



Sharvari’s favourite

As 2025 draws to a close, actor Sharvari looks back at the people who ground her every day

LEISURE | P2



Gulf tensions

Saudi Arabia bombs Yemen port over weapons shipment from UAE, issues warning to Abu Dhabi

INTERNATIONAL | P10



8% surge

D-Street investors richer by ₹30.20 lakh crore this year, helped by over 8 per cent surge in the BSE benchmark Sensex

BUSINESS | P11



Eves thrash SL

India’s bowlers seal a 5-0 whitewash over Sri Lanka in the five-match T20I series

SPORTS | P12



WINTER DESTINATION: Tourists having a good time at the snow-clad ski resort at Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir, ahead of New Year celebrations, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

B’desh’s 1st female PM Khaleda Zia dies at 80

AGENCIES

Dhaka, Dec 30: Khaleda Zia, who became Bangladesh’s first female prime minister in 1991 and went on to develop a bitter rivalry with Sheikh Hasina as they spent decades trading power, died Tuesday after a long illness. She was 80.

Her Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said that she died after a prolonged illness. She had advanced cirrhosis of the liver, arthritis, diabetes, and chest and heart problems, her doctors said.

She went to London for medical treatment in early 2025, staying for four months before returning home.

Though Khaleda had been out of power since 2006 and had spent several years in jail or under house arrest, she and her centre-right BNP continued to command much support.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir attended the meeting as a special invitee.

In a televised address to the nation, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus announced a three-

day state mourning and a one-day general holiday.

“At the death of former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, I declare three days of state mourning and a one-day general holiday tomorrow on the day of her Namaz-e-Janaza (funeral prayers),” he said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourned Zia’s death, saying as the first woman premier of Bangladesh, her important contributions



towards the development of the country, as well as India-Bangladesh relations, will always be remembered. Modi also recalled his “warm meeting” with

her in Dhaka in 2015.

“We hope that her vision and legacy will continue to guide our partnership,” he said.

Several other countries, including the US, Pakistan, China, Germany, Australia, and the European Union (EU), also expressed deep sorrow over the death of Zia and paid tribute to her political legacy and role in shaping the country’s democratic journey.

7 killed as bus falls into U’khand gorge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Dec 30: Seven people were killed and about 12 injured after a bus fell into a gorge in Uttarakhand’s Almora district, police said Tuesday.

The accident occurred in Bhikiyasain area when the bus was en route to Ramnagar in Nainital from Dwarahat in Almora, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Devendra Pincha said.

According to the SSP, 18 to 19 passengers were on board when the driver lost control of the vehicle, and it fell into a gorge, six kilometres ahead of Bhikiyasain.

Upon receiving information about the accident, the police, along with State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams, reached the spot and launched rescue and relief operations, he said.

Six people died on the spot in the accident, while another succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital, the officer added.

SSP Pincha said 12 people, including the driver, were injured in the accident and rescued from the gorge. The injured were admitted to the hospital.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

Govt’s NY curbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: With barely a few hours left for the Zero Night celebrations, the state government Tuesday directed the officials concerned to crack down on reckless driving, speeding, and traffic violations. Anticipating heavy footfall at wildlife sanctuaries and tourist hotspots, including beaches, authorities have been asked to deploy special enforcement teams at key entry and exit points. Additionally, the government has mandated that any vehicles arranged for group picnics or pilgrimages must obtain prior clearance from their respective Regional Transport Offices (RTOs).

Commerce and Transport department has issued comprehensive guidelines to ensure road safety during the ongoing picnic season, with strict action planned against drunk driving, speeding, and other traffic violations. Acting on the instructions of Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, the department has directed all RTOs and Additional RTOs to intensify enforcement to reduce road accidents.

According to the guidelines, accidents frequently occur near picnic spots due to reckless driving, over-speeding, and driving



Tourists at Puri beach, Tuesday OP PHOTO

under the influence of alcohol. To curb such incidents, drivers of tourist vehicles will be subjected to breath analyser tests, and stringent action will be taken against violators of traffic and safety rules under the Motor Vehicles Act.

The department has stressed the four ‘E’s’ of road safety—Enforcement, Engineering, Education, and Emergency Care. Measures have been outlined to ensure passenger convenience and safe return from picnic destinations. All activities will be carried out under the supervision of the District Collector, with active participation from the SP, RTO, and CDMO. Major wildlife sanctuaries and popular picnic locations have been identified, where special enforcement teams will be deployed at entry and exit points.

Meanwhile, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration

No celebrations in govt offices

The state government Tuesday prohibited all kinds of New Year celebrations in government offices. Celebrations such as gatherings, feasts and parties are strictly banned within the premises of all state government offices on New Year’s Day. According to a release issued by the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO), all heads of offices and institutions have been directed to ensure strict compliance with these instructions. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has stated that government offices must not be used in any manner as venues for celebrating the English New Year. He emphasised that New Year’s Day is a regular working day. He also requested the public not to visit him personally to convey greetings or congratulate him or officers of the CMO.

(SJTA), along with Puri district authorities, is taking comprehensive measures to ensure orderly darshan of Lord Jagannath for the expected large turnout of devotees.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja reviewed the preparations during a meeting Tuesday, emphasising the importance of organised darshan during the New Year celebrations.

CM launches ₹1,362cr projects for Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Dec 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid stones for 123 projects worth over ₹1,362 crore in Bargarh district Tuesday.

This was revealed during Majhi’s visit to the world-famous Dhanu Jatra in Bargarh. During his visit to the court of King Kansa, the CM presented a comprehensive plan for the development of Mathura (Bargarh) city.

According to sources, Majhi laid foundation stones for 85 projects amounting to ₹980.58 crore were laid and inaugurated 38 projects worth ₹382.26 crore.

Some of the key projects include Dhanu Jatra open-air theater: ₹12.80 crore, beautification of Bargarh canal (box

conduit): ₹30.17 crore and Antanadi Reservoir in Jira River: ₹114.87 crore. A sewage treatment plant over Jira River at a cost of ₹132 crore, vending zone development at Hatpada at ₹30 crore, Atal Bus Stand in Bargarh Sadar at ₹65 crore and Antanadi Reservoir at Grindola at ₹150 crore are some of the other major projects.

The Chief Minister emphasized that Dhanu Jatra is not only a celebration of India’s cultural economy but also a demonstration of spirituality in social life. Efforts are ongoing to have the festival recognized by UNESCO.

Majhi also issued stern warning to corrupt officials, urging them to reform or face Vigilance action, emphasising the need for government employees to prioritize public service.



CM Mohan Charan Majhi rides an elephant during Bargarh Dhanu Jatra

OP PHOTO

Modi’s deep concern over ‘attack’ on Putin’s house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday voiced “deep concern” over the reports of the targeting of the residence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and urged Russia and Ukraine to focus on diplomatic efforts to end hostilities.

“Deeply concerned by reports of the targeting of the residence of the President of the Russian Federation,” Modi said in a post on X.

Russia claimed Monday that 91 long-range Ukrainian drones attempted to attack Putin’s country residence in the Novgorod region, north of Moscow.

Modi said the ongoing diplomatic efforts offer the most viable path toward ending hostilities and achieving peace.

“We urge all concerned to remain focused on these efforts and to avoid any actions that could undermine them,” the PM said.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin extended New Year greetings to world leaders including President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and US President Donald Trump, the Kremlin said Tuesday.

The greetings were for “Christmas and the upcoming New Year 2026”, the Kremlin said in a statement.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, he never protested, criticised the govt, or promoted liberal views. He is simply a convicted rapist

AGENCIES

Toronto, Dec 30: Drinking bottled water is fraught with tremendous health risks as a new review has revealed that daily consumers of bottled (plastic) water ingest over 90,000 more microplastic particles per year than their tap water counterparts.

The review mentioned that people ingest 39,000 to 52,000 microplastic particles, which range in size between a thousandth of a millimetre and five millimetres, on average in a year.

Plastic bottles release microplastics during manufacturing, storage and transport, when they are broken down by



exposure to sunlight and temperature fluctuations, according to researchers at Concordia University in Canada who warn the health consequences

of ingesting them “can be severe”, according to a report by ‘The Independent’ quoting the ‘Journal of Hazardous Materials’ that published the review.

