary to the Union Tribal

Affairs Minister. The 2013-batch Odisha cadre

IAS officer was ap pointed the private secretary to Oram at the level of Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for five years, accord ing to an official letter issued by Personnel & Training department's Deputy Secretary to Odisha Chief Secre-

tary Gavali was an pointed the Collector of Sundargarh in June 2022. Earlier, he was posted as the

Kalahandi Collector. Meanwhile, Orissa POST tried to contact Gavali on his mobile number 8280066880 and

also sent him a message but there was no response from him till going to print.

Rapper Abhinav found dead; dad alleges torture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Feb 12: Odia rapper and engineer Abhinav Singh was found dead at his Bangalore apartment under mysterious circumstances Sunday night, sources said Wednesday. Abhinav reportedly ended

his life by consuming poison, with his father, Bijayananda Singh, blaming the 32-year-old Cuttack resident's wife, Utkal Deepika, for his suicide. "Deepika used to harass him (Abhinav). Unable to bear the

stress, he resorted to the extreme step," Bijayananda said, demanding a thorough probe into the incident. Bijayananda approached the Lalbagh police demanding

stringent action against five

persons, including Deepika

and her parents, Tuesday night.

Lalbagh police registered a case

(56/25) and began a probe. Sources said Abhinav and Deepika entered into wedlock in 2022. The couple frequently



quarrelled and Deepika had even approached the Infocity police in Bhubaneswar alleging dowry torture by Abhinav in August last year. Since then the two stayed separately. Deepika again approached Lalbagh police in January this year alleging that Abhinav was not returning their wedding gifts.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Housing sales across 15 top tier-II cities, including Bhubaneswar, rose 20 per cent in value terms last calendar year to more than Rs 1.52 lakh crore on higher volume and price appreciation, according to PropEquity.

Real estate data analytics firm PropEquity Wednesday released the data for 15 major tier-II cities where total housing sales rose 4 per cent to 1,78,771 units in 2024 from 1,71,903 in the preceding year.

In value terms, the sales increased 20 per cent to Rs 1,52,552 crore in 2024 from Rs 1,27,505 crore in 2023.

Other 14 cities are - Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Gandhi Nagar, Nashik, Jaipur, Nagpur, Mohali, Visakhapatnam, Lucknow, Coimbatore, Goa, Bhopal and Trivandrum.

As per the data, housing sales



PropEquity: Housing sales up 20% in

rose the most in Coimbatore at 36 per cent and fell maximum in Visakhapatnam by 21 per cent in 2024

Bhubaneswar recorded the highest growth in sales value at 47 per cent, while Nashik recorded a 2 per cent decline in sales value.

Samir Jasuja, Founder &

CEO, PropEquity, said, "Sales value rose by 20 per cent even as sales volumes increased by only 4 per cent in 2024. It points to a rapid increase in price of

homes in these cities owing to

factors like rise in cost of raw

materials and speculative in-

vestments which may impact

the real estate market.'

Jasuja said the Budget an nouncements will give a boost to housing demand in tier-II cities and create opportunities for employment. Ahmedabad was at the top in

sales value among 15 tier-II cities. The city sold homes worth Rs 49,421 crore in 2024, a 17 per cent rise from Rs 42,063 crore in the preceding year.

Commenting on the report, Madhur Gupta, CEO, Hero Realty, said, "The influx of employment opportunities, lower cost of living, and affordable housing are key factors driving real estate demand and supply in tier-II cities.'

Yashank Wason, MD, Royal Green Realty said the housing demand in tier II has risen.

"With hyper-congestion and dwindling quality housing supply in tier-I cities, the next generation of homebuvers are increasingly looking towards tier-II cities," he added.

Orissa POST

downtown

The partnership will focus on

the development and implemen-

tation of advanced care strate

gies, new clinical protocols, and

collaborative research projects.

These initiatives are expected

to have a global impact, bene-

fiting patients not only in India

but around the world, and set-

ting new standards for preci-

sion, efficacy, and compassion

Giri highlighted the impor-

tance of global partnerships in

advancing medical care, stat-

ing, "Dr. Wagstaff's visit marks

a crucial step in our shared

mission to improve burn care

worldwide. We are excited to

see the long-term effects this

collaboration will have on burn

patient rehabilitation and treat

ment, ensuring every patient

receives the care they deserve.

The collaboration between

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar and RAH

is a testament to the power of

global cooperation in addressing

complex medical challenges. By

combining expertise, research

and technological advance

ments, both institutions are po-

sitioned to set new benchmarks

in burn treatment.



ECoR diverts three

trains for a month

Railway (ECoR) has decided to divert three long-distance trains for one

month in view of the construction of an air concourse and other safetyrelated modernisation works at the

said. The temporarily diverted trains

thapur-Kapilas Road instead of the

skipped and temporary stoppages will be provided at Naraj Marthapur

March 17, 2025, Khurda Road Division

of ECoR will provide free bus service

and Naraj Marthapur Railway Station

for the passengers of temporary

tion and safety-related works, the

official said. The Coimbatore-Silcha

at Cuttack Tuesdays, the Ernakulam

Patna bi-weekly Express arriving at

Cuttack Wednesdays and Thursdays

scheduled route via Barang-Cuttack Kapilas Road. Stoppages of these

will run via Barang-Naraj Mar-

WEATHER

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AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate of Bhadrak, I Gitarani Jena (21 years), D/o: Krushna Chandra Baidya, Vill: Pokharisahi, P.O: Nalagohira, P.S.: Bansada, Dist.: Bhadrak declare that I have changed my name in my LIC policy bearing No. 587386730 from Pujarani Baidya to Gitarani Jena. Both name are same and one person.

By virtue of an affidavit stated that I, Bunulata Das, W/o Bijay Das, At -Bhatapur, P.O. - Arnapal, P.S. - Bhadrak (R) Dist. - Bhadrak, do hereby solemnly declare that my previous name is Banalata Das and at present I known as Bunulata Das. So Bunulata Das & Banalata Das is one & same person.

I, Narendra Sahoo. S/o - Late Jagannath Sahoo, resident of Word No. - 12, Iswarpur, P.O. - Sundargram, P.S. - Cuttack Sadar, Dist. - Cuttack - 754002, Odisha, declare by this Affidavit No. - 836116 dtd.11.02.2025, that now onwards I shall be known as Narendra Kumar Sahoo for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, Date -10.02.2025, I am Amit Kumar Das. S/o -Gopabandhu Das, At: Plot No. - 209, I.G. Colony, P.O.: Sisupalgarh, P.S. Dhauli, Bhubaneswar, Dist. - Khurda, Odisha declare that I have correction my monther's name Snehnalata Mohanty to Snehalata Mohanty and her Aadhaar No. - XXXXXXXX8567. Henceforth she will be known as Snehalata Mohanty for all purpose.

City AllMS collaborates with Create knowledge to RAH for advanced burn care transform world: Guv



The initiative aims to enhance burn treatment through technology, innovation and cutting-edge research to improve patient outcomes globally

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: In a significant step toward advancing burn care management, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar is set to collaborate with Marcus Wagstaff, a renowned burns care expert and head of the adult burns service at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), Australia. Wagstaff's visit to the Burn Centre at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Wednesday marks the beginning of a transformative partnership aimed at improving the treatment of burn injuries and the development of new medical techniques.

During his visit, Wagstaff was warmly welcomed by Institute's executive director Ashutosh Biswas who expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration. Biswas emphasised the potential of this partnership to raise the standards of burn care, not only in India but globally.

The collaboration is part of Wagstaff's ongoing efforts to improve burn care worldwide by fostering international col-

Alongside Burns and Plastic Surgery head Sanjay Kumar Giri, medical superintendent Dillip Kumar Parida, Manoj Kumar Mohanty, and Prabhas Ranjan Tripathy, Wagstaff discussed various ways to integrate advanced technologies. share best practices, and begin joint research projects aimed at

improving patient outcomes. Wagstaff praised the facil-

transform world: Guv



The event highlighted the institute's growth, future vision, and the importance of fostering innovation and leadership in students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: "Let us create knowledge that will inform and transform the world, and prepare students to be technically grounded leaders who will change the world," said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati during the 17th Foundation Day celebration of IIT-Bhubaneswar

here Wednesday. The ceremony saw IIT-Bhubaneswar director Shreepad Karmalkar deliver the welcome address, where he recounted the institution's growth since its establishment and outlined its recent initiatives in teaching, research, industry collabo

In his address, Governor Kambhampati lauded the institute's journey since its founding in 2008 and praised its multidisciplinary curriculum and strong industry ties. He emphasised the importance of fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, which aligns with India's growing influence in the global startup ecosystem.

The Governor also urged students to lead with conviction, courage, and compassion, stressing the need for bold ideas and projects that contribute to the national goals of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'

He highlighted that IIT-Bhubaneswar's role in creating knowledge and building a culture of lifelong learning is essential for preparing students to take on leadership roles in an evolving world.

Governor Kambhampati also visited key research facilities at IIT-Bhubaneswar, including the Research and Entrepreneurship Park, SiCRIC, Microfabrication Lab, Renewable Energy Systems, VARCoE, and

and Bengaluru-Guwahati Tri-Weekly Express arriving at Cuttack Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays will provide stoppages at the Naraj Marthapur railway station instead of Cuttack railway station from February 16 to March 16, 2025, an official statement said. Passengers who are supposed to entrain or detrain at Cuttack railway station for the above trains will be provided with free bus service

Cuttack railway stations in both

directions during the period

Vedanta hosts Annual Mines Safety Fortnight

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Vedan ta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, recently hosted its Annual Mines Safe ty Fortnight (AMSF) at the Jamkani coal mine in Sund argarh district. The two-week programme, organised in col laboration with the Director ate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), saw the enthusiastic participation of over 500 employees and business partners

Focusing on the theme, "Aapka Pariwar Aapka Intezar Kai Raha Hai" (Your family is waiting for you), the event empha sised the critical importance of safety protocols to prevent accidents and ensure the well-being of employees.

Director of Mines Safety at DGMS Bhubaneswar Prafull Ranjan Thakur, praised the Jamkani team for their com mitment to safety, highlighting their regular safety drills awareness programmes, and the implementation of a secure access road for heavy machinery

CEO (Coal Mines) of Vedanta Aluminium David Stone reiterat ed the company's focus on a safe ty-first culture, stating, "Safety is integral to our core values, and ensuring a zero-harm workplace is our key objective."



Throughout the fortnight

Over 500 kidney transplants by Bhub Manipal Hospitals

The

event

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, celebrated a major achievement-performing over 500 successful kidney transplants.

The event, held Wednesday, highlighted the resilience of the patients and the hospital's commitment to exceptional care.

The gathering included patients, medical professionals, and key stakeholders, and featured emotional recovery stories, valuable medical discussions, and the presentation of the Manipal Sathi Privilege Card to kidney transplant re-

cipients. The chief guest on the occasion was Additional director of Medical Education & Training and state nodal officer of SOT-TO Umakant Satpathy while renowned Indian actor and founder of Smile Force Sabyasachi Mishra was the guest of

The event saw around 50-60 kidney transplant patients in attendance, including a series

of talks from hospital director Saktimaya Mahapatra, and unit head of Medical Services Siddhartha Mishra,.

Transplant shared their personal experiences of overcoming kidney failure and embracing a renewed life. Senior consultants in

urology and nephrology Manas Ranjan Pradhan, Sai Sahu, Prasad highlighted the Subodh Kumar resilience of the Das, and Supatients and the kanto Kishore Das also adhospital's commitment dressed the atto exceptional tendees, offering insights into the medical aspects of

kidney transplantation.

Mahapatra expressed pride

in the hospital's achievement. stating, "This is a celebration of hope and resilience." Satpathy emphasised the

critical role of organ donation, while Mishra praised the transformative power of healthcare.

The event concluded with a focus on increasing organ donation awareness, reaffirming the hospital's dedication to excellence in healthcare and transplant services.

NCW chairperson emphasises training for safer workplaces

Vijaya Rahatkar says safe and respectful workplace needed for working women to balance their homes and iobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The National Commission for Women (NCW) Wednesday underscored the need for proper training for committee members for effective enforcement and capacity-building initiatives to prevent sexual harassment of women at workplace. NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said this while reviewing the implementation of the 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act' (POSH Act) in the state. The meeting was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the

Rahatkar said working women can balance both their



homes and jobs effectively, as long as they are provided with a safe and respectful workplace.

She stressed that sexual harassment can only be prevented through the proper implementation of the POSH Act and widespread public awareness about it.

The POSH Act, officially known as the 'Sexual Harass ment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013,' is designed to protect women from sexual harassment at work and provides a structured mechanism to address such complaints.

Rahatkar emphasised the

regional committees in every district of the state. She also proposed organising training programmes for committee members and called for greater public awareness of the law through advertisements and hoardings in public spaces. Clarifying that the law aims

formation of internal com-

mittees in workplaces and

to prevent injustice and is not against men, Rahatkar said those found guilty of harassment should face strict punishment under the law.

In a post on X, NCW highlighted the recent seminar on anti-human trafficking held in Odisha, where Rahatkar addressed key aspects of the issue, including its concepts, dimensions, and prevention strategies such as awareness campaigns and community engagement.

The meeting was attended by Women and Child Development department principal secretary Shubha Sharma, IG S Saini, divisional director Monisha Banerjee, and senior officers of various departments and nodal officers from the state government.

Vedanta raised safety aware ness through workshops, including mock drills, fire safety training, first aid programmes, and road safety sessions.

Job fair in City for ex-servicemen

Bhubaneswar: The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), under the Ministry of Defence, will organise a job fair for ex-servicemen at 120 Infantry Battalion (TA) Grounds February 14, official sources said, Wednesday. Registration for all ex-servicemen will take place at the venue from 7am to 10am. To register, applicants should bring their ex-servicemen identity card and five copies of the latest CV with a photograph, they said. According to DGR sources, the initiative aims at providing employment opportunities to ex-servicemen in corporate roles by connecting them with leading employ ers. Various companies will conduct interviews and offer placements for roles ranging from senior supervisors and managers to strategic planners and project directors, they added. Applicants can contact Lt Col Rajendra Singh, Adm Comdt on 91-6398463478 for further queries and assistance. Similarly, employers can register on line - www.dgrindia.gov.in - and book their stalls. For further queries, they may contact Joint Director (SE and CI). DGR West Block IV, RK-Puram, New

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: In a strategic move to strengthen the state's aviation sector. Odisha held the 3rd High Power Committee (HPC) meeting Wednesday at Lok Seva Bhavan, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

The meeting focused on expanding regional connectivity. modernising existing airports. and developing new aviation infrastructure, in alignment with the state's vision of becoming a global leader in aviation and realising the vision of Viksit

A key highlight was the development of the Shree Jagannath International Airport (SJIA) at Puri, a critical step in boosting connectivity for

religious tourism and regional

The committee reviewed progress on the expansion of other vital airports, such as Jeypore, Amarda Road, and Utkela, and emphasised resolving pending land acquisition and forest clearance issues. The Works department was appointed as the nodal agency to expedite the development of these facilities.