“Drinking water from plastic bottles is fine in an emergency, but it isn’t something that should be used in daily life,” said Sarah Sajedi, lead author of the review.

Microplastics are known to enter the bloodstream and reach vital organs, potentially causing chronic inflammation, respiratory issues, stress on cells, hormonal disruption, impaired reproduction, neurological damage, and various kinds of cancer. But their long-term effects remain poorly understood due to the lack of standardised testing methods to assess them within tissues.

In the review, researchers

examined the global impact of tiny plastic particles ingested from single-use plastic water bottles on human health, drawing insights from over 141 scientific articles.

The review suggests that people meeting their daily recommended water intake solely from single-use plastic water bottles may ingest an additional 90,000 microplastics per year compared to those drinking only tap water who ingest 4,000 microplastics a year.

The study also says that while existing research tools detect even very small particles, these do not reveal what the particles are made of.

And the tools used to determine the composition of plastic particles tend to miss the smallest of them, researchers note, calling for developing standardised global testing methods to measure particles accurately.

“The review highlights the chronic health issues linked to exposure to nano- and microplastics, including respiratory diseases, reproductive issues, neurotoxicity, and carcinogenicity,” researchers wrote.

“We highlight the challenges of standardised testing methods and the need for comprehensive regulations targeting nano- and microplastics in water bottles.”

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You will be resolute and unswerving in your work to-day. By afternoon, you'll see results. Love will lighten your workload in the evening, when you meet your beloved. If single, you may come across someone very interesting, muses Ganesha.

TAURUS
You are likely to be disinterested and undecided during the morning. Though the will start off on a low note your resourcefulness and creativity will rise as the day progresses. The way you acquit yourself today will make you stand out and give you immense pleasure and satisfaction, assures Ganesha.

GEMINI
A day filled with socialising with your friends and relatives awaits you. Guests will probably fill your home. You may make new contacts and acquaintances at social get-togethers, who will prove beneficial to you in the future. The later half of the day is good for meditative and intellectual pursuits, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today, you may have to pay a lot of attention to educational and intellectual activities, predicts Ganesha. There may be novel business proposals and job offers in the afternoon. The opposite sex will be attracted to you like iron pins are attracted to a magnet. However, you are likely to be loyal to the one you love.

LEO
Ganesha looks at the stars and foresees that you are at the receiving end of a lot of advice and suggestions from elders today. The best part is that you are likely to get influenced by them as well. Your workplace may look like a battlefield as there are chances that you get into open confrontation with peers.

VIRGO
In the sea of relationships, you may just chance upon the one port you were looking to dock. But weigh your options carefully before forging a bond of love, warns Ganesha. Later in the day, you may think twice about continuing your current job. Romance will brew quite steadily, hopes Ganesha.

LIBRA
For all purposes intact, Ganesha foresees chances that today you may have an overwhelming urge and desire to renovate your home. It may be the small things, but even a new showpiece can go a long way in adding to the general décor of the house.

SCORPIO
Today will be a favourable day to conclude transactions in houses or vehicles, foresees Ganesha. On the business front, you will possibly get lesser profits than expected. At work, your negotiating skills will save your money from being swindled by others.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesha foresees signals of you being calm and in control to safeguard the sentiments of your dear ones. The afternoon is scheduled to be either the time for a business meet or for some fun and frolic. However, the evening may be heavy on your pocket as you may spend a lot to improve your appearance.

CAPRICORN
Today, you will be performing a balancing act as you will be balancing your domestic demands on one end and professional commitments on the other. Eventually, you will spend more time with your friends and family. You are surrounded with experienced and matured people, so ask for their guidance whenever you feel confused, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
Wake up! Things are moving quickly and you want to keep pace. Today, your ideas find a place in the sun, and you will bask in all the attention you garner. You need to decide quickly about certain matters, but leave the big decisions for now, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Your honesty is your hall-mark, and it will reap bountiful rewards for you today, both at the workplace on account of your integrity, and in relationships on account of your sincerity, says Ganesha. Financially also, it promises to be a good day.



I'M A CRAZY PERSON: CYNTHIA ERIVO

Actress-singer Cynthia Erivo calls herself a “crazy person” as she doesn’t “eat anything on planes” and brings everything with her because she wants to preserve her voice. The 38-year-old star said: “I don’t drink. I don’t smoke. I’m a crazy person. I don’t eat anything on planes. I bring everything with me.”

FOSTER SAYS SHE CAN’T MULTI-TASK

Hollywood actress Jodie Foster, who is known for *The Silence of the Lambs*, is not really comfortable with multi-tasking. The actress has shared that she can’t multi-task. The 63-year-old actress prefers to give one thing her entire focus and then when it is “done”, she will immediately move on to something else, reports *Female First UK*.



Jacqueline’s surreal experience

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez had a surreal experience as she made an emotional return to her alma mater.

The actress visited the Sacred Heart School, where she had received her early education in Bahrain. She shared a video of her visit on Instagram and is seen meeting the teachers and students in the campus.

The actress wrote in the caption: “Felt so surreal to be back here at my old school! Sacred Heart School! Thanks for this wonderful welcome.”

Jacqueline was raised in a multi-ethnic family. Her father, Elroy Fernandez, is a Sri Lankan, and her mother, was of Malaysian and Canadian descent. She was crowned Miss Universe Sri Lanka in 2006, and represented her country

at Miss Universe 2006.

After making her debut in 2009 with *Aladin*, the actress was seen in movies such as *Murder 2*, *Race 2*, *Kick*, *Roy*, *Brothers*, *Dishoom*, *A Gentleman*, *Judwaa 2*, *Bhoot Police*, *Cirkus* and *Fateh*.

Her latest release is *Housefull 5* by Tarun Mansukhani. The film features an ensemble cast including Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Nargis Fakhri, Chitrangada Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Soundarya Sharma, Chunky Pandey, Nikitin Dheer

and Johnny Lever.

The 40-year-old actress will next be seen in *Welcome To The Jungle*. **FIANS**



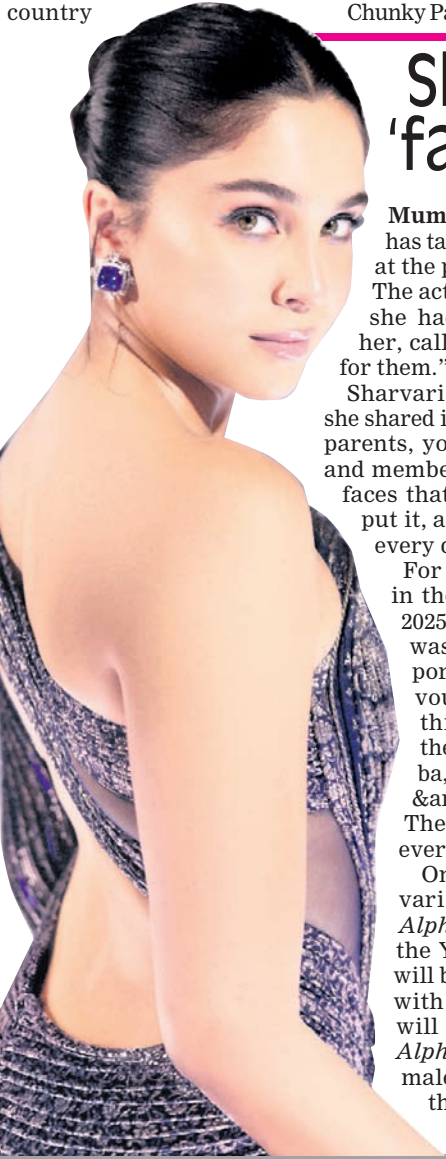
Sharvari lists her 'favourite people'

Mumbai: As 2025 draws to a close, Sharvari has taken a moment to pause and look back at the people who ground her every day. The actress shared a series of portraits she had clicked of those closest to her, calling the collection “Grateful for them.”

Sharvari took to Instagram, where she shared images featuring her sister, parents, younger brother, pet Miso, and members of her chosen family, faces that, as the Munjya actress put it, are the reason she smiles every day.

For the caption, she wrote in the caption section: “As 2025 comes to an end, I was looking back at these portraits I shot of my favourite people. Calling this series “Grateful for them”. My sister, Aai, Baba, Miso, my little brother & my chosen family.. They’re the reason I smile everyday!”

On the work front, Sharvari will next be seen in *Alpha*, which is a part of the YRF spy-universe. She will be sharing screen space with actress Alia. The two will be seen playing spies. *Alpha* marks the first female-led action film from the spy-universe. **AGENCIES**



Kajol up for some ‘bad advice’

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Kajol woke up, and chose violence. As the year draws to a close, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a note in which she spoke about being in a mood for giving some bad advice.

She wrote, “I’m giving free bad advice today. Ask me anything”.

Kajol’s quirky nature has always set her apart in Bollywood. Unfiltered, spontaneous, and refreshingly honest, she has never tried to fit into the industry’s polished mould. Whether it’s her candid interviews, playful banter on reality shows, or hilarious social media posts, Kajol’s humour feels effortless and real. She laughs loudly, speaks her mind, and embraces her imperfections

with confidence.

This authenticity translates on screen too, making her characters feel alive and relatable. From cracking jokes at public events to teasing co-stars without inhibition, Kajol’s quirks reflect a rare comfort in her own skin, something that continues to endear her to audiences across generations. **FIANS**



Special screening of *Ladhei*

Bhubaneswar: The much-anticipated Odia film *Ladhei: A fight till death* is all set to hit theatres Wednesday. Ahead of its official release, a special screening was held Tuesday, drawing members of the film fraternity, media professionals, and select guests.

Directed by filmmaker Ashok Pati, *Ladhei* blends action, drama, romance, and thriller elements, promising a

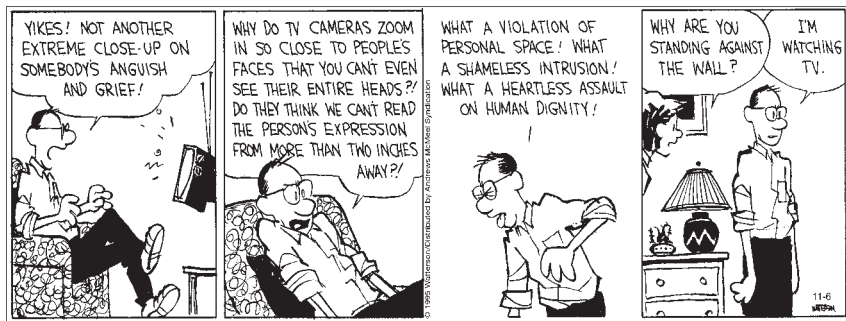
complete entertainment experience.

Produced under the DRS Enterprises banner, the film marks the debut of Lohitakshya Pattnaik as a lead actor in Odia cinema, opposite newcomer Avilipsa. With multiple shows lined up across Odisha and outside the state, *Ladhei* is expected to draw strong footfalls as the final Odia release of 2025 and usher in the New Year 2026 on a high note. **FIANS**

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

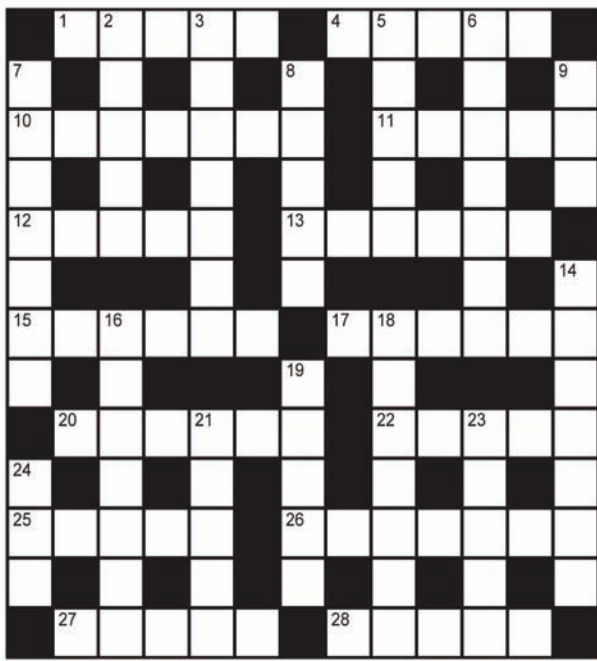


BREVITY



FUN post

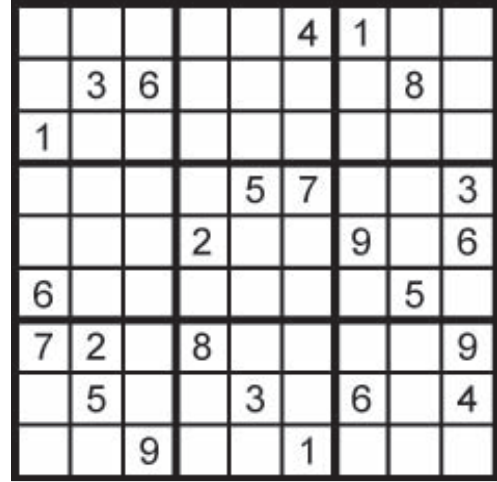
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Hollandaise, e.g.
 - 4 Cuss
 - 10 Perfect
 - 11 Vestibule
 - 12 Choleric
 - 13 Tea type
 - 15 Account book
 - 17 Connect
 - 20 Meagre
 - 22 Edible mushroom
 - 25 Astrological ram
 - 26 Fan palm
 - 27 Santa Claus feature
 - 28 Large wading bird
 - Down**
 - 2 Island greeting
 - 3 Checkers type
 - 5 Cart part
 - 6 Wave catcher
 - 7 Office space, at times
 - 8 Tick off
 - 9 Swedish shag rug
 - 14 Ski lodges
 - 16 Lead astray
 - 18 Type of glass or acrobat
 - 19 Substantial
 - 21 Stair part
 - 23 Mature
 - 24 Label

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

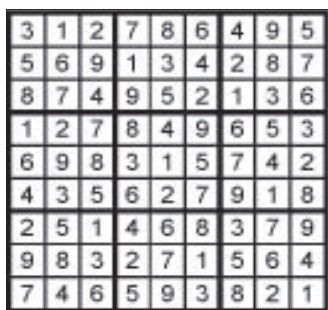


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Thai-Cambodian Truce

After a protracted, bloody conflict in which over 100 people were killed and about half a million civilians in both countries living in the border areas displaced, Thailand and Cambodia finally agreed to hold a ceasefire on December 29 and expressed a desire to rebuild mutual trust. However, the ceasefire has already suffered initial jolts with the Thai military accusing its Cambodian counterparts of violating the truce with drone flights. Cambodia of course downplayed the violation glossing it over as a minor incident, but Thailand is not convinced with the explanation.

Stretching across over 817km, the shared land border between Thailand and Cambodia has been the scene of continual conflicts for more than a century. Sovereignty has been contested since France, which occupied Cambodia until 1953, first mapped the border in 1907. US President Donald Trump had brokered a ceasefire deal in July, but it did not last long and fighting continued. Bangkok reluctantly agreed to the deal because the US wielded tariffs as leverage. Phnom Penh, in the weaker position, was happier for it to intercede. Thailand then accused Cambodia of laying new landmines in border areas, injuring several Thai soldiers. The conflict reignited in early December with each side blaming the other.

The century old territorial dispute between Thailand and Cambodia centred around disagreements over colonial-era maps. The two countries had clashed before over an ancient temple and seen unrest over who can claim other aspects of the heritage. Thailand has also attacked the proliferation of criminal online scam centres in Cambodia. But, more than the age-old grievances it is the nationalist feeling and compulsions of domestic politics that provide the trigger for the continuing border tension and skirmishes. In Cambodia the longstanding ruler Hun Sen has given way to his son Hun Manet in a dynastic dictatorship. This has caused anger in neighbouring Thailand and the Cambodian leadership lapped it up to whip up nationalistic feelings that helped to legitimise a regime that has little to offer its people.