A significant agenda was the implementation of the revised Small Aircraft Scheme (SAS) aimed at improving air connectivity between underserved regions, including Jeypore, Malkangiri, and Jharsuguda. The scheme will provide affordable travel options for remote communities, supporting economic growth and better access to



services.

The committee also discussed the proposal for a new greenfield airport at Paradip, focusing on the identification of land and feasibility studies for the project. This new airport is expected to further strengthen Odisha's infrastructure, enabling easier access to the port city and surrounding areas.

Further bolstering the avia-

tion sector, the Commerce and Transport department led by Principal Secretary Usha Padhee stressed the need for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to support airline operators such as IndiGo, Alliance Air, and IndiaOne Air. The funding will encourage operators to increase domestic and international air traffic to and from Odisha

In addition to infrastruc ture, the state is also focusing on building a skilled aviation workforce. The committee highlighted the establishment of the Aviation Security Training Institute (ASTI) at Chanda ka, aimed at training profes sionals to support the grow ing needs of the sector. The Directorate of Aviation will also undergo restructuring to enhance its capacity to manage and oversee the expanding avi ation landscape. Ahuja reiterat ed the crucial role of aviation in driving economic growth boosting tourism, and improv ing connectivity. He remarked "Odisha is becoming an avia tion hub with world-class infrastructure and policies that are essential for realising the state's growth vision.

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

Plus II girl delivers in **CHC toilet; infant dies**

Daringbadi, Feb 12: Amidst the stark reality of Odisha registering 7.6 per cent adolescent pregnancies among the girls, as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 data, a shocking incident has come to the fore wherein a Plus II girl reportedly delivered a baby boy in a community health centre (CHC) toilet and tried to flush it out.

According to sources, the girl, a Plus II Second-Year student, along with her family members, had visited the CHC at Daringbadi in Kandhamal district Tuesday morning after she developed some health complications. There she went to the men's toilet, where she gave birth to the baby boy. Apprehending that someone may notice her, the minor girl tried to flee the spot after dumping the baby in toilet pan. She unsuccessfully tried to flush out the newborn as his head got

The girl's mother then tried to salvage the situation and held onto the infant's legs while sitting nearby. Upon being informed, staffers at the CHC shifted the student to the maternity ward and alerted the Fire Services department personnel.

Rescuers broke open the toilet structure, but by then the newborn had succumbed.

The girl, who had been studying in a different locality, had come home only a day before. The circumstances surrounding her pregnancy and delivery have raised serious concerns, prompting further investigation.

Following the incident, local police and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Sandhyarani Panda arrived at the health centre to conduct a thorough inquiry. The student's family has also lodged a formal complaint with the police.

Adolescent pregnancies have serious health consequences both for the mother as well as the child. Infant mortality, maternal mortality, low birth weight, pre-maturity and poor nutrition are some of the serious negative effects besides a high risk to the girl herself, according to a report.

Notably, 7.6% of girls (15 to 19 years) in Odisha were reported to be already mothers or pregnant as per NFHS-4. While the state has been able to reduce adolescent pregnancies by half (from 14.5% to 7.6% - between NFHS-3 and 4, in terms of absolute numbers it is still high.





STAYING FIT: Students participate in a track and field event at the annual sports meet of Government Nodal High School at Sadar panchayat in Dasamantapur block of Koraput district Wednesday

Three injured in stabbing at Khallikote RCM College

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khallikote, Feb 12: Three people, including a student, sustained injuries during a stabbing incident at Rama Chandra Mardaraj Science College (RCM) here in Ganjam district Wednesday.

The incident occurred during an exam when an argument ensued between the accused identified as Meghanad Pahan, a Plus III first-year Commerce student, with another student and two of his outsider friends at a playground near the college campus. During the argument, Pahan lost his cool and attacked the trio with a knife leaving them critically injured.

The injured were identified as Bijay Nayak, a student of the college, and two outsiders - Raju Gauda and Raju Sethi. After the incident, the injured were rushed to Khallikote community health centre (CHC) for treatment. Due to the severity of his injuries, Raju Sethi was later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital

On being informed, Khallikote police station IIC Ramesh Kumar Pradhan reached the hospital and initiated an investigation. After preliminary investigation, police found it to be the fallout of a love affair.

College principal Surendra Nath Swain said that the accused student had not appeared in the exam held on that day when the incident occurred.

BONAI FOREST DIVISION

Man-animal conflicts claim 13 lives last year

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Feb 12: Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh district continues to be a hotspot for human-wildlife conflicts, particularly involving elephants. Over the years, the region has witnessed multiple incidents where encounters between humans and wildlife have escalated into serious situations. Altogether 13 people lost their lives due to human-elephant conflicts in 2024.

According to Bonai divisional forest officer (DFO) Lalit Patra, "Bonai is one of the busiest forest divisions due to its dense forest cover and diverse wildlife. It is a challenging task to manage the forest and simultaneously address the human-animal conflicts.

About human-elephant conflict, Patra said, "Our division, which is home to several elephant corridors, shares a border with Jharkhand, which contains Saranda forest. As a result, we have a large population of elephant herds, as well as solitary elephants that have settled in the area and are in no mood to leave.

In many cases, these solitary elephants, after



getting separated from their herds, are responsible for the majority of fatal encounters.

"In 2024 alone, 13 people lost their lives due to human-elephant conflicts. However, we are grateful for the cooperation of the local communities, who assist in driving away elephants and keeping us informed about their movements,'

To address the situation, the Forest department has taken up a slew of technical measures. including fitting a radio collar on one of the rogue elephants, among other things.

"Families of those who lost their lives or were injured in elephant attacks have received financial assistance as per government provisions. Last year, the government disbursed ₹51 lakh in compensation, covering medical expenses and cremation costs," Patra

Additionally, altogether 203 cases of property damage were reported in the year, for which the Forest department paid ₹20.3 lakh in compensation. For six fully damaged properties, an additional ₹12 lakh was provided.

In efforts to improve monitoring and mitigate conflicts, the department has deployed trap cameras to track animal movements, aiding in wildlife census efforts. Furthermore, thermal drones are being used while four AI-powered cameras will be installed this year to enhance surveillance.

"These technological interventions will help us keep better track of animal activity and ensure a more effective response to conflicts," Patra concluded.

for raping 8-yr-old girl

Teacher gets 20-yr jail

Kendrapara: A local court in Kendrapara district on Wednesday sent a tuition teacher to iail for 20 years for raping an eight-yearold girl around three years ago. The additional district judgecum-special judge (POCSO), Kendrapara, sentenced 36-year-old Prasant Das and also imposed a fine of ₹50,000, with failure to pay the fine resulting in his sentence being increased by one year. The victim, a class 4 student at the time, was reportedly studying in the village school when the incident occurred. The court also directed the Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) to pay a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the minor girl. The accused, who used to tutor the victim at her house, had sexually assaulted her during a lesson. Pronouncing the verdict, Judge Pragyan Paramita Roul convicted Das to 20 years of imprisonment for the crime committed on December 20, 2022.

Int'l conference on **English writing held**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Feb 12: A twoday international conference on 'Reimagining Indianness Reflections on Society, Culture and Religion in Indian Writing in English' was recently held at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (NSCB) Government College Sambalpur.

The inaugural session featured a keynote address by BR Alamelu from the Centre for English Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in which 62 researchers from across the country presented their papers. Twelve distinguished professors chaired the sessions.



Professor Yuying Liang from the School of Foreign Languag es at Hezhou University, Chi na, and Prof GJV Prasad from JNU provided critical insights into various aspects of Indian writing in English. Prof John Charles Ryan from the University of Notre Dame, Australia, delivered a thought-provoking address on the contributions of Jagdish Chandra Bose to Indian

As many as 136 paper researchers presented their pa pers on the second day while scholars from West Bengal. Delhi, and Kathmandu also attended. Professors Anjali Tripathy, Rabindra Panigrahi, Chittaranjan Sahu, and Rajen dra Kumar Padhi also spoke on

English literature.

RSP, Centurion Univ tie up for vision care services to rural communities. The more gram panchayats-Putrikha-

Rourkela, Feb 12: Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has collaborated with Centurion University to drive a mobile vision care initiative in peripheral areas under the CSR activities of the steel major.

This programme aims at providing accessible and essential eye care

initiative was inaugurated February 5, 2025 at Padampur gram panchayat office under Kuarmunda block.

Present on the occasion were Munmun Mittra, general manager incharge (CSR), TB Toppo, AGM (CSR), local self-government members and Centurion University personnel. The mobile vision care unit reached four

man and Jaidega in Kuarmunda block, and Sorda and Baghdega in Nuagaon block from February 5 to 7. More than 700 villagers from five GPs benefited from the camp in which comprehensive eye tests were carried out, eyewear distributed and consultations extended by medical

Buddha's broken idol discovered



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhole, Feb 12: Excavations at the world-famous Buddhist site of Ratnagiri in Jajpur district have uncovered several significant relics, including a large broken head of Buddha and an ancient

chamber. The excavation, carried out by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), has been going on for several days. Earlier, the site vielded several ancient artifacts, and now additional discoveries have been

made. ASI's Puri Circle superintending archaeologist DB Garnayak confirmed the findings, stating that multiple votive stupas have also emerged from the dig.

According to Garnayak, archaeological significance of Ratnagiri extends beyond its immediate vicinity. Several surrounding hills are believed to contain similar relics, particularly at Kolanagiri hill, near Ratnagiri, where remains dating back to 2,000 years have

(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)

Santarapur, Bhubaneswar - 751002, Tel.: MD - 0674-2340573, PBX - 2340170, FAX: 2340096

TENDER INVITATION No. OSSC/Engg. - 113/2025

CRITICAL DATES

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION L

without GST

1621810.00

without GST

No. CAD-2551: Managing Director, Odisha State Seeds Corporation Ltd.

Double Cover System through Online Mode only for the works below:

Name of the Work

Installation of 11KV OH Line and

100 KVA, 11/.04 KV Substation at

Seed Processing Plant, Sundargarh

Availability of Bid Document

Date/Time of Opening of Bid

ast Date of Receipt of tender in the Portal

However, widespread excavation of the hill for murram has led to the destruction of many historical artifacts, leaving only fragments of ancient pottery and broken sculptures. Due to illegal encroachments and mining activity, the chances of uncovering more relics in the

area remain slim. Ratnagiri is known for its vast collection of Buddhist heritage. Excavations have revealed structures and artifacts from the 2nd to the 12th centuries CE. The ongo-

Completion Class of

Period

Contractor

Document with GST

6,720.00

with GST

14.40 hours on Dt.14.02.2025 to

17.00 hours on Dt.24.02.2025 17.00 hours on Dt.24.02.2025

12.30 hours on Dt.25.02.2025

ing work, which began in December, is expected to continue for an extended period.

Previously, large Buddhist monasteries and stupas were discovered at the site. Among the artifacts recovered are ancient sculptures and ornaments, including depictions of Bodhisattvas, which are now preserved in a museum.

e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIVSKI 2025008, Dated: 05.02.2025

SUB-SOIL INVESTIGATION FOR MAJOR / MINOR BRIDGES AT SPECIFIED LOCATION AND CONDUCTING LAND SURVEY, PREPARATION OF DETAILED PLAN OF -SECTIONS, ESPs, GADs OF MAJOR L-SECTIONS, ESPS, GAUSS OF MIADES

& MINOR BRIDGES FOR THE
PROPOSED 3RD LINE BETWEEN
ICHCHAPURAM (IN) TO NAUPADA
JUNCTION (IN) IN CONNECTION WITH
PART OF KHURDA ROAD VIZIANAGARAM 3RD LINE PROJEC

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 203.8 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,51,900/-, Completio Period of the Work: 06 (Six) Months Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 hrs. of 28.02.2025.

ax or in person shall be accepted agains such e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considere nvalid and shall be rejected summari Complete information including e-tende

documents of the above e-tender i vailable in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen days before the date of closing of tender t or 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 Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of of Annexure-B duly verified and signed b Chartered Accountant

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KANTABANJI (R&B) DIVISION

BID IDENTIFICATION No. 07/KBJ/2024-25

No. B-923: The Superintending Engineer, Kantabanji (R&B) Division or behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid for Building vorks detailed in the table below in Double Cover (Composite Tender System ONLINE MODE from the Class of Contractors mentione Column-7 registered with the State Government and contractors equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government/MES ailways for execution of Civil, El & PH Work. The proof of registration m the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

No. of Work : 01 No. (Double Cover Composite)

Nature of Work

Approximate value of Work Tender Cost

Date and time of availability of : Bid documents in Online Date of Opening

to Dt.28.02.2025 upto 05.00 P.M. Dt.01.03.2025 at 11.30 A.M. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the e-procurement portal "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Furthe

Building Work "B" Class Rs.81.99 lakhs

Rs.10,000/- (Each) From Dt.17.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M

details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Kantabanji (R&B) Division OIPR-34099/11/0010/2425



Ministry of Corporate Affairs Government of India

(National Financial Reporting Authority) Appointment of Chairperson and three full time Members

Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi invites applications from Indian Nationals for the Posts of Chairperson and three full time Members in the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

The NFRA is mandated to make recommendations to the Central Government on the formulation and laying down of accounting and auditing policies and standards for adoption by companies. It is expected to monitor and enforce compliance with accounting and auditing standards as may be prescribed.

The NFRA shall also oversee the quality of service of the professions associated with ensuring compliance with such standards and suggest measures required for improvement in quality of service

Eligibility conditions and other details may be seen on www.mca gov.in.

The Government may relax the criteria, if considered necessary, for meritorious applicants

CBC 07101/11/0017/2425

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Date and Venue: Sunday, 16th February 2025; 11:00 a.m. onwards. at Hotel Pride Ananya Resorts, Plot No. 12/411, Bankimuhan, VIP Road, Puri - 752 001, Odisha.

For registration, please contact: Mitali Maharana, Mobile: 89081 20343. Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. No walk-ins will be allowed.

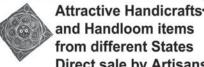


An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.infurtemediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs, if they are unsastisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on https://scores.gov.in. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on https://smartodr.in/login.

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urther detail can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum ancellation can also be seen in the said website Sd./- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd., BBSR OIPR-01045/11/0028/2425



Take Truth for your force; take Truth for your refuge

THE MOTHER



Karim El Avnaoui

In recent years,

free trade, once

of international

has given way to

a cornerstone

cooperation,

rising tariffs,

large-scale

industrial

subsidies,

and economic

'decoupling'

& Hinh T. Dinh

Trade & Geopolitics

The global economic landscape is changing rapidly, and developing countries are now facing three major constraints: the resurgence of protectionism, shrinking macroeconomic policy space, and profound technological disruption. With the neoliberal Washington Consensus – the dominant economic-policy framework for a half-century - no longer fit for purpose, a new paradigm is urgently needed to guide development in the years ahead.

In recent years, free trade, once a cornerstone of international cooperation, has given way to rising tariffs, large-scale industrial subsidies, and economic "decoupling." The US-China trade war exemplifies this trend, with average tariff rates up sharply since 2018. Now that Donald Trump, the self-proclaimed "Tariff Man," is back in the White House, a reversal is unlikely. And it is not just the United States: the European Union has also embraced tariffs, including on Chinese electric vehicles, citing unfair subsidies.

Moreover, countries have increasingly pursued industrial strategies as a means of bolstering strategic sectors. Of course, China, with its state-led economic model, has long relied on industrial policy, which is the basis of its Made in China 2025 plan, introduced in 2015. But even advanced economies – the leading proponents of the free-market orthodoxy of the past -

are now embracing such interventions. The US CHIPS and Science Act, for example, includes \$52.7 billion in funding for semiconductor development. And the EU has its own industrial strategy.

Such initiatives are designed to bolster economic security, but they also fuel geopolitical tensions and lead to value-chain fragmentation. For developing countries, this presents both challenges and opportunities. The growing alignment of trade with geopolitical dynamics - including the push for "friend-shoring" - might enable some countries to attract more foreign direct investment, but resource-dependent and least-developed countries face reduced demand for exports and heightened economic uncertainty.

Meanwhile, developing countries' ability to mount fiscal- and monetary-policy responses is severely constrained. Successive crises - including the 2008 global economic crisis. the COVID-19 pandemic, and various commodity-price shocks - have eroded fiscal buffers. Demographic pressures, from young people in need of jobs to population aging, weigh on public budgets. Climate-change mitigation and adaptation also demand substantial

investments. And some countries are redirecting funds to defense in response to rising geopolitical tensions. Large debt-service payments remain a major burden, compounded by high global interest rates. Moreover, high global interest rates are forcing developing

countries to raise their own interest rates to mitigate capital outflows and currency depreciation, with adverse effects on investment and economic growth. Making matters worse, central-bank independence in some countries has been eroded – a trend that undermines policymakers' ability to control inflation and support economic stability.

All this is happening while rapid technological change is disrupting traditional growth models. Developing-economy growth has historically been driven by structural transformation – the reallocation of resources from low- to high-productivity sectors, such as from agriculture to manufacturing. In Africa, this dynamic accounted for 74% of productivity growth before 2008.

But as Dani Rodrik and Joseph E. Stiglitz have observed, structural transformation can no longer be achieved through export-oriented industrialization, not least because manufacturing has become more skill- and capital-intensive. Slower global growth, heavier debt burdens, deglobalization, and climate change (which is affecting traditional sectors such as agriculture) further undermine this approach.

The alternative strategy Rodrik and Stiglitz propose focuses on a comprehensive green transition and increased productivity in labor-intensive services. But while this approach holds promise, considerable public-sector capacity is required to support private-sector innovation and policy experimentation. A more comprehensive policy framework, capable of filling the vacuum left behind by the Washington Consensus, would start with three

First, developing economies must bolster their macroeconomic resilience. To this end, they should strengthen fiscal frameworks, in order to build up more robust macroeconomic buffers; implement inflation-targeting regimes to promote price stability; and adopt more flexible exchange-rate regimes that can provide a "shock absorber" amid external volatility.

Second, countries should leverage technology to boost productivity, with a focus on the private sector. In addition to increasing the efficiency and transparency of government services, digital technologies can expand access to education, support innovation by facilitating research and development, and transform critical sectors, such as health care and agriculture.

Lastly, governments should continue to promote growth through structural transformation. While the services sector holds promise for job creation, it alone cannot absorb the millions of young people, particularly the unskilled and semi-skilled, entering the workforce in developing countries each year. Fortunately, some labor-intensive sub-sectors, such as agribusiness and garment production, remain viable sources of jobs and growth in low- and middle-income countries.

Green manufacturing and the pharmaceutical sector also offer promising pathways for industrialization. Special economic zones. strategic land use, and more dynamic startup ecosystems can stimulate industrial growth and job creation. Developing economies might also need to take steps to safeguard domestic industry from an influx of Chinese goods redirected from the US and the EU. Such measures should be transparent and time-bound, and comply with World Trade Organization rules.

None of this will be possible with the "every country for itself" mentality that seems to be taking hold worldwide. While the Washington Consensus had a decidedly mixed track record, it emphasized international engagement and cooperation. Countries must not throw out the baby with the bathwater. If developing countries are to build more resilient and inclusive economies in today's global environment, they must embrace partnerships, share knowledge, and pursue collaboration among the government, the private sector, and international institutions.

> Karim El Aynaoui is Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South. Hinh T. Dinh is a former chief economist of the World Bank.

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FOCUS DRAFT UGC RULES

INFRINGING ON FEDERALISM

recent draft he guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) have come in for criticism as it's seen as a blatant attempt of the Centre to take control of universities across the country. Opposition to the guidelines intensified with higher education ministers of six states denouncing them as a grave threat to the country's federal framework. According to them, the UGC's initiatives were detrimental to the autonomy of states in public university matters

A recent conclave in Bangalore was attended by ministers from Karnataka, Telangana; Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Tamil Nadu where it was unanimously resolved to withdraw the rules and call for a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education. The states feared losing all powers with regard to the appointment of VCs as the draft rules put the governor in control.

It may also be pointed at the very outset that whether a university is a Central or a state one, political interference has increased over the vears, and this is especially manifest in the last decade or so. The autonomy of universities is steadily being lost due to political interference, leading to decline in standards of teaching and performance. The most important aspect that has been criticised by academicians is the UGC directive that the post of vice-chancellorship would be open to industrialists, bureaucrats and public sector managers. However, the guidelines stated that such persons "should have a proven track record of significant academic con-



The autonomy of universities is steadily being lost due to political interference, leading to decline in standards of teaching and performance

tributions" but that appears to be just a face-saver. The question that arises is whether the country has a dearth of academic scholars that bureaucrats or public sector managers have to be inducted as vice-chancellors?

The other aspect in this regard is that the selection of vice-chancellors would now have one nominee each of the UGC and the chancellor (the Governor in case of state universities). It has been alleged that both would toe the line of the Centre and the state governments would not have a say in the matter. This indeed is a debatable proposition. It may be pertinent here to point out that the governments in several Opposition-ruled States such as Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala were on a conflict with the Governors over appointment of vice-chancellors.

Secondly, the minimum eligibility conditions for professors or associate professors are not only academic achievements but notable contributions in other fields which include consultancy, teaching contributions in Indian languages, project supervision etc. These, especially consultancy may be considered useful qualifications but fundamentally academic scholarship and innovative ideas in guiding research are, no doubt, vital qualifications

for a professor. Another aspect, which obviously has not found favour is that the assistant professor of a subject could be recruited from those who have not studied the subject for their degree course but had conducted research or passed the National Eligibility Test in it. Though it may be stated that a real scholar who has studied the subject, or to be more specific his area of specialisation, should be able to carry out post-graduate teaching but the same may not be true for all assistant professors, even if they are NET qualified. It is important to refer here to the Economic Survey 2024-25 which has observed, and quite rightly, that reputed institutions should be allowed to advance on their own path of excellence, according to their

areas of focus and domain

However, while changes have evoked criticism, the other important things requiring attention is the need for autonomy that is, giving more powers to the heads of universities and other higher educational institutes and also how research would be encouraged. Most well-known state universities are suffering from a resource crunch in all spheres, which include maintenance of existing infrastructure, expanding hostels and of course buying sophisticated instruments for laboratories.

At this juncture, when the country is aiming to march ahead economically and socially, there can be no denying that higher education has to expand and not be limited to cities and their peripheral areas. The financial conditions of some of the universities in semi-urban areas are indeed quite bad and there is need for the Centre to set up new Central universities in backward districts. But no provision has been made in

recent budget for this What needs to be reiterated is that political interference in higher education cannot be tolerated, and especially by touts of political leaders, and autonomy has to be given to the heads of these institutions. It may also be stated that a higher educational institution is a place for gaining knowledge and the atmosphere should not be allowed to be vitiated with politics. Finally, as has been observed by various experts and many studies have revealed that the education budget of the government needs to be hiked in tune with other emerging

SPECTRUM

Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE EDUCATION

BUDGET OF THE

GOVERNMENT

HIKED IN TUNE

NEEDS TO BE

WITH OTHER

ECONOMIES

EMERGING

WORLD RADIO DAY

The enduring power of radio



NA Shah Ansari

THE FUTURE OF **RADIO DEPENDS** ON ITS CAPACITY **FOR INNOVATION** WHILE **MAINTAINING ITS ORIGINAL CHARACTERISTICS**

adio, the age-old medium of communication, continues to be a vital thread that connects people across geographies, cultures, and generations. Although new-age media outlets are growing at an extraordinary pace, radio is still a vital information, education, and entertainment medium. Its ease of use, availability and trustworthiness makes it unique in a world flooded with digital noise.

Radio has served as a faithful friend of common people for more than a century. Its reach to the masses, including the most remote places in the world, is unparalleled. Unlike television or digital platforms, radio outdoes literacy barriers, making it a truly inclusive medium. For the farmer ploughing his fields, the homemaker managing the household, or the truck driver on the highway. radio is a constant source of news, information, and entertainment.

Moreover, radio is a lifeline during emergencies. It has indeed emerged as the most trusted medium for real-time information, during natural calamities, health emergencies or any other unpredictable incident. Portability and low cost make it available to everyone, regardless of economic status.

Radio remains strong in spite of the introduction of digital media. One of the primary reasons is its mobility. Listeners can listen to radio while driving, working, or relaxing. Radio's trustworthiness is another factor that sets it apart. In contrast to social media, which is unfortunately common with misinformation and over the top reporting, radio is considered an assured platform for information.

Community radio is one of the special sections of the radio world. In contrast to commercial radio stations that usually deal with entertainment and advertisement, community radio is motivated by the requirements and aims of community groups. It's a platform of the voiceless and a tool that enables its users to tell their stories, troubles and accomplishments. Community radio stations are usually located on a small scale, and they are run by local groups and organisations. They deal with hyper-local problems like agriculture, health, education and culture, which are typically downplayed by traditional media. Community Radio Policy was enacted in 2002 in India. Approximately 531 community radio stations are operational in India, of which 43 are located in Odisha. These stations are of great importance in closing the information gap, particularly, in rural and sparsely inhabited areas.

Community radio's real power lies in its ability to complete the last mile. It is a medium that is both personal and understandable to the audience. Community radio in Odisha has played a crucial role in tackling issues such as health awareness, disaster readiness and empowerment. women's When we imagine the day in which every block in Odisha is served by a community radio station, we can recommit ourselves to using the radio as a force for good. Because the future is, indeed, radio.

It is the call of the hour for broadcasters to uphold the trust of listeners by delivering accurate, relevant, and engaging content. They need to constantly innovate to sustain and grow the medium. The future of radio depends on its capacity for innovation while maintaining its original characteristics.

As we celebrate World Radio Day, let us acknowledge the enduring power of radio and its unparalleled ability to touch lives. Radio is one of the unifying forces in a world increasingly divided, by the common bonds of narratives and lived moments. Radio's future is bright, though it is going to take a community approach to ensure that the medium remains meaningful and significant. Let us make radio an integral part of people's lives, a medium that not only informs and entertains but also inspires and uplifts.

The writer is a senior broadcaster, media educator & rights activist.

Missing the deadline

mate action plan raises concerns about its commitment to complying with the Paris Agreement. While India has made progress in going green, missing the deadline weakens India's importance in global climate diplomacy. India needs to comply with the Paris Agreement by reducing emission intensity and by achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070. Being one of the fastest growing economies, India has high demand for energy. Economic growth and environmental sustainability need to be balanced. Failure to submit a climate action plan may restrict India's green finance. Although India is susceptible to extreme weather events, measures taken for going green are insufficient. India has set a 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030, but there

Sir, India's delay in submitting an enhanced cli-

Business over ethics

Sir, Recent developments suggest that the Trump administration's decision to suspend enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) may be influenced by business interests, notably those of Elon Musk. Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has been granted significant access to federal systems, raising concerns about the fusion of corporate and governmental power. This suspension could have direct implications for ongoing legal proceedings involving Indian business magnate Gautam Adani. Adani and several executives have been indicted in the US on charges of securities and wire fraud related to alleged bribery schemes. The halt in FCPA enforcement may affect the trajectory of these cases, potentially offering relief to Adani and his associates. Critics argue that this move undermines global anti-corruption efforts and could erode trust in international business practices. The intertwining of corporate interests with governmental policy, as seen in Musk's influence, raises ethical concerns about the direction of US governance and its commitment to upholding the rule of law. In summary, this development warrants scrutiny due to its potential consequences for international anti-corruption standards and the integrity of governmental decision-making.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

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Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

are many hurdles in the path. Meeting climate commitments is of paramount importance for India's Venu GS, KOLLAM

overall development...



TWO STATES





IN PRE-POLL YEAR

Mamata govt tables ₹3.89 lakh cr budget



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 12: West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya Wednesday presented a Rs 3.89-lakh crore budget for 2025-26 with a significant focus on social welfare, and announced a four per cent hike in dearness allowance (DA) for state government employees.

The government also unveiled a series of infrastructure and agricultural development projects in its budget, allocating significant funds for rural connectivity, river erosion control, and agrarian support initiatives.

In the last full-fledged budget of the Mamata Banerjee government before the 2026 Assembly elections, Bhattacharya tabled in the Assembly a Rs 3.89 lakh crore budget.

In the previous budget, the state saw an allocation of Rs 3.67 lakh crore, marking an 8 per cent increase from the previous year 2023-24.

Bhattacharya announced that the state government would increase the Dearness Allowance (DA) by four per cent from April 1, 2025.

This would bring the total DA to 18 per cent for over 10 lakh state government employees and pensioners. The move is aimed at addressing ongoing concerns raised by the employees who have been agitating for better compensation.

"With this four per cent

In a bid to address the persistent issue of river erosion, the government set aside Rs 200 crore, which would provide much-needed relief to vulnerable riverine communities

firming our commitment to the welfare of our employees, Bhattacharya said, underlining the state's focus on the well-being of its workforce.

In the budget speech, Bhattacharya announced an allocation of Rs 44,000 crore for rural development and Panchayats.

A major highlight of the budget is the Rs 1,500 crore allocation for the improvement of rural roads across the state. This is aimed at enhancing connectivity and boosting economic activity in remote areas.

In a bid to address the persistent issue of river erosion, the government set aside Rs 200 crore, which would provide much-needed relief to vulnerable riverine communities.