In Thailand the long running feud between the powerful military and royalist elites and the politician Thaksin Shinawatra, his family and proxies has been the most predominating domestic political concern. In August, a court dismissed his daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra as Prime Minister for her failure to protect the country's interests after a recording of her discussing the border dispute with Hun Sen was leaked. It captured her addressing him as "uncle", promising to "take care of it," and denigrating a key military commander. This created a huge backlash against her and played to political opponents' claims that the Shinawatra family were happy to sell the country's interests for personal benefit.

The caretaker PM, however, earned popularity by giving the military free rein in its stated aim of crippling the Cambodian army. The clashes are so well timed before the next elections that they help distract the people from governmental woes – including a poor response to deadly floods – as well as positioning the army as national champions.

It appears both sides have agreed to the ceasefire, however fragile it may be, after their respective armies suffered considerable casualties, while the large number of displacement of citizens living in the border areas is sowing seeds of further popular discontent. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the ceasefire a positive step towards alleviating the suffering of civilians, ending current hostilities and creating an environment conducive to achieving lasting peace.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China hailed the peace initiative in the interest of regional peace and trade.

An observer team from ASEAN will also monitor the ceasefire arrangements. Peace is the need of the hour and people's concerns need to be put far above the manipulations of scheming politicians and army top brass which are the bane for countries in this part of the globe.

Interestingly, India has not cared to utter a word in this regard and made itself a nation without any relevance in its own neighborhood while it thinks fit to express 'concern' on a supposed drone attack on the home of Putin in Moscow. This kind of silent distancing from real issues near home has harmed India's diplomacy in this part of Asia.

WISDOM CORNER

Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

LAO TZU

Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

OPRAH WINFREY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1600: The East India Company, formed for the exploitation of trade with East and Southeast Asia and India, was incorporated by English royal charter.

1775: American troops under General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold were defeated by the British in the Battle of Quebec.

1907: The first ball was dropped at Times Square in New York City to celebrate New Year's Eve on this day in 1907. Made of iron and covered in lightbulbs, the ball was so heavy that it had to be wrangled by six men. It established a tradition that continues today.

1983: Coup in Nigeria. A military coup in Nigeria overthrew the civilian government of Shehu Shagari and installed Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari.

1991: The Soviet Union legally ceased to exist, Russia and other former Soviet republics having declared themselves independent and having founded the Commonwealth of Independent States on December 21, 1991.

LOL

ROOKIE ON THE JOB

A rookie police officer was out for his first ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came in telling them to disperse some people who were loitering. The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner. The rookie rolled down his window and said, "Let's get off the corner people."

A few glances, but moved, so he barked again, "Let's get off that corner... NOW!!" Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled stares in his direction. Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?" Pretty good," chuckled the vet, "especially since this is a bus stop."

FOCUS NATION

2025 - THE YEAR OF REFORMS



Narendra Modi

I URGE EVERYONE IN INDIA AND ABROAD TO DEEPEN THEIR BOND WITH THE INDIA GROWTH STORY

India has emerged as the centre of global attention. This is due to the innovative zeal of our people. Today, the world sees India with hope and confidence. They appreciate the manner in which the pace of progress has been accelerated with next-generation reforms, which are cross-sectoral and amplify the nation's growth potential. I have been telling many people that India has boarded the Reform Express.

The primary engine of this Reform Express is India's demography, our young generation and the indomitable spirit of our people. 2025 will be remembered as a year for India when it focused on reforms as a continuous national mission, building on the ground covered over the past 11 years. We modernised institutions, simplified governance, and strengthened the foundations for long-term, inclusive growth.

We moved ahead decisively...with higher ambition, faster execution and deeper transformation. The reforms have been about enabling citizens to live with dignity, entrepreneurs to innovate with confidence and institutions to function with clarity and trust.

Let me cite a few examples of the reforms undertaken.

GST reform:

- A clean two-slab structure of 5% and 18% has been implemented.
- The burden has been eased on households, MSMEs, farmers and labour-intensive sectors.
- The purpose is to ensure dispute reduction and better compliance.
- This reform has boosted consumer sentiment and demand. Sales have grown in the festive season.

Unparalleled relief for the middle class:

- In a first, individuals earning up to Rs. 12 lakh a year faced no income tax at all.
- Obsolete Income-tax Act of 1961 has been replaced with the modern and simple Income Tax Act, 2025.
- Together, these reforms mark India's move towards a transparent, technology-driven tax administration.

Boost to small & medium businesses:

- Definition of "small companies" has been expanded to include firms with turnovers up to Rs. 100 crore.
- Compliance burdens and associated costs for thousands



of companies will get reduced.

100% FDI Insurance reform:

- 100% FDI permitted in Indian insurance companies.
- This will give a fillip to insurance penetration and security for the people.

• Apart from enhanced competition, it would offer better insurance choices and improved service delivery for the people.

Securities Market Reform:

- Securities Market Code Bill has been introduced in Parliament. It will enhance governance norms in SEBI, also enhance investor protection, reduce compliance burden and enable a technology-driven securities market for a Viksit Bharat.

• Reforms will ensure savings thanks to reduced compliances and other overheads.

Maritime and Blue Economy Reforms:

- In a single Parliament session, the Monsoon Session, five landmark maritime legislations were passed: the Bills of Lading Act, 2025; the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025; the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025; the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025; and the Indian Ports Bill, 2025.

• These reforms simplify documentation, make dispute resolution easier and reduce logistics costs.

• Outdated Acts dating back to 1908, 1925 and 1958 have also been replaced.

Jan Vishwas...Ending the Era of Criminalisation:

- Hundreds of outdated laws have been scrapped.
- 71 Acts have been repealed through the Repealing and Amendment Bill, 2025.

Boosting Ease of Doing Business:

- A total of 22 QCOs were revoked across synthetic fibres, yarns, plastics, polymers, and base metals, while 53 QCOs were suspended in various steel, engineered, electrical, alloy, and consumer end product categories, covering a broad spectrum of industrial and consumer materials.

• This will increase India's share of apparel exports; lower production costs in diverse industries like footwear, automobiles; ensure lower prices for domestic

consumers for electronics, bicycles and automotive products.

Historic labour reforms:

- Labour laws have been re-shaped, merging 29 fragmented laws into four modern codes.

• India has created a labour framework that secures the interests of workers while boosting the business ecosystem.

• The reforms focus on fair wages, timely payment of wages, smoother industrial relations, social security and safer workplaces.

• They ensure greater female participation in the workforce.

• Unorganised workers including contract workers are brought under the ESIC and EPFO expanding the coverage of formal workforce.

Diversified and expanded markets for Indian products:

- Trade deals inked with New Zealand, Oman and Britain. These will add to investments, boost job creation and also encourage local entrepreneurs. They reinforce India's position as a trusted and competitive partner in the global economy.

• The FTA with the European Free Trade Association, comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, has been operationalised. This marks India's first FTA with developed European economies.

Nuclear Energy Reforms:

- The SHANTI Act is a transformational step in India's clean-energy and technology journey.

• Ensures a strong framework for the safe, secure and responsible expansion of nuclear science and technology.

• Enables India to meet the rising energy demands of the AI era, like powering data centres, advanced manufacturing, green hydrogen and high-technology industries.

• Promotes the peaceful application of nuclear technologies in healthcare, agriculture, food security, water management, industry, research and environmental sustainability, supporting inclusive growth and improved quality of life.

- Opens new pathways for

private sector participation, innovation and skill development. Creates opportunities for India's youth to lead in frontier technologies and next-generation energy solutions.

This is an opportune moment for investors, innovators and institutions to partner with India, to invest, innovate and build a clean, resilient and future-ready energy ecosystem.

A landmark reform in Rural Employment guarantee:

- Viksit Bharat- G RAM G Act, 2025 Rozgar Guarantee framework raises employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days.

• This will result in increased spending towards strengthening village infrastructure and livelihoods.

• The aim is to turn rural work into a means to ensure higher incomes and better assets.

Education Reforms:

Bill has been introduced in Parliament.

• Single, unified higher education regulator will be established.

• Multiple overlapping bodies like the UGC, AICTE, NCTE will be replaced with the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan.

• Institutional autonomy will be strengthened, with innovation and research boosted.

What makes the reforms of 2025 significant is not only their dimension but also their underlying philosophy. Our Government has prioritised collaboration over control and facilitation over regulation in the true spirit of a modern democracy.

These reforms were designed with empathy, recognising the realities of small businesses, young professionals, farmers, workers and the middle class. They were shaped by consultation, guided by data and anchored in India's constitutional values. They add momentum to our decade-long efforts to move away from a control-based economy to one that operates within a framework of trust, keeping the citizen at its core.

These reforms are aimed towards building a prosperous and self-reliant India. Building a Viksit Bharat is the polestar of our development trajectory. We will continue pursuing the reform agenda in the coming years.

I urge everyone in India and abroad to deepen their bond with the India growth story.

Keep trusting India and investing in our people!

The writer is the Prime Minister of India.

IN JEST THIS

Don't quit on your New Year's resolutions



Melvin Durai

JUST ASK SELENA GOMEZ HOW MANY YEARS IT TOOK FOR HER TO GIVE UP JUSTIN BIEBER

It's that time of year again — time to make your New Year's resolutions. If you're like me, you have to rack your brain to remember your resolutions for 2025. Were you hoping to walk 10,000 steps per day? Were you hoping to do 30 minutes of yoga every morning? Were you hoping to restrict your social media scrolling to just eight hours per day?

Perhaps you were smart enough to write your resolutions down and read them every day — at least until the second week of January, when they started collapsing and you couldn't revive them, not even with smelling salts.

Even if you failed to keep your 2025 resolutions alive for more than a few days, don't let that stop you from trying again. The worst thing you can do is quit (unless you're a smoker). Whether you're trying to give up a bad habit or adopt a good

one, it often takes many attempts before you're successful. Just ask Selena Gomez how many years it took for her to give up Justin Bieber.

"Keep trying" is the first tip I'd give anyone who is tired of making the same resolution over and over. You never know when you will finally succeed. Sometimes all it takes is a change in your environment. You thought you would never have the discipline to learn a new language, but that was before you met your cute new neighbor from Estonia.

Here are four other tips that I've gathered from experts and my personal experience:

Don't make too many resolutions. Instead of making ten resolutions, choose two or three that will have the biggest impact on your life. You are more likely to be successful if you devote your energy to making just a couple of changes, such as "read 10 pages a

day" and "smile as much as possible at the new neighbor from Estonia."

Small changes can make a big difference. The easiest way to fail is to try to do too much. Just because your favourite author writes 1,000 words per day, producing two novels per year, don't think you can automatically do the same. It takes a lot of discipline and dedication to maintain that output, day after day, even on those days when Liverpool plays Arsenal. Instead of shooting for 1,000 words per day, give yourself a more realistic goal: 100 words. That may not seem like much, but it's better to set a target that you can achieve consistently. Setting realistic goals is something I like to do. Instead of resolving to run 10 laps around the track every day, I resolve to run 10 laps around the coffee table.

Give yourself a "lazy out." I try to go to the gym four times a week to lift weights for about 45 minutes. When I'm feeling lazy,

instead of skipping the workout altogether, I tell myself that I'll just do 20 minutes. That's my "lazy out." It gets me off the couch. And once I'm in the gym, the laziness often disappears. In the same way, if I have a household task that I'm reluctant to do, I tell myself that I'll just do it for five minutes. That's my "lazy out." But once I get going, I often don't stop until the job is done; otherwise I risk being called a lazy oaf by my wife.

Don't rely too much on willpower. If you want to cut back on the amount of sweets you eat, don't buy a box of sweets and keep it in your home. It takes a lot more willpower to avoid them when they're sitting right there in front of you, inviting you to eat them. There are three rules you need to follow to cut back on sweets: (1) Don't keep sweets in your home; (2) Don't walk past any store that sells sweets; (3) Don't be in India during Diwali.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Competition lacking

Sir, More than 50 years after the original "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, which King won, the men finally got their revenge when Australian Nick Kyrgios defeated the top-ranked woman Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-3 in an exhibition match held in Dubai last Sunday. The game predominantly represented entertainment value rather than another landmark moment for gender equality, as both players engaged in underhand serves, excessive grunting sounds, and even some dancing by Sabalenka during a timeout. The 'original' 'Battle of the Sexes' event took place amid King's efforts to start a women's tour and get equal pay in tennis. But the 2025 version had no such stakes or any cultural significance. Nevertheless, iterations of such matches when conducted in future, must engage clear narratives to ensure player commitment and audience satisfaction. Merely showcasing star power without a compelling competitive framework risks alienating fans and diminishing the potential for meaningful engagement within the broader tennis community.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Satellite survey exposes fake paddy cultivation claim on fuel pump land



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Dec 30: A case of false crop declaration has come to light in Chhatrapur block of Ganjam district, where a farmer allegedly registered paddy cultivation on a land that actually houses a fuel pump. Following detection through satellite survey, the Cooperation Department has issued a show-cause notice to the farmer concerned.

According to official sources, under Maa Kalijai Women’s Self-Help Group Society in Badamadhapur panchayat, a farmer registered his paddy cultivation on plot No. 2468 under Khata No. 770. However, verification revealed that a petrol pump exists on the

out on the plot, but due to an inadvertent error it was recorded as paddy land. He also said that 699 plots under the society were struck off during the current season for non-compliance.

Officials said the issue is not limited to a single case. Several plots across the district, where there is no visible sign of paddy cultivation, were allegedly shown as cultivated land for farmer registration purposes.

To bring transparency to the paddy procurement process, the government has undertaken satellite surveys of suspicious plots. District Registrar of Cooperative Societies (DRCS) Jogamaya Sabat said the state government has identified 2,33,438 suspicious plots in the district, as communicated through an official letter.

Satellite surveys are being conducted for all doubtful plots, and about 95% of the survey work in the district has been completed so far. Data indicates that 1,71,619 plots have been identified as non-paddy agricultural land.

Officials said once the survey is completed, a large number of fake farmer registrations will be removed from the system.

During the current kharif season, 1,56,713 farmers have registered in the district, compared with 1,46,504 registrations during the previous year.

Maoist dump unearthed

Malkangiri: Security forces have busted a Maoist dump and recovered a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on the fringes of Malkangiri district, officials said. CRPF personnel, along with District Reserve Guard and local police, were conducting a search operation on the Kandalaparti road in Bijapur district when they detected a 5-kg IED hidden along a foot trail, a short distance from Kandalaparti. A bomb disposal squad was called in, and the device was safely defused. The recovery is significant as people of Malkangiri and Chhattisgarh frequently travel to each other’s place while the ultras often sneak into Malkangiri to take shelter after conducting and offensive in the neighbouring state. During further searches in the area, security personnel recovered a Maoist dump located close to the IED site. The cache included 20 detonator cords, wireless set batteries, mobile phone batteries and chargers, codex wire, pressure switches, Maoist fatigues, electric wires, Maoist literature, pamphlets and other materials. Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said the recovery foiled a Maoist plan due to the alertness and swift action of the security forces. He added that search operations are continuing in the region to maintain peace and security.

Youth kills self over land acquisition dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Dec 30: A 25-year-old youth reportedly ended his life Tuesday after his family’s ancestral land was allegedly acquired by a PSU despite their opposition, triggering tension in parts of Jharsuguda district, police and residents said.

The deceased has been identified as Sujit Disir, a resident of Ubuda village under Lakhanpur block. Following his death, family members and locals staged a protest by keeping the body at Lakhanpur MCL Hospital in Bandhbahal for more than 17 hours, demanding justice.

The family alleged that Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) forcibly acquired their ancestral land with police support despite objections from the landowners. They claimed the



acquisition was carried out without providing promised employment and compensation, which they say forced Disir to take his own life.

“MCL proceeded with the acquisition despite our protests and without settling compensation or jobs,” a family member alleged.

MCL, however, denied the accusations. General Manager AK Pandey said the company

follows due process and provides compensation and employment benefits in phases for land acquired for its projects. He rejected claims of coercion and said entitlements are extended in phases as per policy.

After discussions with MCL officials, the family called off the protest, officials said. Authorities said they are looking into the circumstances surrounding the death.