Further strengthening its focus on infrastructure, the government sanctioned Rs 500 crore for the construction of a 4.75 km-long bridge over the Ganga river at Gangasagar, which is expected to facilitate smooth access for pilgrims and

Under the 'Banglar Bari' hous-

ing project, the state plans to

construct 16 lakh new houses in

the upcoming financial year, and

a proposal of Rs 9,600 crore has been allocated for the initiative. In an attempt to enhance housing support for the underprivileged, the state had allocated Rs 14,000 crore under the

scheme last year. This initiative aims to provide financial assistance for the construction of homes for the poor and marginalised sections of society.

In the budget announcement, Bhattacharya stated that the state would continue with the development of roads and infrastructure under the 'Pathshree' project.

An additional Rs 1,500 crore has been allocated for this project in the next financial year.

For the 'Ghatal Master Plan'. a mega project to dredge riverbeds and strengthen embankments of at least 10 major rivers in the state, the government has allocated Rs 500 crore this year. The total cost of the project is Rs 1,500 crore.

A new project called 'Nadi Bandhan' was announced for river-centric areas in the state. The project has been allocated Rs 200 crore, and it will focus on measures to prevent riverbank erosion.

Additionally, Finance Minister Bhattacharya announced that 70,000 ASHA workers will be provided with smartphones as part of the

MP sets up high-power committee to oversee **Bhopal GIS preparations**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

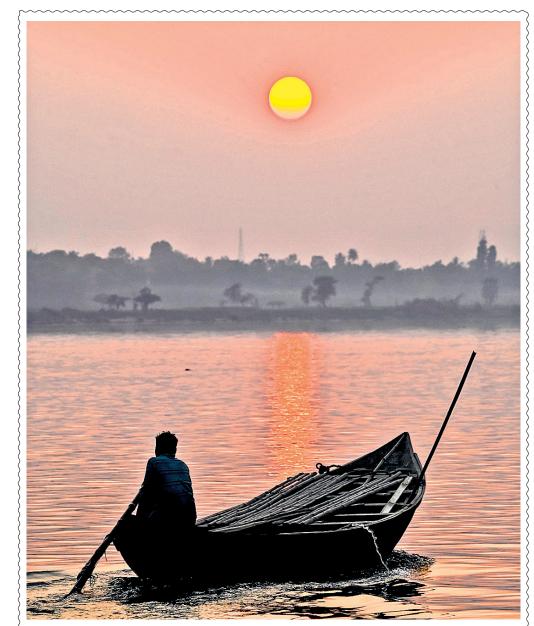
Bhopal, Feb 12: The Madhya Pradesh government has constituted a high-level committee to oversee the preparations for the upcoming Global Investment Summit (GIS), which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi February 24 in Bhopal, an official said Wednesday.

The committee under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has included Ministers, MPs, MLAs, and senior bureaucrats, including Chief Secretary Anurag Jain as members.

Along with Deputy Chief Ministers Jagadish Devda and Rajendra Shukla, ministers -- Chaitanya Kashyap, Krishan Gaur and Vishwas Sarang -- have been named as the members of the committee.

Madhya Pradesh unit BJF chief and Khajuraho MP VD Sharma and Bhopal MP Alok Sharma along with Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai and MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani are the other members beside senior

The committee members will be responsible to monitor and fulfill the task assigned to them, such as travel, food arrangement, accommodation and other logistics for the investors will be coming from across the country and different parts of the world, the Madhya Pradesh government said in a statement Wednesday.



A fisherman rows a boat across the Hooghly river during sunset, in Nadia, West Bengal

PROTEST THROUGH STILLNESS

'Shavasana' to oppose carbide waste disposal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhar (MP), Feb 12: A group of people Wednesday performed 'Shavasana' (corpse pose) to protest against the proposed disposal of Union Carbide waste, connected to the Bhopal gas tragedy, in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

Protests have been going on in the district, where 337 metric tonnes of waste have been brought from Bhopal for incineration at the industrial town of Pithampur.

Twelve persons, including members of Pithampur Bachao Samiti, Pithampur Raksha Samiti and yoga exponent Pradeep Dubey, performed Shavasana at the bus stand around noon as part of their demonstration.

yoga for a long time. We realised Shavasana was the best way to express our feelings peacefully," Dubey told re-He said the authorities

should take the matter seriously and not be in haste to dispose of the Union Carbide waste. 'Because of this (waste dis-

posal plan), everyone is fearful today. Therefore, to demonstrate the last limit of fear, we performed Shavasana. President Pithampur Bachao

Samiti Dr Hemant Hirole said they have been holding a public dialogue since 12 containers carrying the waste reached Pithampur last month. "But we have not received answers to our technical questions," he

Wednesday's protest through

was a message to the people of Pithampur that the matter should be presented before the court, he said.

In January, protests had rocked Pithampur, around 50 km from Dhar district headquarters, after the waste was brought to a private facility in the industrial town for incineration. Those objecting to the move claim it would harm the locals'

Meanwhile, the local administration has launched an intense awareness campaign to allay the "misconceptions' about the waste disposal.

According to the state government, the waste comprises soil, reactor residues, Sevin (pesticide) residues, naphthol residues and semi-processed residues. The

MP Pollution Control Board has said "scientific evidence suggests the chemical effects of Sevin and naphthol in the waste have now become nought".

On the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, highly toxic methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide factory in Bhopal, killing at least 5,479 persons and leaving thousands with serious health problems and long-term

BSF-BGB HOLD INFORMAL TALKS TO STRENGTHEN BORDER PEACE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 12: The BSF and BGB Tuesday held an informal meeting at the Sona Masjid Border Outpost (BOP) in Bangladesh to enhance coordination and cooperation between the two border-guarding forces, an official statement said.

The meeting was attended by Inspector General (IG) of BSF South Bengal Frontier, Maninder PS Pawar and Brigadier General SM Zahidur Rahman, the Regional Commander of BGB North West Region.

The deliberation took place amid reports of objections by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) over the Border Security Force's (BSF) attempts to erect fence in certain areas along the India-Bangladesh

"Constructive discussions were held on curbing cross-border crimes, intensi-



fying joint efforts, overseeing development initiatives in border areas, and implement-

BOOSTING AGRI-SUSTAINABILITY

ing effective measures to prevent illegal movement," the BSF statement

The IG of South Bengal Frontier emphasised the importance of strong mutual cooperation between the BSF and BGB for maintaining border security and regional

"Seamless coordination between the two forces will not only reinforce border security, but also elevate bilateral relations to new heights," it said.

Both commanders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration and addressing security challenges together.

They agreed that the BSF and BGB would continue joint efforts to uphold the spirit of cooperation and work towards a shared vision of peace and progress, the statement added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice, ANGUL (R&B) DIVISION Bid Identification No.42 of 2024-25

e-mail ID- angulrbdivision@yahoo.co.in 08 (Eight) number of Road works

1. Number of Works 2. Approximate estimated cost: Varies from Rs.41.00 Lakh to

Rs.49.99 Lakh

3. Period of completion

01 (One) Calendar month 4. Date & Time of availability of : Dt.15.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M.

bid document In the portal

5. Last date / Time for receipt of bid in the portal

Dt. 24.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.

6. Date of opening Bid 7. Name and address of the

1 Name of the Work

Dt. 25.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Superintending Engineer,

Office Inviting Bid Angul (R&B) Division, Angul The bidders must participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https:/tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Angul (R&B) Division OIPR-34074/11/0019/2425

Revolutionary gene technique targets Fruit flies Fruit flies (Tephritidae) pose a significant threat to global agriculture, impacting crop yields, food security, and international trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 12: Researchers of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and University of Calcutta have jointly developed a novel technique for Fruit fly control which can potentially revolutionise global efforts to combat these pests, an official said.

Fruit flies (Tephritidae) pose a significant threat to global agriculture, impacting crop yields, food security, and international

A ZSI spokesperson said the research study, which was published in 'BMC Genomics', focused on Fruit flies collected from various districts in West Bengal, where agriculture is an important livelihood source.

The team sequenced gene regions from the Fruit fly species found on crops like pumpkins,



cucumbers and gourds.

Analysis revealed 30 uniquely variable sites at nucleotide positions thereby offering a crucial target for species-specific inter-

Highlighting the importance of this research, ZSI Director

Dhriti Banerjee said, "Fruit flies are devastating pests and

in West Bengal, where over 70

per cent of rural households de-

pend on agriculture, our work is

critical. This new method will

not only protect crops but also

reduce our dependence on chem-

ical pesticides."

By enabling targeted pest-control measures, we can minimise environmental damage and empower agricultural professionals with precision tools, moving away from broad-spectrum approaches that can harm non-target species, she said.

The research offers a promising path towards sustainable and effective fruit fly manage-

The damage by Fruit flies is caused either directly from the larvae of the fruit flies or indirectly from harmful microorganisms or decomposers that enter the fruits and vegetables through the egg-laying holes made by the female fruit flies, thereby leading to fruit rot, premature dropping and massive economic losses amounting to billions annually.

The researcher's team members including Ankush Mitra, Pubali Mitra, Pradosh Mahadani, Subrata Trivedi believe their findings will be instrumental in safeguarding agricultural productivity.

CU Professor Dr Madhusudan Das said, "With the increasing population, the demand for healthy food continues to grow. So, ensuring sustainable agricultural practice is more important than ever. By identifying specific fruit fly species with precision, more sustainable pest control strategies can be implemented. This would also align with the global push towards reducing chemical pesticides in agriculture, thereby promoting healthier ecosystems and preserving biodiversity."

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PODAGADA DAM DIVISION, AT/PO: KHATIGUDA, DIST-NABARANGPUR (ODISHA) PIN-764085

E-Mail Id: eepodagadadamdivision@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.-EEPDD-05(02)/2024-25, Dt.11.02.2025 document, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of erms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in

TE TRAINING OF THE TRAIN		CIVIL CICINO
2. No. of Works	:	Two Number
Estimated Cost	:	Rs.15.25 Lakhs to Rs.13.03 Lakhs
4. Eligibility of the bidders		Ranging from 'D' Class to 'C' class contractors (Odisha P.W.D. or equivalent class of other licensing authority) as per Detail Tender Call Notice
5. Period of Completion	į	Two Calendar Months
6. Date of Clarification	:	13.02.2025 to 15.02.2025 Only during office hour
7. Last date/time for receipt	:	From 13.02.2025 11.00 A.M. to

8. Date of Opening of the bids Online Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid Nabarangpur

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal http: endersodisha.gov.in Sd./- Executive Engineer

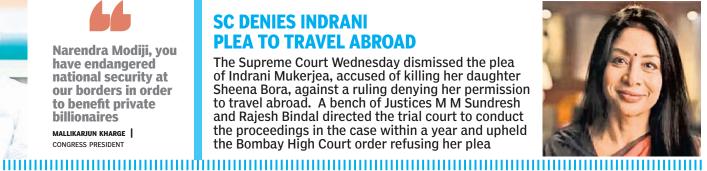
OIPR-32095/11/0012/2425 Podagada Dam Division, Khatiguda



Narendra Modiji, you have endangered national security at our borders in order to benefit private billionaires

SC DENIES INDRANI PLEA TO TRAVEL ABROAD

The Supreme Court Wednesday dismissed the plea of Indrani Mukerjea, accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora, against a ruling denying her permission to travel abroad. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal directed the trial court to conduct the proceedings in the case within a year and upheld the Bombay High Court order refusing her plea





has reached heights that are not only unparalleled but



DEFENCE MINISTER

I highlighted Assam's endeavours to be at the core of India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic





first GBS fatality

Mumbai: A 53-year-old man has died of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) at a hospital in Mumbai, the first fatality here due to the nerve disorder, officials said Wednesday. The patient, resident of Mumbai's Wadala area and working as a ward boy in a civic-run hospital, had sometime back visited Pune, which has witnessed the GBS outbreak, they said. He was admitted to another civic-run hospital here January 23. The man was in a critical condition for several days and died Tuesday, the officials said.

Meat found inside temple; protest held

Hvderabad: A protest was held Wednesday after pieces of meat were found in a temple premises at Tappachabutra in old city here. According to police the incident happened in the early hours of Wednesday inside the temple complex housing Hanuman and Shiv mandir under Tannachabutra Police Station limits and four teams were investigating the member said someone threw meat near the Shiv Lingam and devotees who came for puja noticed it and

Aizawl: Methamphetamine tablets worth ₹173.73 crore have been seized along the India-Myanmar border in an Assam Rifles statement said Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, Assam Rifles and 57.9 kg of Methamphetamine tablets at a border crossing point in Zokhawthar February 9, it said. The joint team spotted suspected individuals carrying the illegal consignment and suspects, however, became

3 militants nabbed

Imphal: Three militants allegedly involved in extortion have been nabbed in separate operations in Manipur's Imphal West district, police said Wednesday. Two insurgents belonging to the banned Peoples' Revolutionary Front of Kangleipak (PREPAK PRO) outfit were apprehended on Namdulong Khuman Lampak Main Stadium Road Tuesday. They were identified as Ashem Dinesh Meetei (41) and Huidrom Tomba Singh (36) and were involved in extortion activities in Namdulong area. A leaflet of PREPAK (PRO), along with other articles, was recovered from their possession.

New I-T Bill to be tabled today



The Income Tax Bill, will replace 298 sections and 14 schedules in the six-decade old voluminous legislations, with a 622-page new law enshrined in 526 sections, 23 chapters and 16 schedules PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: The much-anticipated new income tax bill will replace terminologies like assessment and previous year with easier to understand 'tax year' as part of move to simplify language while removing provisos and explanations.

The Income Tax Bill, 2025, which is likely to be introduced in Parliament Thursday, will replace 298 sections and 14 schedules in the six-decade old voluminous legislations, with a 622 page new law enshrined in 526 sections, 23 chapters and 16 schedules.

The Bill introduces a new concept of 'tax year' as the 12-month period beginning from April 1. This would replace the present concept of assessment and previous year. Currently, income earned in the previous year (PY), say in the year April 2024 to March 2025, will be assessed in assessment year (AY) 2025-26.

The new Bill will come into effect from April 1, 2026, after it is vetted by Standing Committee and cleared by Parliament. The new bill has omitted redundant sections, like those relating to Fringe Benefit Tax. The Bill is free from 'explanations or provisos', thereby making it easier to read and comprehend.

Also, the word 'notwithstanding', which was used excessively in the Income Tax Act, 1961, has been done away with in the new Bill and almost everywhere replaced with the

Mizoram village, local

council elections held

Aizawl: Polling for 110 local

councils (LC) within two urban

increase as detailed reports are awaited. There are 544 VCs in nine

Lawngtlai and Siaha districts.

districts, excluding three autonomous

district councils in south Mizoram's

term 'irrespective'. The Bill uses shorter sentences and has been made reader-friendly with the use of tables and formulae. Tables have been provided for provisions relating to TDS, presumptive taxation, salaries, and deductions for bad debt .