2-wheeler owner finds another bike with same reg num; issued challan

CHHATRAPUR: A vehicle owner, Satya Narayan Behera of Agasti Nuagaon under Chhatrapur block was left baffled after two challans were issued against his vehicle which he claimed never went to the place mentioned in the challans. The issue came to the fore when Behera visited the pollution renewal centre Monday to comply with the government regulation. He was however denied PUC renewal only to find out that a pending e-challan of ₹3500; for over-speeding and riding without a helmet, was due on his vehicle since 23rd September this year issued by Kotinada police station near Aska. What was more interesting that as per his claims, he never took his bike to visit Kotinada. Moreover, while the challan was issued against Behera’s two wheeler, a TVS Victor (OD076085), the picture of the bike on the challan is reportedly different. As per Behera, the challan has a picture of a bike with two exhaust pipes, while his bike has a single factory-fitted exhaust pipe ultimately revealing both the bikes have same registration number with one of them bearing a fake one.

Truck driver murdered over unpaid food bill; two held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, Dec 30: What was initially registered as an unnatural death case in Keonjhar district has now been confirmed as a murder, with police arresting two accused 56 days after the incident.

As per police reports, truck driver Sanjay Yadav of Kendua village under Barkatha police station in Jharkhand’s Hazaribagh district was killed following a dispute over an unpaid food bill at a roadside dhaba in the Barbil police limits.

According to investigators, Yadav had stopped at Shankar Dhaba near Jhadgaon November 5 and had food there. An argument broke out when he allegedly refused to pay the bill. Dhaba owner Shankar Prasad Mahato called his associate Mithun Munda to the spot. During the altercation, Mahato allegedly struck Yadav on the head with an iron rod, killing him on the spot.

Police said the accused dumped the body in a nearby



vacant area and concealed it with grass. The body was recovered November 23, about 18 days after the incident, and an unnatural death case was registered. However, the post-mortem report later confirmed homicidal death.

Following a complaint filed by the victim’s wife, Debanti Devi, Barbil police registered a murder case (500/25) and intensified the investigation. During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to the crime. Keonjhar SDPO Debendra Nath Pingua said both accused Mahato and Munda have been arrested and produced before a local court. The iron rod used in the crime has been seized.

The investigation is continuing to ascertain further details related to the case.

Interstate firearms racket busted; 3 held

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Dec 30: Police busted an interstate firearm and arms licence racket and arrested three persons involved in the illegal trade.

“In its continued drive against possession of illegal arms, Rourkela police busted an interstate racket involved in procuring illegal arms licences from Nagaland through forged documents,” Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Western Range, Brijesh Rai said.

Following credible intelligence inputs, raids were conducted across the city, leading to the arrest of three persons, including kingpin Ratan Kumar Shaw, 58, he said. Investigation revealed that the racket was operating across Rourkela, Kolkata and Nagaland. Culprits lured individuals by promising arms licenses along with firearms for a sum of ₹5-10 lakh, Rai said.

Rourkela SP Nitesh Wadhvani said forged documents were used to obtain arms licences, which were later distributed among several persons in Rourkela. “One pistol, two revolvers, 35 rounds of live ammunition, forged arms licences allegedly issued from Nagaland and the ADM’s office in Rourkela, and a mobile phone containing incriminating digital evidence were seized from their possession,” he said.

Regional Office

Bank of Baroda

(Sambalpur Region)

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to our Possession Notice published in the “The Orissa Post” dated 07.12.2025, the Branch Names of Borrowers read as follow: 1) Borrower: Mr. Harekrishna Naik - Bhawanipatna Branch, 2) Borrower: Mr. Harisankar Sabar-Nuapada Branch, 3) Mr. Puspika Kumar Mahakul- Boudhgarh Branch, 4) M/s. Puspapalata Enterprises- Sonepur Branch instead of Bolangir Branch. All other facts remain unchanged.

Place: Sambalpur
Date: 30.12.2025

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

BOI

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 7978330922

E-AUCTION

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice Under Rule 8(6) of security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

(E-Auction) Sale of secured movable / immovable Assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIO TO RULE 8(6) / 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Mortgagor/Guarantor that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the **Bank of India**, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of India**, will be sold on “**As is where is**”, “**As is what is**” and “**Whatever there is**” basis on Auction Date mentioned hereunder, for recovery of balance due to the **Bank of India** from the Borrowers as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers/Mortgagor/Guarantor, amount due, short description of the immovable properties and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/Mortgagor/Guarantor/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / 7978330922 Borrowers: 1) Mr. Pandab Baral, S/o.: Mr. Jalandhar Baral, 2) Mrs. Binata Baral, W/o.: Mr. Pandab Baral, Both are At/P.O.: Badapadar, P.O.: Nachuni, Dist.:Khurda, Odisha-752027 / Total Dues: ₹25,57,000/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid. (N.B.: The Borrower has availed Housing Loan and SME Branch and two business Loans from our Haripur Branch).	Equitable Mortgage of G+1 Storied RCC framed Residential Building over Khata No.: 320/187, Plot No.: 173/952, Plot Area: Ac.0.067 Dec. i.e 2919 Sqft, Standing in the name of Mr. Pandab Baral, S/o: Mr. Jalandhar Baral, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Badapadar, PS: Banapur (359), Tahasil: Banapur (359), Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Bounded by East: Road, West: Hill (Pahad), North: Bibhuti Bhusan Baral, South: Paramananda Baral one covid personal Loan from our Bhubaneswar Branch).	₹46,18,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹4,61,800/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / 7978330922 1) Borrowers: 1) Mr. Dharendra Sahoo, S/o.: Mr. Ananda Sahoo, 2) Mrs. Pravasini Sahoo, W/o.: Mr. Dharendra Sahoo, Both are At/P.O.: Biswanathpur, P.S.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752102, 2) Borrower: M/s. Gurukrupa Electronics & Workshop, Prop.: Mrs. Pravasini Sahoo, W/o.: Mr. Dharendra Sahoo, At: Plot No. 1579/3771, Garedi Panchan, Madhuban Chhah, Balipatna, S/o.: Mr. Ananda Sahoo, At/P.O.: Biswanathpur, P.S.: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752102 / Total Dues: ₹39,81,000/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Equitable Mortgage of G+2 Residential Building over Khata No.: 926/554, Plot No.: 1579/3771, Area: 871 Sqft., Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Garedi Panchan, P.S.: Balipatna, SRO: Balipatna, Tahasil: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Dharendra Sahoo, S/o.: Mr. Ananda Sahoo, Bounded by East: Gajendra Senapati, West: Lingaraj Sathua, North: Abhiram Mallick, South: Road	₹24,32,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,43,200/- / ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 10.02.2026 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.

Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 10.02.2026 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 09.02.2026 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

*Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com>

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 31.12.2025

Authorised Officer
Bank of India

Hindu groups hold rally in Koraput

Koraput: Various Hindu organisations Tuesday held a rally in Koraput town, demanding the identification and eviction of alleged Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators from the district. The procession passed through key areas of the town before reaching the district collector’s office. Participants raised slogans and voiced concerns over what they termed illegal infiltration, claiming it could pose social and security challenges. A delegation later submitted a memorandum to the additional district collector, urging the administration to initiate identification and eviction in accordance with the law. Organisation representatives demanded the process be completed within seven days, warning of intensified protests if no action is taken. They also called for strict vigilance to protect local interests. Adequate police arrangements were made, and the rally concluded peacefully. District officials said the memorandum would be examined and appropriate action taken as per legal procedures.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

BOI

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 7978330922

AUCTION

SALE OF VEHICLE

Sl. No.	Branch Name / Contact No.	Name of the Borrower	Movable Asset/Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	KHANDAGIRI / 9178286377	Mr. Harish Chandra Swain	MARUTI SUZUKI CIAZ SMART HYBRID DELTA SNOW WHITE Regd. No.: OD-02-BV-4456, Date of Purchase: 08.12.2021	₹4,12,000/- / ₹41,200/- / ₹10,000/-
2.	ARB CUTTACK / 8249067773	Mr. Bighneswar Sahoo	SANY SY2051 EXCAVATOR NWITH 0.93 CUM BUCKET, 20300 KG, CUMMINS 6 BTS-C140 ENGINE, 140HP (140KW) M/C SL NO.: 13SEY020602098	₹10,60,000/- / ₹1,06,000/- / ₹10,000/-