The 'Taxpayer's Charter' has been included in the Bill which outlines the rights and obligations of the taxpayers. The Bill replaces the term 'previous year' as mentioned in the Income Tax Act, 1961 with 'tax year'. Also, the concept of assessment year has been done away with. Currently, for income earned in the previous year (say 2023-24), tax is paid in assessment year (say 2024-25).

This previous year and assessment year (AY) concept has been removed and only tax year under the simplified bill has been brought in. Once introduced in the Lok Sabha likely Thursday, the Bill will be sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for further deliberations.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the new I-T Bill said that the Income-tax Act passed in 1961 has been subjected to numerous amendments since its passage 60 years ago.

"As a result of these amendments the basic structure of the Income-tax Act has been overburdened and language has become complex, increasing cost of compliance for taxpayers and hampering efficiency of direct-tax administration." it said.

Tax administrators, practitioners and taxpayers had also raised concerns about the complicated provisions and structure of the Income-tax Act.

Therefore, the government in the budget in July 2024 announced that a time-bound comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, 1961 would be undertaken to make the Act concise, lucid, easy to read and understand. Accordingly, the Income-tax Bill, 2025 has been prepared, which proposes to repeal and replace the Income-tax Act, 1961

The Income Tax Bill, 2025 comprises 536 sections, higher than 298 sections of the current Income-Tax Act, 1961. The existing law has 14 schedules which will increase to 16 in the new legislation.



Indian Air Force aerobatic team 'Surya Kiran' performs aerobatic maneuvers during the Aero India 2025, at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bangalore, Karnataka

HC seeks govt's response on plea to block DeepSeek

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Delhi High Court observed Wednesday that artificial intelligence is a "dangerous tool" in anybody's hand, whether Chinese or American.

The court's observation came while it was hearing a petition seeking a direction to the Centre to block access to DeepSeek, an AI chatbot developed by Chinese entities, in all forms in India.

"AI is a dangerous tool in anybody's hand, whether it is Chinese or American, it does not make any difference. It is not that the government is unaware of these things. They are very well aware...," a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said. The Centre's counsel submitted that the issue requires consideration and urged the court to grant some time to get instructions in the matter.

The court listed the matter for February 20 to enable the Centre's counsel to get complete instructions. The petitioner's counsel urged the court to issue notices to authorities in the matter and said it pertains to a direct infringement of the right to privacy.

To this. Justice Gedela said. 'You are in the dark web 97



The court's observation came while it was hearing a petition seeking a direction to the Centre to block access to DeepSeek, an AI chatbot developed by Chinese entities, in all forms in India

per cent. What are you say ing? You are next generation youngsters. You know about it more than us. You think this data, any data is safe? Are you aware of the dark web? Are you aware that 97 per cent of the iceberg is tilted around? Are you aware of that? So therefore, they are saying consideration. We are giving them an opportunity, please wait."

Petitioner Bhavna Sharma. a lawyer, said the plea seeks to protect the personal data of citizens as well as the data in government systems and devices from cyber attacks and data breaches, and uphold the confidentiality of government data and documents.

The plea said within a month of the DeepSeek application's launch on play stores, various vulnerabilities were discovered in it, causing a large-scale leak of sensitive personal data online, including chat history, back-end data and log streams.

traffic rules and use only authorised parking spaces

Over 2cr devotees

take holy dip on

Maghi Purnima

Pravagrai, Feb 12: Amid

heightened security measures,

more than two crore devotees

took a dip in the Sangam till

6 pm Wednesday on the occa-

sion of Maghi Purnima during

Mela here. According to an

official statement, special ar

rangements have been made

for the sacred bath that began

Chief Minister Yogi Aditya-

nath has been monitoring the

event since 4 am at the war

room in his official residence

in Lucknow, the statement

said. With the 'snan' on Maghi

Purnima, another auspicious

day for holy bath, the month

long 'Kalpavas' will be ending

and around 10 lakh 'Kalpava

sis' will start leaving the Ma

haKumbh. The administration

has requested them to follow

early Wednesday.

ongoing MahaKumbh

While lakhs of devotees are headed to the Sangam area, the government in the statement said that by 6 pm, over two crore people had taken the ritual dip at the Triveni Sangam and other ghats. Overall since the start of the MahaKumbh, over 47 crore people have taken a dip in the Sangam, it said. Flower petals were also showered on devotees

from helicopter. Cricket legend Anil Kumble took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam along with his wife Chaitna Ramtirtha. After ar riving in Prayagraj Tuesday, Kumble chose to perform the bathing ritual on Maghi Purnima, a day when no VIP protocols are observed. He joined the devotees as a regular pilgrim, taking a boat to the conflu ence with his wife for the ritual. Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad and officials of CM Secretari

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

Court convicts Sajjan Kumar in murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

local bodies and 534 village councils (VC) across nine districts New Delhi, Feb 12: A Delhi concluded peacefully Wednesday, court Wednesday said former a senior official said. State election Congress MP Sajjan Kumar commissioner H Lalthlangliana was part of an unlawful assemsaid voting, which commenced at bly that killed the victims and 7 am, continued beyond the 4 pm is guilty of murder in a 1984 deadline. According to data provided anti-Sikh riots' case, in which by the state election commission he now faces a maximum of (SEC) in its official website, 64.76 death penalty and a minimum per cent voter turnout was recorded of life term in prison. in VC polls and 33.24 per cent in LC elections till 8:30 pm. Lalthlangliana said the voting percentage may

Special judge Kaveri Baweia aside from saving that a mob took part in rioting and killed the victims, held, "It has further been established that Kumar, being a member of such



unlawful assembly, is guilty of having committed the murder of Jaswant Singh and Tarundeep Singh, the husband and son of the complainant, during the incident.'

The conviction judgment further said, "The complainant who witnessed the brutal killing of her husband and son

The case relates to the killings of **Jaswant Singh and his** son Tarundeep Singh **November 1, 1984**

can certainly not be expected to forget the face of the person who was instigating the mob to carry out the said killings and looting and her deposition in court fortifies her stand that it is accused who was not only present during the alleged incident but also instigating and leading the mob which resulted

offences." Kumar was convicted under IPC Sections 147 (rioting), 302 (murder), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) 395 (dacoity), 397 (robbery, or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), 436 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house, etc), and 440 (mischief committed after preparation made for causing death or hurt) aside from other

in commission of the aforesaid

at are also present at the war room, the statement said.

Victim of sexual assault has right to terminate pregnancy: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, Feb 12: The law provides the right to a victim of sexual assault to terminate her pregnancy medically, the Allahabad High Court has observed while allowing a 17-yearold woman to choose whether she wants the child or not.

A two-judge bench comprising Justices Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Prashant Kumar was hearing a petition of a 17-year-old rape victim seeking medical termination of pregnancy. It said section 3(2) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act provides the

right to a victim of sexual as-

sault to terminate her pregnan-

cy medically.

The court further observed, "In the case of sexual assault, denying a women right to say no to medical termination of pregnancy and fasten her with responsibility of motherhood would amount to denying her human right to live with dignity as she has a right in relation to her body which includes saying 'Yes' or 'No' to being a mother.

"Section 3(2) of the MTP Act reiterates that right of a woman. To force the victim to give birth to the child of a man who sexually assaulted would result in unexplainable miseries." The petitioner said she was lured by the accused



to elope with him. Later, upon a complaint by her father, she

Subsequently, when the petitioner was medically examined for acute stomach ache, she was found to be three months and

fifteen days pregnant. The counsel for the petitioner alleged that she was raped multiple times, and investigation on this has been requested before the session court.

Since the petitioner is now

A two-judge bench comprising Justices Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Prashant Kumar was hearing a petition of a 17-year-old rape victim seeking medical termination of pregnancy

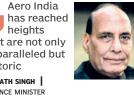
It said section 3(2) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act provides the right to a victim of sexual assault to terminate her pregnancy medically

nineteen weeks pregnant, her counsel submitted that the pregnancy was causing her anguish and was detrimental to her mental health. It was albeing a minor, did not want the responsibility of a child. The court observed that Rule 3 B of the Medical Termination

so pleaded that the petitioner,

of Pregnancy, Rules 2003 (as amended by Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amend ment) Rules, 2021) provides for termination of pregnancy of up to 24 weeks for survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest or if she is a minor. Giving an example of the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court allowing medical termination of pregnancy in similar circum stances, the court observed that the victim has the right to say yes or no to keeping the child conceived due to sexual assault.









I salute the supreme sacrifices of the rank and file of our armed forces who have







Methamphetamine tablets seized

informed about it.

Mizoram's Champhai district, Mizoram Police jointly seized intercepted them, it said. The alert and ran away, leaving behind the consignment.



(AAP convener) Arvind Kejriwal is holding continuous meetings with the organisation, Punjab leaders, winning MLAs and the candidates who lost the polls, to gather feedback and improve our approach. But the BJP should prioritise governance and ensure Delhi does not face unnecessary hardships

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS CLAIM 80K LIVES

India ranked as the sixth-most severelyaffected country by extreme weather events in the 1993-2022 period, recording 80,000 fatalities and economic losses of around \$180 billion, according to a new report



and the BJP were involved. It was



M V GOVINDAN | CPI(M) STATE SECY

What is the government SACHIN PILOT CONGRESS LEADER



est economy by 2027 under PM Modi. The Congress should turn the pages of history before commenting about him and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER





Conaress will change Assam change Himachal PCC Chief

Congress will change Tamil Nadu PCC Chief Congress will change Harvana PCC Chief Congress will change Maharashtra PCC Chief INC is also set to replace atleast 6 AICC In charges this month

SHORT **TAKES**

Young man killed in

Wayanad (Kerala): A

wild elephant attack

27-year-old man was killed in

a wild elephant attack in this

hill district in the early hours

from a tea estate in Attamala

of Wednesday, police said.

near Chooralmala where

landslides claimed several

lives in July last year. The

victim has been identified as

Balakrishnan, a member of the

tribal community, police said.

estate. The incident is believed

Meanwhile, residents protested

initiatives from the authorities

He is a resident of a paddy

village, adjacent to the tea

to have occurred around 3

am Wednesday, they added.

against the alleged lack of

to protect them from wild

Three MLAs submit

Jammu: Three MLAs have

Speaker to be tabled in the

forthcoming session of the

Assembly seeking to declare

J&K liquor-free. Three MLAs,

who submitted the Bill are Mir Mohammad Favaz of the Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP), Sheikh Khursheed Ahmad of the Awani Ittehad Party (AIP) and the ruling National Conference (NC), MLA,

Ahsan Pardesi, The Bills will

be tabled in the forthcoming

Kashmir Legislative Assembly,

which will meet in Jammu for

the budget session March 3.

session of the Jammu and

submitted private bills to the

Bills for liquor ban

animal attacks.

@Amockx2022

PM, Macron discuss ways to deepen defence ties

lateral cooperation apart from

global and regional matters.

"In order to deepen the re-

search and development part-

nerships in defence, both the

leaders stressed on the early

launch of an R&D framework

through a Technical Arrange-

ment for cooperation in defence

technologies between

DGA and DRDO,'

Direction

Generale

(DGA) co-

ordinates

the arma-

ment pro-

with indus-

try in France

and the Defence

Research and Develop-

ment Organisation (DRDO) is

the premier R&D organisation

of India. They also held exten-

sive discussions on long-term

global challenges and current

international developments

and agreed to intensify their

global and regional engage-

multilateral initiatives and

institutions. Both leaders had

a "detailed conversation on

including through



held bilateral

discussions on the entire

gamut of the "exceptionally

strong and multifaceted"

bilateral cooperation

apart from global

Paris. Feb 12: Emphasising on "deep and long-standing" Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron Wednesday commended the progress in collaboration in construction of Scorpene submarines in India as the two leaders

two countries welcomed the ongoing discussions on missiles, helicopter engines and jet engines.

Modi invitand regional ed the French matters Army to "take a closer look" at the Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch (MBRL) system. emphasising that "an acquisition of this system by France would be another milestone in Indo-French defence ties.' according to a joint statement issued during Modi's just-concluded France visit.

The two leaders held bilateral discussions on the entire gamut of the "exceptionally strong and multifaceted" bion the Middle East and the war in Ukraine." The two leaders also underlined their common inclusive, secure and peaceful Indo-Pacific region," the statement said. Both leaders commended

progress in collaboration in construction of Scorpene submarines in India, including indigenisation, and in particular the work carried out with a view to the "integration of DRDO developed Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) into P75-Scorpene submarines and the analyses conducted regarding the possible integration of the Integrated Combat System (ICS) into the future P75-AS submarines,'

The two leaders welcomed the commissioning of the sixth and final submarine of the P75 Scorpene-class project, INS Vaghsheer, January 15. "Both sides welcomed the ongoing discussions in missiles, helicopter engines and jet engines. They also welcomed the excellent cooperation between the relevant entities in the Safran group and their Indian counterparts,' it added.

Briefing the media in France, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Wednesday said they reviewed the bilateral cooperation in areas of defence, space and civil nuclear cooperation, health and people-to-people ties

"In addition, President Macron welcomed the decision to include India as an observer to the Eurodrone MALE programme managed by OCCAR, which is another step forward in the growing strength of our partnership in defence equipment programmes," the



Political uncertainty in Manipur: Sambit Patra holds meetings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Feb 12: Senior BJP leader Sambit Patra met Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla Wednesday, second time in less than 24 hours, amidst his party's efforts to resolve the political uncertainty following Chief Minister N Biren Singh's resignation Sunday.

Patra along with state party president A Sharda Devi had met Bhalla Tuesday. They were also accompanied by state education minister Th Basanta Ku mar Singh, NPF's Manipur unit president Awangbou Newmai and JD(U) MLA Nasir. Patra also held a meeting with BJP MLAs in the state Wednesday and those who met included state consum er affairs minister L Susindro and MLA Karam Shvam.

Speaking to reporters, Shy am said there was no constitu tional crisis following Singh's decision to step down and the ongoing issues would be resolved by the Centre with the help of legislators.

5 senior students held for ragging juniors at Kerala nursing college

Kottayam (Kerala), Feb 12: Five third-year students have been arrested for allegedly ragging first-year students at the Government Nursing College here, police said Wednesday.

A case was registered after three first-year students lodged a complaint, alleging that the ragging had been ongoing for nearly three months at the nursing institute, which functions under the Government Medical College. The accused students have been suspended, college authorities said. The action was taken following an inquiry conducted under the anti-ragging law, they added.

The arrested students have been identified as Samuel Johnson (20), Rahul Raj (22), Jeev (18), Rijil Jith (20), and Vivek (21). According to the complaint, the ragging began in November last year.

The students reported that the incidents involved extreme brutality. They alleged that they were forced to stand naked and subjected to severe physical abuse using dumbbells, including tying them to their private parts. Further allegations include injuries inflicted using compasses and similar objects. followed by the application of lotion on the wounds.

Additionally, they were forced to have cream applied to their faces, heads, and mouths. The complaint also states that senior students regularly extorted money from juniors on Sundays to buy alcohol and frequently assaulted them. On November 16, the accused allegedly forced a first-year stuodged a complaint, alleging institute, which functions

as taken following an inquir ragging law, they added

dent to transfer ₹300 via Google Pay and hand over ₹500 in cash

under threats.

Police revealed that the money was used for alcohol consumption. On December 13, a first-year student endured extreme physical torture. That night, the accused allegedly entered his room, tied his hands and legs, and restrained him They then poured lotion all over his body and inflicted injuries using a divider. They also forced another first-year student in the room to record

Unable to endure the ha rassment any longer, three students finally lodged a complaint with the Kottayam Gandhinagar police.

the incident on a mobile phone

TRAI tightens rules to curb spams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Telecom regulator TRAI Wednesday intensified its crackdown on pesky calls and new rules that prescribe fines



₹2 lakh to ₹10 lakh for recurring and repeated instances of violation, in cases where telcos misreport the count of such spams. The regulator has mandated

all telecom operators to analyze call and SMS patterns based on parameters such as unusually high call volumes, short call durations, and low incoming-to-outgoing call ratios to flag potential spammers in real-time.

The amendment in the regulation in Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations come with graded penalty that will be imposed on telecom operators in case they fail to implement the provisions

UPSC brings changes in online application process

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has introduced certain changes in its online application system for this year's civil services preliminary exam after aspirants complained of technical glitches while applying through it, according to an official notice.

It said that some entries have been made "editable" in the one-time registration for filling up of the online application. "In view of the queries/ difficulties raised by the candidates in filling up the online application form for the civil services examination, 2025, the Commission has decided the following changes in the



one-time registration (OTR) for filling up of the online application," the UPSC said.

Accordingly, editable entries in the OTR profile "until the final submission of application and thereafter during the correction window" include "Have vou ever changed name?", "Gender", "Minority Status" and "Class 10th Board Examination Roll No.", said the notice issued by the Commission. If a candidate has lost access to his/her

In view of the queries/difficulties raised by the candidates in filling up the online application form for the civil services examination, 2025, the Commission has decided the following changes in the one-time registration (OTR) for filling up of the online application



registered mobile number but he/she has the access to his/her registered email ID, he/she can apply for change in the mobile number and in this case, an OTP will be sent to the registered email ID the Commission said. In case a candidate has lost access to his/ her registered email ID but has the access to his/her registered mobile number, he/she can apply for change in the email ID and in this case, an OTP will be sent to the registered mobile number, it said

However, if a candidate reports that he/she has lost access to his/her registered mobile as well as registered email ID, the candidate will have to send a request to the Commission for making necessary changes at the (otrupsc@gov. in) along-with matriculation certificate. Aadhaar card or PAN card or Passport or driving license, recent passport size photograph and an undertaking in a prescribed format, the notice said.

SC orders removal of chairperson of NCH

New Delhi: Months before his superannuation, the Supreme Court Wednesday directed the removal of the chairperson of the National Commission for Homoeopathy saying his appointment was illegal. Setting aside a Karnataka High Court order, a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan said there was total lack of procedural fairness in the case. "The appointment of the third respondent stands quashed. The third respondent shall step down from the office of chairperson of the commission forthwith. By forthwith, we mean a week from date to enable him complete his pending assignments without, however, taking any policy decision or decision involving finances," it held. Referring to Section 4 of National Commission for Homeopathy (NCH) Act, 2020, the top court said the provision prescribes the candidate to have a minimum of 20 years experience, of which they should be a "leader" in the field of homeopathy.

Calling a woman illegitimate wife violates her rights: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Supreme Court Wednesday took exception to a Bombay High Court order which used "illegitimate wife" and "faithful mistress" to describe a woman and said it amounted to the violation of her fundamental rights and was misogynistic.

Observing the use of such words was against the ethos and ideals of the Constitution, a full bench (three judges) of Justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih took note of the

"objectionable language" used by the Bombay High Court. "Unfortunately, the Bombay High Court went to the extent of using the words 'illegitimate wife'. Shockingly, in paragraph 24, the high court described such a wife as a 'faithful mistress'," it added.

The apex court said calling the woman, who was in a marriage that was declared void, as an "illegitimate wife" was "very inappropriate" and affected her dignity.

The bench notably observed the high court did not use similar adjectives for husbands of void marriages. Under Section 21 of the Constitution, said the bench, every person had a fundamental right to lead a dignified life. "Calling a woman an 'illegitimate wife' or 'faithful



mistress' will amount to a vio-

lation of the fundamental rights

of that woman under Article

21 of the Constitution of India.

Describing a woman by using

these words is against the ethos

>> The apex court said calling the woman, who was in a marriage that was declared void, as an "illegitimate wife" was "very inappropriate" and affected her dignity

The bench notably observed the high court did not use similar adjectives for husbands of void marriages

>> Under Section 21 of the

Constitution, said the bench, every person had a fundamental right to lead a dignified life

and ideals of our Constitution," The court said no one could

use such adjectives while referring to a woman who was a party to a void marriage. The top court was hearing a reference in a matter over conflicting views on the applicability of Sections 24 and 25 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

While Section 24 of the Act deals with maintenance pendente lite (pending the suit) and expenses of proceedings, Section 25 relates to permanent alimony and maintenance.

"A spouse whose marriage has been declared void under Section 11 of the 1955 Act is entitled to seek permanent alimony or maintenance from the other spouse by invoking section 25 of the 1955 Act, held the bench. It said whether such a relief of permanent alimony could be granted or not would always depend on the facts of each case and the conduct of the parties. Even if a court came to a pri-

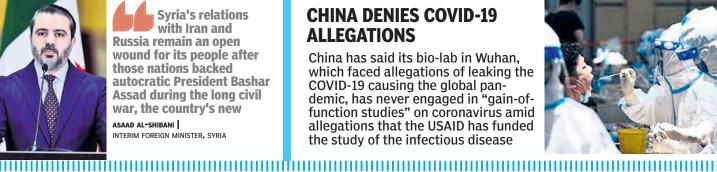
ma facie conclusion that the marriage between the parties was void or voidable, pending the final disposal of the proceeding under the Act, the court was not precluded from granting maintenance pendente lite provided the conditions mentioned in Section 24 were satisfied, said the bench. The court opined when it came to deciding the prayer under Section 24, a court would always consider the conduct of the party as the grant of relief under it was "always discretionary".



3 of family killed

Rajasthan's Dholpur district Wednesday, police said. The victims were identified as Vikas (22), his sister-in-law, Natho (21) and his cousin,

international



Syria's relations with Iran and Russia remain an open wound for its people after those nations backed autocratic President Bashar Assad during the long civil war, the country's new

ASAAD AL-SHIBANI INTERIM FOREIGN MINISTER, SYRIA

CHINA DENIES COVID-19 ALLEGATIONS

China has said its bio-lab in Wuhan, which faced allegations of leaking the COVID-19 causing the global pandemic, has never engaged in "gain-offunction studies" on coronavirus amid allegations that the USAID has funded the study of the infectious disease



I chose India as the first destination trip after entering Speaker of the Knesset. The first trip is also a

reflection of the importance of a place in our relationship. It was also the first visit of any Knesset speaker to India

AMIR OHANA | KNESSET SPEAKER, ISRAEL



successfully. The figures prove this OLAF SCHOLZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY **NATO** mem bership for Ukraine was

unrealistic and in sweeping remarks suggested that the way forward

for Ukraine was for the country to abandon hopes of a return to its pre-2014 borders and prepare for a one that should be backed up with an international force of troops PETE HEGSETH | US DEFENCE SECRETARY

SHORT **TAKES**

Indonesia, Turkiye hold talks on defence

Bogor (Indonesia): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto Wednesday for talks aimed at strengthening economic and defence ties between the two Muslim-majority nations. The two countries are holding their first High-Level Strategic **Cooperation Council summit** after agreeing to create the forum at a meeting in Bali in 2022. Erdogan's state visit to Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country and Southeast Asia's largest economy, was his second stop in a four-day visit that also includes Malaysia and Pakistan. "This meeting is the highest regular bilateral forum between the two countries where all matters of common interest will be issues and priorities," said Indonesian foreign ministry spokesperson Rolliansyah Soemirat ahead of the visit.

1 dead, 25 hurt as train. truck collide

Berlin: A collision between a high-speed train and a truck on the outskirts of the German city of Hamburg left one person dead and 25 injured, six of them seriously, police said. The ICE train had 291 people on board at the time of the collision Tuesday with a truck that was loaded with rails. Police said the uninjured passengers were evacuated and taken to a nearby station by bus. A 55-year-old passenger died at the scene. The train rammed the truck on a crossing and windows in cars at the front of the train shattered. German news agency dpa reported, citing a witness. The truck's load was strewn around the

Terrorist sentenced to 31-year imprisonment

accident site.

Lahore: A Pakistani court has awarded a 31-year imprisonment to an ISIS terrorist who was arrested last year over his involvement in a terror incident. "The Anti-Terrorism Court (Sahiwal) handed down 31 years jail term to banned ISIS terrorist Usman Saeed. He was arrested in 2024 in Sahiwal, some 200 kilometres from Lahore during an intelligencebased operation." "The court convicted him in the light of evidence of his involvement in a terror incident presented by the Counter Terrorism Department of Punjab police," an official said Wednesday.

NASA's 2 stuck astronauts may return to Earth sooner

The space agency announced Tuesday that SpaceX will switch capsules for upcoming astronaut flights in order to bring Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams home in mid-March instead of late March or April

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Canaveral (US), Feb 12: NASA's two stuck astronauts may end up back on Earth a little sooner than planned

The space agency announced Tuesday that SpaceX will switch capsules for upcoming astronaut flights in order to bring Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams home in mid-March instead of late March or April.

That will shave at least a couple weeks off their prolonged stay at the International Space Station, which hit the eightmonth mark last week. "Human spaceflight is full

of unexpected challenges,' NASA's commercial crew program manager Steve Stich said in a statement.



The test pilots should have returned in June on Boeing's Starliner capsule after what should have been a weeklong flight demo. But the capsule had so much trouble getting to

which added more time to Wilmore and Williams' mission

■ With even more work still antici pated for the new capsule, NASA opted for its next crew to fly up on an older capsule, with liftoff now targeted for March 12

the space station that NASA decided to bring it back empty and reassigned the pair to SpaceX.

Then SpaceX delayed the launch of their replacements on a brand new capsule that needed more prepping, which added more time to Wilmore

and Williams' mission.

With even more work still anticipated for the new capsule. NASA opted for its next crew to fly up on an older capsule, with liftoff now targeted for March 12. This older capsule had already been assigned to a private crew awaiting launch this spring.

The private flight arranged by the Houston company Axiom Space, featuring astronauts from Poland, Hungary and India, was bumped and will launch later to the space station, possibly still this spring.

NASA prefers having a new

crew arrive before sending the old one back, in this case Wilmore, Williams and two others up there since Septem ber. The new crew going up includes two NASA astronauts, as well as one from Japan and one from Russia.

NASA's latest change in plans comes two weeks after the space agency said it was working "expeditiously" to bring back Wilmore and Williams as soon as possible. Just a day earlier, President Donald Trump and SpaceX's Elon Musk had vowed to accelerate the astro-

CONCERN OVER GAZA CEASEFIRE MOUNTS

Israel calls up reservists

Under the ceasefire deal in force since Ianuary 19, Hamas agreed to free three more hostages Saturday

Jerusalem/Dubai, Feb 12: Israel's military has called up reservists in preparation for a possible resumption of fighting in Gaza if Hamas fails to meet a Saturday deadline to release more Israeli hostages and a nearly month-old ceasefire breaks down. Concern that the ceasefire

will collapse is growing as fury mounts in Arab countries over President Donald Trump's plan for the United States to take over Gaza, resettle its Palestinian inhabitants and build an international beach resort. Under the ceasefire deal in

force since January 19, Hamas agreed to free three more hostages Saturday. But the Palestinian militant group said this week it was suspending the handover over what it said were Israeli violations of the

Trump responded by saying all hostages must be freed by noon Saturday or he would "let

hell break out".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu then warned Tuesday that his country would resume "intense fighting" if Hamas did not meet the deadline, but did not say how many hostages should be freed.

Netanyahu said he had ordered the military to gather forces in and around Gaza, and the military announced it was deploying additional forces to Israel's south, including mobilising reservists.

Hamas' Gaza chief, Khalil Al-Hayya, arrived in Cairo Wednesday for a surprise visit to discuss the fragile ceasefire.

A Hamas official told Reuters mediators Egypt and Qatar had stepped up efforts to end the current impasse.

The standoff threatens to re-

ignite a conflict that has devastated the Gaza Strip, internally displaced most of its people, caused shortages of food and running water, and pushed the Middle East to the brink of a wider regional war.

Gazans expressed alarm that the ceasefire might collapse and urged Hamas and Israeli lead ers to agree on an extension.

"We had barely started believing that a truce would hap-

pen and that a solution was

ceasefire if Hamas does not free hostages

gypt to host Arab summit to address Palestinian issues

rump's disputed plan for Gaza escalates Middle East tensions

on the way, God willing,' said Lotfy Abu Taha, a resident of Rafah in southern Gaza. "The people are suffering. The people are the victims." Israeli officials said govern-

ment ministers had endorsed Trump's threat to cancel the ceasefire unless all hostages are released Saturday.

Hamas said it remained committed to the agreement but has not agreed to release the hostages Saturday.

Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said in Dubai that Trump's vision for Gaza could lead the Middle East into a new cycle of crises with a "damaging effect on peace and stability.

Trump has said Palestinians in Gaza could settle in countries such as Jordan and Egypt. Both reject the proposal.

Egypt will host an emergen cy Arab summit February 27 to discuss "serious" developments for Palestinians.

UN reports grave rights violations in B'desh protest response

Geneva, Feb 12: Officials from Bangladesh's former government and security apparatus systematically committed serious human rights violations against protesters staging mass demonstrations last summer, the UN human rights chief said Wednesday.

Presenting the report of a fact-finding mission, High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk told reporters in Geneva that crimes against humanity may have been carried out amid a climate of fear and mass arrests.

Testimony from senior Bangladesh officials and other evidence showed an official policy to attack and violently repress anti-government protesters and sympathisers, the report said.

The UN called for urgent further criminal investigation into the violations.

The protests began as a student-led movement against public sector job quotas but quickly morphed into a broader, nationwide uprising that forced then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee to India as the unrest peaked in early August.



Hasina, who had ruled Ban gladesh since 2009, is being investigated there on suspicion of crimes against humanity genocide, murder, corruption and money laundering and Dhaka has asked New Delhi to

Hasina and her party deny wrongdoing, while New Delhi has not responded to the extradition request. Neither Hasi na nor officials of her Awami League party could be reached for comment on the UN Human

The UN fact-finding mission visited Bangladesh at the invi tation of the interim government led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus.