Date of Auction: 10.02.2026 from 11.00 AM, Auction Venue: For Sl. No. 1: Zonal Office, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015 & For Sl. No. 2: ARB Cuttack, 1st Floor, Plot No.: 293/1523, Infront of OSRTC Bus Stand, At: Kuntehpura, Trisulia, Cuttack-754005

Parking Yard Address: For Sl. No. 1: Bank of India, Officer’s Quarter, Toshali Apartment, Neela Block, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007 & For Sl. No. 2: At: Kalu Garage, Old Duhuria, Kendrapara

Terms and Conditions: Interested bidders can inspect the vehicles with prior appointment of the Concerned Authority at the parking yard as mentioned above. The bidders are informed to be present at the venue positively. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount within one day after bid is successful and the balance amount within **7 days** failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership and statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any has to be borne by the successful purchaser. Vehicles will be auctioned on “**AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS**” basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject/ cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. There will be bidding in the auction and the highest bidder will be declared as successful bidder. **For further information regarding inspection & Details of the Vehicles Contact: Mr. Rabindranath Behera, Mob.: 7978330922.**

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 31.12.2025

Zonal Manager
Bank of India

Chola

Enter a better life

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office : Chola Crest, Super B, C54 & C55, 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032, T.N.

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (“the Act”) AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 (“the Rules”) The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. (the Secured Creditor) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is / are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being affected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-

Sr. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s	Loan Amt.	Dt. of Demand Notice & O/s. Amt.	Description of the Property / Secured Asset
1.	Loan A/C No.(S) : HL24CUT000090477 1. Mr/Mrs. Ashok Kumar Mahalik (Alias) Ashok Mahalik 2. Mr/Mrs. Rebati Behera Add For Sr. No. 1 & 2 :- Santasahi, Kendrapara, Near Sbi Bank, Kendrapara, Orissa - 754211 Add For Sr. No. 1 & 2 :- Plot No- 718/1591, 834/1592, Khata No-479/374, Mouza-Khadianga, Tah- Kendrapara, Ps- Kendrapara, Dist- Kendrapara, Odisha, Pin- 754211.	Rs. 23,00,000/-	23.12.2025 Rs. 23,89,856/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six only) as on 22.12.2025	All the piece and parcels of the property situated at Plot No-718/1591 measuring an Area of Ac 0.0140 & Plot No-834/1592 measuring an Area of Ac 0.2620 from Khata No-479/374 and Total measuring an Area of Ac 0.040 decimal Corresponds to Sabik Khata No- 400 & 200, plot No- 834 & 8718, Mouza- Khadiang, Tahasil- Kendrapara, Tahasil No- 282, Ps- Kendrapara Town, Ps- No- 282, SRO- Kendrapara, Dist- Kendrapara bounded as under- Bounded as under- (As per Sale deed) Plot No. 718/1591& 834/1592, East : Rest Part Of The Land, West : Gopinath Swain & others, South : Krushna Nanda Panda, North : plot no-718- Road

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured asset(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured asset(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured asset(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law.

The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Secured Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

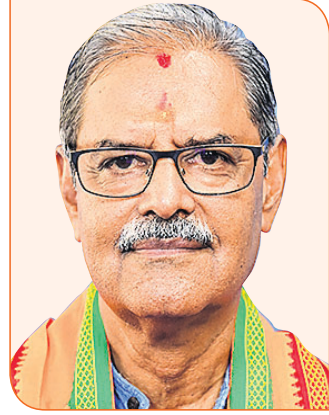
Place : Kendrapara, Odisha
Date : 23.12.2025

Sd/
Authorized Officer
For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

STATE



MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI
CHIEF MINISTER



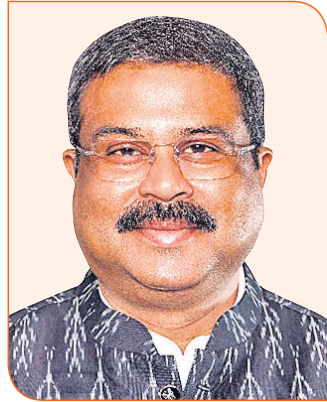
K V SINGH DEO
DEPUTY CM



MANMOHAN SAMAL
BJP STATE PRESIDENT



PRAVATI PARIDA
DEPUTY CM



DHARMENDRA PRADHAN
UNION MINISTER



SUNIL BANSAL
BJP ODISHA IN-CHARGE



PRITHVIRAJ HARICHANDAN
LAW MINISTER



MUKESH MAHALING
HEALTH MINISTER



SURESH PUJARI
REVENUE MINISTER



ANU GARG
CHIEF SECRETARY (DESIGNATE)



BHAKTA CHARAN DAS
PRESIDENT, OPCC



SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA
KORAPUT MP



SOFIA FIRDOUS
BARABATI-CUTTACK MLA



B PRABHAKARAN
INDUSTRIALIST

POWER LIST 2025

Power doesn't always shout. Sometimes it builds quietly—through influence, innovation, and the ability to move ideas, industries, and people forward. The Power List 2025 celebrates those who are shaping the year ahead. From trailblazing leaders and cultural disruptors to behind-the-scenes operators and next-generation voices, this list reflects a changing definition of power. In a year marked by rapid technological shifts, global uncertainty, and renewed demands for accountability, the individuals featured here stand out for their ability to adapt and lead with intention. They are setting agendas, challenging norms, and opening doors for others along the way. The list is not just a snapshot of who matters now—it's a signal of where momentum is building, and who is helping define what comes next

NB: THIS IS A NON-SEQUENTIAL LIST

NATIONAL



GAUTAM ADANI
CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP



NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA



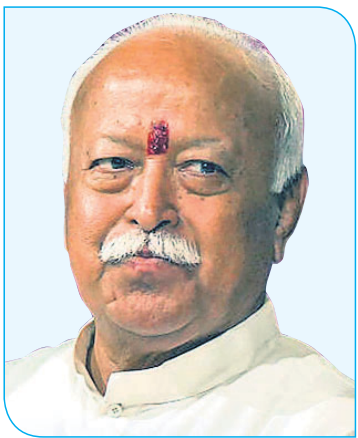
PK MISHRA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER



ASHWINI VAISHNAW
UNION MINISTER OF RAILWAYS



SONAM WANGCHUK
INNOVATOR AND EDUCATOR



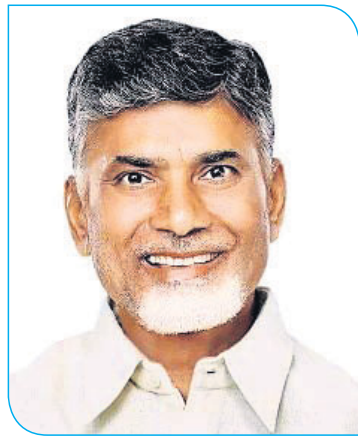
MOHAN BHAGWAT
RSS CHIEF



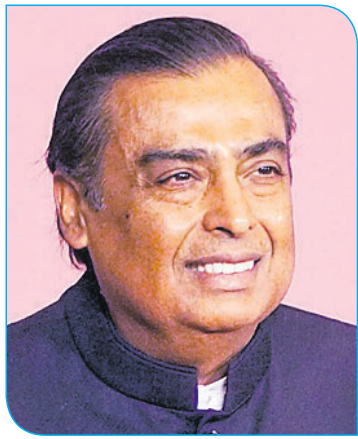
NITISH KUMAR
BIHAR CM



MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CM



N CHANDRABABU NAIDU
ANDHRA PRADESH CM



MUKESH AMBANI
CHAIRMAN & MD, RIL



N CHANDRASEKARAN
CHAIRMAN, TATA GROUP



DATTATREYA HOSABALE
RSS GENERAL SECRETARY



BL SANTHOSH
NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY (ORGANISATION), BJP