Rights report.

SNIPPETS

London: The UK government has tightened rules around British citizenship applications to block migrants arriving illegally on small boats across the English Channel or crossing the border by road or other illegal means. The 'Nationality: good character requirement' assessment guidance published Monday for UK Home Office immigration staff processing such documents applies to British citizenship applications from Monday. The guidance notes that a person who applies for citizenship having previously arrived without a required valid entry clearance "having made a dangerous journey, will normally be refused citizenship". According to the guidance, a dangerous journey includes, but is not limited to, travelling by small boat or concealed in a vehicle or other conveyance.

UK tightens citizenship rules | IMF supports Pak PM's decisive actions for betterment of economy

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said the International Monetary Fund chief is positive about Pakistan's proposal regarding lowering electricity prices. In a cabinet meeting about his interaction with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in the UAE, Sharif said he raised concerns about high production costs affecting industrial growth. "We told the IMF that economic growth is only possible if production costs decrease," Shehbaz said, adding that she indicated the lender is open to reviewing Pakistan's power tariff reduction plan if presented formally. He further said the IMF chief appreciated the government's performance in implementing economic reforms.

China slams Vance's 'authoritarian regimes' jibe on accessing AI

Beijing: China Wednesday hit out at US Vice President JD Vance's caution to global leaders against striking deals with "authoritarian regimes" on Artificial Intelligence saying that it is opposed to drawing lines on AI accessibility on ideological lines and politicising trade and tech issues. In a thinly veiled jibe at China while speaking at the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit in France Tuesday, Vance cautioned that AI deals with authoritarian regimes may chain nations to an "authoritarian master." Responding to questions on Vance's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here, "We are against drawing lines along ideological differences, overstretching the concept of national security, or politicising trade and tech issues." Guo said on Al cooperation, China stressed more than once that it is embracing the AI transformation and is working hard to advance AI.



Nepalese students affiliated with the Nepali Congress stage a symbolic protest against the government proposed social media bill, arguing that it will impact freedom of speech and demanding its revision in Kathmandu, Nepal

Trump discusses Ukraine war with Putin, Zelenskiy

Washington/Moscow/Kyiv, Feb 12: Donald Trump discussed the war in Ukraine Wednesday in phone calls with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the new

US president's first big step to-

wards diplomacy over a war he

has promised to end. In a post on his social media platform, Trump said he and Putin had "agreed to have our respective teams start negotiations immediately, and we will begin by calling President Zelenskiy, of Ukraine, to inform him of the conversation, something which I will be doing right now.'



Zelenskiy's office said Trump and Zelenskiy had spoken by phone for about an hour.

The Kremlin said Putin and Trump had agreed to meet, and Putin had invited Trump to visit Moscow.

Trump has long said he would quickly end the war in Ukraine, without saying how

We want, like you, a sovereign and prosperous Ukraine. But we must start by recognising that returning to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders is an unrealistic objective PETE HEGSETH | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

he would accomplish this. Earlier

Wednesday, Trump's Defense Secretary, Pete Hegseth, said a return to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders was unrealistic and the US ad ministration did not see NATO membership for Kyiv as part of a solution to the war.

Speaking at a meeting of Ukraine's military allies at NATO headquarters in Brussels Wednesday, Hegseth delivered the clearest and bluntest public statement so far on the new US administration's approach to the nearly threeyear-old war "We want, like you, a sover-

eign and prosperous Ukraine. But we must start by recognising that returning to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders is an unrealistic objective," Hegseth told a meeting of Ukraine and more than 40 allies at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"Chasing this illusionary goal will only prolong the war and cause more suffering."

No peace talks have been held since the early months of the war, now approaching its third anniversary. Former US President Joe Biden and most

Western leaders held no direct discussions with Putin after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in Febru ary 2022.

Russia occupies around a fifth of Ukraine and has demanded Kyiv cede more territory and be rendered perma nently neutral under any peace deal. Ukraine demands Russia withdraw from captured ter ritory and wants NATO membership or equivalent security guarantees to prevent Moscow from attacking again.

In recent interviews, Kyiv appears to have accepted that it will not be admitted to NA-TO soon but has emphasised its need for military support under a peace deal.

Business



market is entering a new phase of growth, supported by significant infrastructure development and clear policy direction KEISUKE SADAMORI | DIRECTOR OF

India's gas

RBI TO ISSUE ₹50 NOTES WITH GUV MALHOTRA'S SIGNATURE

The Reserve Bank of India Wednesday said it will soon issue ₹50 denomination banknotes bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra. Malhotra assumed office in December 2024 replacing Shaktikanta Das who demitted office after completion of his extended term





transitions towards a sustainable energy future. **ONGC remains**

steadfast in its commitment to advancing clean energy initiatives

ARUN KUMAR SINGH | CHAIRMAN AND CEO, ONGC

By expanding our fleet of



structure across the country, we are playing a central role in reducing India's carbon emissions and supporting the transition to a cleaner, greener logistics industry

ANAND MIMANI | CEO,

Airtel Payments Bank continues to meet the diverse financial needs of both

urban and rural customers. Notably, we are now India's third-largest mobile bank and the preferred choice for a secure second

ANUBRATA BISWAS | MD AND CEO, AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK

SHORT **TAKES**

Hyundai to be added to MSCI India Index

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd will be added to the MSCI India Index while Adani Green Energy will move out, effective February 28, 2025, as per the latest index review by MSCI. The changes in constituents for the MSCI Global Standard Indexes which will take place as of the close of February 28, 2025, according to an announcement by index compiler MSCI. Shares of Hyundai Motor India climbed 3.41 per cent to ₹1,898.20 on the BSE during the morning trade while Adani Green Energy declined 4.95 per cent

JSPL gets assistance

New Delhi: The government has allocated a total of ₹1,983.06 crore to Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (ISPL) and two other entities under a financial incentive scheme to promote coal and lignite gasification, ISPI has secured a financial assistance of ₹569.05 crore for its 2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) coal gasification project in Angul. Odisha, Ministry of Coal said in a statement on Wednesday. The project being set up at an overall cost of ₹3.793 crore will convert coal into Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) through coal gasification while also setting up a carbon capture and utilization plant designed to capture 30 TPD (tonne per day) of CO2 for conversion into valuable products, it said.

Palm oil imports dip

New Delhi: India's palm oil imports plunged 65 per cent year-on-year to 2,75,241 tonne in January 2025, the lowest in 13 years, as buyers shifted to cheaper soybean oil, industry body Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said Wednesday. Total vegetable oil imports dropped 13 per cent to 10.49 lakh tonne in January from 12 lakh tonne a year earlier.

Nokia bags Airtel deal

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel has awarded a contract to Nokia and Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and Wi-Fi solutions, a move internet access for users Fi 6 access point devices will

RETAIL INFLATION SLOWS

Top five states which had higher inflation than the national average in January were Kerala (6.76%), Odisha (6.05%), Chhattisgarh (5.85%), Haryana (5.1%), and Bihar (5.06%)

FIVE-MONTH LOW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Continuing the downward trend, retail inflation fell to a five-month low of 4.31 per cent in January, mainly due to a decline in the prices of vegetables, eggs, and

The Consumer Price Index-based retail inflation was 5.22 per cent in December and 5.1 per cent in January 2024. The previous low inflation was in August 2024 at 3.65 per cent. The Consumer Price Index has been on a decline since October.

The inflation in the food basket was 6.02 per cent in January, the lowest after August 2024 when it was 5.66 per cent.

There is a decline of 91 basis points in headline inflation of January 2025 in comparison to December 2024 and it is the lowest vear-on-vear inflation after August 2024, the National Statistics Office (NSO) data showed.

According to the data, the top five items showing the highest year on year inflation were coconut oil (54.2 per cent), potato (49.61 per cent), coconut (38.71 per cent), garlic (30.65 per cent), peas (30.17 per cent).

On the other hand, the key items having the lowest year on year inflation in January were jeera (-32.25 per cent), ginger (-30.92 per cent), dry chilies (-11.27 per cent), brinjal (-9.94 per cent), LPG (excluding

RBI lifts curbs on

Kotak Mahindra

Mumbai, Feb 12: The Reserve

Bank of India Wednesday lifted

nine-month old curbs on Ko-

tak Mahindra Bank, allowing

it to onboard new customers

through its online and mobile

The Reserve Bank also per-

The RBI in April 2024 had di-

rected the lender to cease and

desist from onboarding new

customers through its online

and mobile banking channels,

and issuing fresh credit cards.

ed remedial measures to address

the supervisory concerns and

submitted compliances to the

Reserve Bank, the central bank

said in a statement Wednesday.

While announcing the su-

pervisory action against Kotak

Mahindra Bank under Section

35A of the Banking Regulation

Act in April last year, the RBI

had said the actions were ne-

cessitated based on significant

concerns arising out of its IT

examination of the bank for

the years 2022 and 2023 and the

continued failure on part of the

bank to address these concerns

in a comprehensive and timely

ONGC-NTPC JV buys

Ayana Renewable in

New Delhi, Feb 12: A joint

venture of India's largest oil

and gas producer ONGC and

nation's biggest power com-

pany NTPC Thursday signed

a deal to acquire renewable

energy firm Ayana for an en-

terprise value of ₹19,500 crore

(ONGPL), a 50:50 joint ven-

ture between ONGC Green Ltd

(OGL) and NTPC Green Ener-

gy Ltd (NGEL), signed a share

purchase agreement (SPA) to ac-

quire a 100 per cent equity stake

in Ayana Renewable Power Pvt

This is the second biggest

Ltd (Ayana), the firms said.

ONGC-NTPC Green Pvt Ltd

₹19,500 crore deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Subsequently, the bank initiat-

mitted the private sector lender

to issue fresh credit cards.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

banking channels.

conveyance) (-9.29 per cent). Last week, the Reserve Bank years effected a rate cut of 25 basis points after a gap of five years to spur growth as inflation was in its comfort zone. The central bank has been mandated by the government to ensure CPI remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

NSO further said a significant decline in headline and food inflation in the rural sector was observed in January

It was 4.64 per cent in January compared to 5.76 per cent in the preceding month.

The food inflation in the rural sector was 6.31 per cent in comparison to 8.65 per cent in December 2024.

Similarly, urban inflation witnessed a sharp decline from

New Delhi, Feb 12: Investors'

confidence in equity mutual

funds remains strong with

the segment attracting ₹39,688

crore in January, driven by

sharp inflow in small cap and

flexi-cap schemes, even as mar-

However, this was 3.56 per

cent lower than the net inflow

of ₹41,156 crore registered in

December. The latest fund in-

fusion by investors also marks

the 47th consecutive month

of inflows into the segment,

according to data released by

Association of Mutual Funds

Moreover, inflows into sys-

tematic investment plans (SIP)

in India (Amfi) Wednesday.

ket volatilities continued.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Looking ahead, ICRA believes that the growth-inflation outlook suggests that there is room for another 25 bps rate cut in either the April or the June 2025 meetings. The exact timing of the same would depend on the incoming data, global developments, and the movements in the

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

USD/INR pair

4.58 per cent in December 2024 to 3.87 per cent in January. Food inflation decreased from 7.9 per cent in December to 5.53 per cent in January 2025.

Housing inflation rate was 2.76 per cent over December. "The significant decline in

marginally higher in January

inflation during the month health," NSO said.

top five states which had higher inflation than the national average in January were Kerala (6.76 per cent), Odisha (6.05 per cent), Chhattisgarh (5.85 per cent). Harvana (5.1 per cent). and Bihar (5.06 per cent).

The lowest inflation was in Delhi at 2.02 per cent.

The NSO collects price data from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all States/UTs on a weekly

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said the CPI inflation fell appreciably sharper than expected to a five-month low, led primarily by food items, vindicating the unanimous rate cut effected by the Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) last week.

of January, 2025 is mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, eggs, pulses and products, cereals and products, education, clothing and The data further showed that

"Looking ahead, ICRA believes that the growth-inflation outlook suggests that there is room for another 25 bps rate cut in either the April or the June 2025 meetings. The exact timing of the same would depend on the incoming data, global developments, and the movements in the USD/INR pair," she added.

Equity MFs see ₹39,688cr inflow in Jan ■ Latest fund infusion also marks 47th consecutive month of inflows into MFs

> ■ Inflows into SIP came at ₹26,400cr, a tad lower from December's ₹26,459cr

robust, totalling ₹26,400 crore for the month. We will continue to educate investors to stay invested through phases of volatility with a focus on disciplined, long-term approach to wealth creation," Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, Amfi, said.

Apart from equities, debt funds registered an inflow of ₹1.28 lakh crore in the month of January, against an outflow of ₹1.27 lakh crore in December.

in 6 days of mkt fall **BSE SENSEX**

Previous

BAJAJ FINS

TATA STEE

ULTRATEC

Close

FEBRUARY 12, 2025





L +1.65% TOP	TOP	ITC
		110
+1.51% GAINERS	LOSERS	POWER GRID
H CEMENT +1.41%		RELIANCE
NK +1.35%		INDUSIND BANK

Investors lose ₹18L-cr

CHANGE: -122.52 (-0.16%)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

tors suffered an erosion of ₹18 lakh crore in six days of market fall, where the BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 3 per cent, amid continuous foreign fund outflows and trade war worries. The 30-share BSE Sensex,

New Delhi, Feb 12: Inves-

which had tanked more than 900 points intra-day, ended at 76,171.08, down by 122.52 points or 0.16 per cent following a recovery in bank stocks in the last hour. During the day, the bench-

mark tanked 905.21 points or 1.18 per cent to sink below the 76,000-level and hit a low of 75,388.39.

Since February 4, the BSE bellwether gauge slumped 2,412.73 points cent. The market

WEALTH MANAGEMENT), MOTILA OSWAL FNANCIAL SERVICES capitalisation BSE-listed slumped ₹18,04,418 crore to ₹4.07.46.408.11 crore (\$4.69 trillion) since February 4.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Power Grid, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, Titan and Infosys were the biggest laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel,

Larsen & Toubro, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata Motors were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities Since Feb 4, the BSE bellwether gauge has slumped 2,412.73 points or 3.07%

Mcap of BSE-listed firms slumped ₹18,04,418 crore to ₹4,07,46,408.11 crore

worth ₹4,486.41 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"Markets were extremely choppy and gyrated sharply in intra-day trade. After crashing over 900 points in early trade markets recouped lost ground in late trade but select profit-taking in IT, banking and auto stocks saw benchmarks

end marginally lower. Prashanth Tapse. Senior VP (Research) at Me-

hta Equities sentiment remained Ltd, said. cautious amid concerns The over US tariffs, Federal BSE **Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's** smallcap hawkish stance on interest rates, gauge declined persistent FII outflows

0.49per IDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD (RESEARCH cent and midcap index went

lower by 0.45 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, realty tanked 2.58 per

cent, auto (0.84 per cent), con sumer discretionary (0.75 per cent), oil & gas (0.62 per cent) and BSE Focused IT (0.54 per

BSE commodities, financial services, bankex, capital goods and metal were the

As many as 2,435 stocks declined while 1,534 advanced and 97 remained unchanged

Industrial output growth Maaza now billion-dollar brand slows to three-month low

Poor performance by mining and manufacturing sectors drags industrial production growth in December

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: India's industrial production growth slowed to a three-month low of 3.2 per cent in December 2024, mainly due to poor performance of mining and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released Wednesday. The government has also re-

vised the November 2024 industrial output figure to 5 per cent from the provisional estimate of 5.2 per cent released in the previous month. The pace of factory output

growth stood at the same level of 3.2 per cent in September

and flat in August 2024. The growth was recorded at 3.7 per cent in October 2024.

came at ₹26,400 crore, a tad

lower from December's ₹26.459

crore. The SIP assets under

management stood at ₹13.2 lakh

crore, which is around a fifth of

'Despite market volatility

SIP contributions remained

the overall pie.

The country's factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), witnessed a growth of 4.4 per cent in December 2023.

India's Index of Industrial Production increased by 3.2 per cent in December 2024, an official statement said.

The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew 3 per cent in December 2024, down from 4.6 per cent in the yearago month.

Mining production growth declined to 2.6 per cent from 5.2 per cent year-on-year. Power output increased to 6.2 per cent in December 2024 from 1.2 per cent a year ago. In the April-December 2024

period, the IIP grew 4 per cent, slower than 6.3 per cent recorded in the year-ago period.



The fruit-based drink becomes second desi brand from Coca-Cola group to attain this feat after ThumsUp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Maaza, a desi mango fruit-based drink owned by Coca-Cola, has touched the milestone of becoming a billion-dollar brand in 2024, its Chairman and CEO James Quincey has said.

It has now become the "30th billion-dollar brand" from the stable of the global beverage major, Quincey said during the company's post-earning calls Tuesday In the Indian market, Co-

ca-Cola's business "rebounded nicely during the quarter, and we grew volume", he said. Before Maaza, ThumsUp had

in 2021 achieved the feat of becoming the first billion-dollar desi brand for Coca-Cola. The Coca-Cola Company in 1993 acquired both Maaza and

Thums Up from Ramesh Chauhan of Parle Bisleri when the Atlanta-headquartered company re-entered the Indian market. Coca-Cola had then bought the entire portfolio of aerated drinks from the Chauhan brothers, which also included Gold Spot and Limca. Maaza was launched in 1976 in India and is sold locally. A year after that in 2022, Co-

ca-Cola's lemon and lime-flavoured soft drink Sprite be-



came a billion-dollar brand in the Indian market. This was a brand introduced by Coca-Cola to the Indian markets

With the latest addition of Maaza, now Coca-Cola has three brands in the Indian market having over a billion dollars in sales. The cola major in the Indian

market "recruited consumers with innovative marketing campaigns that linked Coca-Cola with music, Sprite with travel and Thums Up with movies," said Quincey. Moreover, "in 2024 our

system added approximately 440,000 outlets by digital customer platforms in India, which provides more opportunities to better tailor our product, price, and packaging offerings," he said.

In 2024, Coca-Cola's global "unit case volume grew 1 per cent, led by Brazil, India and Mexico" and 2 per cent for the

India is the fifth largest market for the Coca-Cola **Company globally**

December Quarter.

For the quarter, Coca-Cola's net revenues increased 6 per cent to USD 11.5 billion and for the full year, its net revenues grew 3 per cent to USD 47.1 billion.

Moreover, Coca-Cola which franchised its bottling operations in some of the markets in India to its existing partners in early 2024 informed about gains in the earnings statement.

In the year ended December 2024, the company incurred \$7 million in transaction costs related to the refranchising of bottling operations in certain territories in India.

aimed at powering high-speed across India. Nokia's 5G Fixed

deal in the renewable energy space. Adani Green Energy (AGEL) had in October 2021

(\$2.3 billion).

acquired SB Energy India from SoftBank Group Corp (SBG) and Bharti Group in an all-cash deal worth \$3.5 billion.

Qualcomm for expansion of 5G

Wireless Access (FWA) and Wibe produced in India, according to a release.

India whitewash Eng

All-round Men in Blue demolish England by 142 runs to complete 3-0 clean sweep in ODIs



Ahmedabad, Feb 12: A robust batting show led by the Shubman Gill's attractive century heralded India's 142-run hammering of England in the third and final ODI as the hosts completed a dominant 3-0 clean sweep to culminate preparations for the Champions Trophy, here Wednesday.

India ticked all the remaining boxes with vice-captain Gill (112) following up his twin fifties earlier in the series with a seventh ODI ton of his career while middle-order mainstays Virat Kohli (52) and Shreyas Iyer (78) pushed India to a formidable 356 in the first half.

Indian bowlers then took over the mantle to complete the England demolition job, bundling out the visitors for a mere 214 in 34.2 overs to complete a comprehensive victory — their second largest in ODIs in terms of runs against a familiar opponent.

There was no change in the script for English, who came crashing down against spin after a sparkling start against pace. The slowness of the surface aided Indian bowlers as strike-making became difficult as the match progressed.

Gill led the way with a fluent 112 while Kohli and Iyer also cashed in on ideal conditions in their last outing before the Champions Trophy, helping India set a 357-run target.

Gill anchored India's innings en route to his seventh ODI ton - 112 off 104 balls (14x4s, 3x6s) which also took his average past 60 in the format while putting on two century stands with Kohli and Iyer to consolidate

The India vice-captain Gill also achieved the unique feat of scoring a century each across the three international forat the same ven-Gill. meanwhile, scored hundred

> at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

ue.

IPL.

the fast bowlers and spinners alike, Gill's knock was replete with rich strokes particularly down the ground. The opener

displayed immaculate footwork at the crease early on to take the attack to the opposition and remained resolute to score off spin, un-

> he was cleaned up by Adil Rashid (4/64). On part, Kohli took his time to find the rhythm and when he did. the batting mainstay looked hitting his strides.

Kohli made the most of a juicy pitched delivery from Mark Wood which he drove through the covers for his first four, then got on top of the ball from Saqib Mahmood to swat it for another boundary through mid-wicket and punished the England pacer for being wayward as he cut him for his third four.

While his stroke play was compelling in the run-ahis 73rd ball fifty for half-century, there ments of struggle against leg-spinner Rashid. Rashid

fifty,

spin-

caught

loopy

took

continued to have wood over Kohli as soon after his bat for he raised the England ner had him behind with a leg-break that 🔻 an outside edge fore settling in the wicketkeeper's gloves. This was the fifth time

Rashid has dismissed

Kohli in ODIs. Kohli was stranded 37 runs short of becoming only the third batter ever to make 14,000 ODI runs, missing a personal landmark like his teammate Rohit Sharma earlier in the innings. It is expected to be completed during Champions Trophy.

Coming off a terrific century in second ODI, Rohit (1) could not even get a start as a delivery from Wood which was angled in, straightened enough to take the outside edge and Phil Salt collected a sharp catch.

BRIEF SCORES

land: 214 in 34.2 overs (Tom Banto 38; Arshdeep Singh 2/33, Harshit

ODISHA AT NATIONAL GAMES



Star gymnast Pranati Navak wins All Around Gold in the Women's Artistic Gymanstics event at the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand





Canoeists Rasmita Sahoo and Achoibam Sanatombi Devi secure silver medal in C2W- 500m event at the ongoing National Games

FIFA staffer arrested in underage sex case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Miami, Feb 12: A staffer at FI-FA has reportedly been arrested in Miami on suspicion of having sex with an underage boy while on a work trip from Zurich.

"FIFA is aware of ongoing legal proceedings in Miami in relation to a private matter of a person that is employed by FIFA," the world soccer body said in a statement Wednesday. "FIFA has no further comment at this stage."

The Miami Herald reported Jack Coles was detained Friday by federal agents from Homeland Security Investigations at a hotel near FIFA's offices in the Coral Gables neighborhood.

Coles is a project leader with FIFA Sound, the department that organizes music for the soccer body's events and broadcasts.

Coles, who is British and reported to be aged 39, is alleged to have met a 14-year-old boy through a men's dating applast October, and allegedly tried to meet with him again last week. The boy reportedly told the FI-FA staffer he was 16, and was later in contact with federal investigators.

BUMRAH BLOW FOR INDIA

Pace spearhead ruled out of upcoming Champions Trophy due to lower back injury, Rana named replacement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy due to a lower back injury, the BCCI said Tuesday, putting to rest all the speculation over his participa tion in the premier tournament.

The senior men's team selection committee has named Harshit Rana as Bumrah's replacement for the mega event starting February 19 in Pakistan. India will open their campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai February 20.

The selectors have also included Varun Chakaravarthy in the team, the mystery spinner replacing batter Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was named in the provisional squad.

India will play all their matches of the tournament in Dubai under a hybrid model



agreement. Bumrah, who has already undergone a lower back surgery in 2022, sustained another stress-related injury while bowling in the final Test against Australia at Sydney, where he pulled out after sending down 10 overs in the first innings.

Bumrah was asked to offload for five weeks after which his rehabilitation at NCA happened under strength & conditioning trainer Rajnikanth and physio Thulasi.

The report sent by NCA head

Nitin Patel clearly states that while he has completed his rehabilitation and scan reports seemed to be okay, it couldn't be concluded that whether he would be bowling fit by the time the tournament starts. Hence the selectors didn't take any risk, a top BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Nitin left the ball in Ajit's (chief selector Agarkar) court and hence no one would want to stick their necks out and take the risk of putting an unfit

India not to play warm-up games

Kayaking duo Oinam Bidya Devi and Oinam Binita

Chanu clinch a bronze medal in K2W-500m event at

the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand

Dubai: India will not play any practice matches ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy even as Pakistan on Wednesday named three Shaheens squads which will feature in warm-up games against Bangladesh, South Africa and Afghanistan respectively. The warm-up matches will take place between February 14 to 17 in the lead-up to the main tournament, February 19 to March 9 in Pakistan and Dubai. India will play all their matches in Dubai. The BCCI decided against playing practice games as India are already playing a threematch ODI series against England which ends Wednesday, The Indian team is scheduled to reach Dubai

player in squad. If medical team doesn't green-light fully, how can the selection committee take that risk, the official said.

During a meeting between the chairman of selector Agarkar. head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Rohit Sharma in Ahmedabad, it was deliberated whether they would take an unfit Bumrah to the Champions Trophy or go for the inexperienced Rana.

ASIA MIXED TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

India thrash Macau 5-0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Qingdao, Feb 12: India made a sizzling start to their campaign, delivering a 5-0 thrashing to Macau in their opening group D tie of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship here Wednesday. Having won the bronze med-

al in the last edition in Dubai, India are now assured of a quarterfinal berth. They will next face Korea in their second and final group tie Thursday.

The mixed doubles pair of Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath, the newly-crowned National Games gold medallists, gave India a rousing start, recording a 21-10, 21-9 win against Iok Chong Leong and Weng Chi Ng in the opening match.

In men's singles, 2021 World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen then outwitted Pang Fong Pui 21-16, 21-12, making it 2-0.

Malvika Bansod, the 2024 Hylo Open finalist, then sealed the tie for India with a dominant 21-15, 21-9 win over Hao Wai Chan



Chirag Shetty paired up with MR Arjun and prevailed 21-15, 21-19 over Chin Pon Pui and Kok Wen Vong in men's

The world number 9 women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand completed the demolition with a 21-10, 21-5 thrashing of NG Weng Chi and Pui Chi Wa in the final match.

Thursday's match against Korea will decide the group topper.

FIH PRO LEAGUE

England men's hockey team arrives in Bhubaneswar



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: England men's hockey team touched down in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday ahead of their participation in the India leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25.

The upcoming matches, which will be held at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium, promise to showcase top-tier international hockey, with England eager to maintain their strong run in the tournament. England, currently ranked No 2 in the world, will face Spain in their opening match in Bhubaneswar. Notably, England

Hockey Pro League 2024-25 so far, securing second place in the overall standings. They have accumulated 11 points from four games, recording three wins and a draw, and are looking to build on this momentum. A key player for England

throughout the tournament has been forward Sam Ward, who has emerged as the team's leading scorer with eight goals. His sharp finishing and ability to find the net have been instrumental in England's success, and he will be a crucial player as the team looks to climb to the top of the standings in this leg of the competition.

Madrid mount stunning comeback

Bellingham strikes late for Real Madrid in five-goal thriller, play-off first leg against Man City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manchester, Feb 12: Real Madrid's Galacticos just don't know when they are beaten. Manchester City just keep on making the same mistakes.

Jude Bellingham's stoppage-time goal sealed a stunning comeback for Madrid and a 3-2 lead in its Champions League playoff against City.

In six frantic minutes at the end of a breathless first leg Tuesday, the Spanish giant scored twice to take a precious advantage into next week's match at the Bernabeu.

City led 2-1 after 80 minutes at the Etihad Stadium through goals in each half from Erling Haaland. But Brahim Diaz and then Bellingham silenced the

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



home crowd and extend a sorry record for City that has seen it concede seven goals in the last 15 minutes of Champions League games this season.

"We need to see games out better, that's for sure, City defender John Stones said. "We have to stay positive, which is

difficult right now." Bellingham slid in to convert Vinicius Junior's lobbed pass

in the second minute of added time to bring back memories of Madrid's dramatic comeback against City in the semifinal in 2022. Then it was Rodrygo who scored twice from the 90th and Madrid eventually sent Pep Guardiola's team crashing out in extra time

At least City has a chance to salvage the tie in the second leg, but the sense of deflation

It's always really tricky to play against them and in the end we took one of the many chances finally and made it count JUDE BELLINGHAM | ATTACKING MIDFIELDER, REAL MADRID

was clear after such a late col-

lapse. "It's not the first time, unfortunately, it happened many times and that's why it's difficult," Guardiola said. I've been here for many years and we have been an extraordinary

"But in the moment I'm not able... I'm not good enough, you know, to give something to (give) composure to the team, to (know) how to manage the situations.

It was another thrilling, white knuckle-ride of a game between these two giants of European soccer and a one-goal advantage for Madrid means there is still all to play for.

ESFI to include e-sports medallists, coaches in cash incentive programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Hailing the sports ministry's decision to include e-sports medallists and their coaches under its cash incentive programme, the ESFI Wednesday said the move would lead to "exponential rise in grassroots participation".

The ministry has come ou with a list of 51 sports that will be eligible for cash rewards, including all those which are part of the Olympic Games. Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the World University Games roster.

The list includes sports like mallakhamb, e-sports and kho

This move aligns e-sports with traditional sports, open ing doors for millions of gamers to represent India on the global stage, the Esports Federation of India said in a media release.

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