NITIN NABIN
BJP NATIONAL WORKING PRESIDENT



MK STALIN
TAMIL NADU CM



HEMANT SOREN
JHARKHAND CM



GENERAL ANIL CHAUHAN
CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF



NIKHIL KAMATH
ENTREPRENEUR AND INVESTOR



ARAVIND SRINIVAS
CO-FOUNDER, PREZ & CEO, PERPLEXITY



RAJ SHAMANI
CONTENT CREATOR, PODCASTER



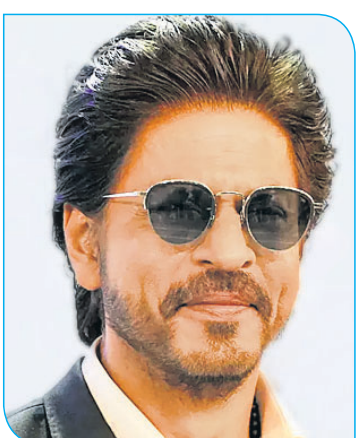
DEEPIKA PADUKONE
ACTRESS



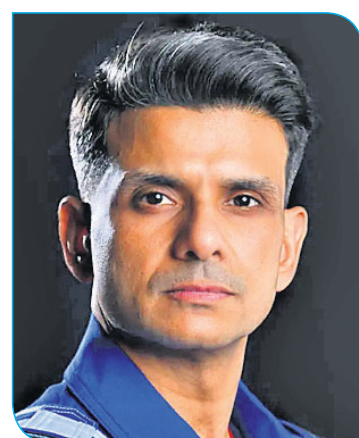
SHASHI THAROOR
CONGRESS MP



AJIT DOVAL
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR



SHAH RUKH KHAN
ACTOR, PRODUCER, ENTREPRENEUR



SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA
TEST PILOT (IAF) & ASTRONAUT



VIJAY
TAMIL ACTOR, POLITICIAN



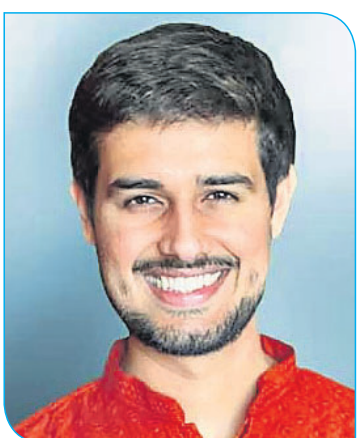
SIDDARAMAIAH
KARNATAKA CM



PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA
AICC GENERAL SECRETARY



CHIRAG PASWAN
CABINET MINISTER



DHRUV RATHEE
YOUTUBER, ACTIVIST

INTERNATIONAL



DONALD J TRUMP
PRESIDENT, US



XI JINPING
PRESIDENT, CHINA



VLADIMIR PUTIN
PRESIDENT, RUSSIA



ELON MUSK
BUSINESS TYCOON



MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN AL SAUD
PRIME MINISTER OF SAUDI ARABIA



TOMMY ROBINSON
BRITISH FAR-RIGHT ACTIVIST



MARIA CORINA MACHADO
VENEZUELAN ACTIVIST, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER



SANAE TAKAICHI
PRIME MINISTER, JAPAN



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL



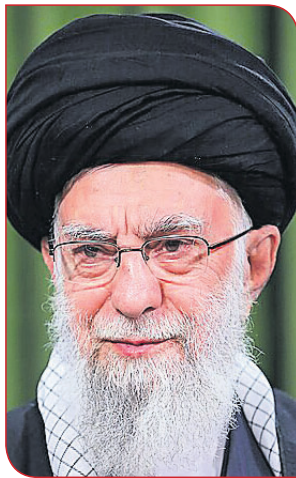
CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM
PRESIDENT, MEXICO



MARK JOSEPH CARNEY
PRIME MINISTER, CANADA



SYED ASIM MUNIR
CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCES, PAKISTAN



SEYYED ALI HOSSEINI KHAMENEI
SUPREME LEADER, IRAN



AHMED HUSSEIN AL-SHARAA
PRESIDENT, SYRIA



LAI CHING-TE
PRESIDENT, TAIWAN



GABRIEL BORIC
PRESIDENT, CHILE



METAMEI OLOOL DAPASH
INDIGENOUS LEADER, KENYA



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY
PRESIDENT, UKRAINE



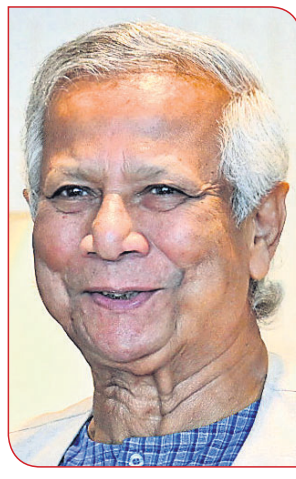
GIORGIA MELONI
PRIME MINISTER, ITALY



FRIEDRICH MERZ
CHANCELLOR, GERMANY



KEIR STARMER
PRIME MINISTER, UK



MUHAMMAD YUNUS
CHIEF ADVISER OF BANGLADESH GOVT



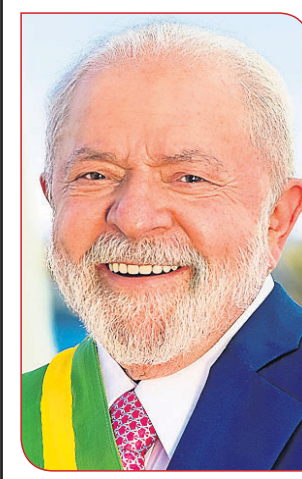
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN
PRESIDENT, TURKEY



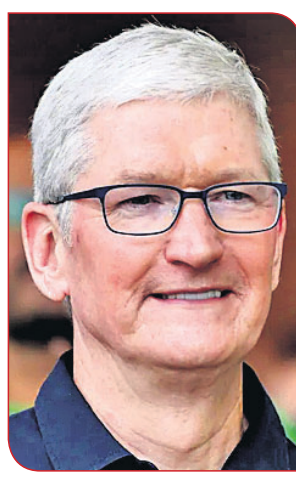
J D VANCE
VICE PRESIDENT, US



ZOHRAN MAMDANI
MAYOR ELECT, NEW YORK CITY



LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA
PRESIDENT, BRAZIL



TIM COOK
CEO, APPLE



MARK ZUCKERBERG
CEO, META



SAM ALTMAN
CEO, OPENAI



FÁTIMA BOSCH FERNÁNDEZ
MISS UNIVERSE 2025

of the day quote

There has been a 2.33 per cent reduction in overall crime in Telangana in 2025 compared to the previous year

B SHIVADHAR REDDY | TELANGANA DGP

We will declare our candidates in the first or second week of February

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Thousands of crores of rupees of Jharkhand are pending with the Centre, including several crores under MGNREGA. They did not do anything over the dues but changed the scheme's name

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

POST OF THE DAY

Govt Should Make Things Rapidly Digital Eliminate Role of Unnecessary Govt Officers Utilise AI and Softwares For Auto Approvals Remove Need of Visiting Any Govt Offices Promote and Fire Govt Officers Based on Merit

@Ravisutanjani

SHORT TAKES

1 killed as car skids off road

Gangtok: A 58-year-old woman from Jharkhand was killed and four other persons were critically injured when the car they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged onto a lower stretch in Sikkim Tuesday, police said. The accident took place at Saffo Upper Dzongu in North Sikkim, when the tourists from Jharkhand were travelling from Lachung, a police officer said. The four injured persons, who are residents of Ranchi, were admitted to Mangan district hospital, from where two were shifted to STNM Hospital in Gangtok for better treatment, he said.

EAM Jaishankar visits Chola-era temple in TN

Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the Chola-era Airavatesvara temple in Kumbakonam in this district and offered prayers Tuesday. He was accompanied by his wife Kyoko to the temple dedicated to Lord Siva at Darasuram in the district. The Minister was provided temple honours upon his arrival. This 12th century shrine, known for its exquisite Chola architecture, is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Elderly man ends life ahead of SIR hearing

Kolkata: An elderly man allegedly jumped on railway tracks in front of a running train and was crushed to death, hours before he was supposed to appear for a hearing for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Purulia district of West Bengal, police said Tuesday. The deceased, 82-year-old Durjan Majhi, was anxious since getting the notice for the SIR hearing, as his name was not on the draft voters' list, his son Kanai said. Police said that Majhi was killed by a running train Monday. He had been asked to appear for the hearing at the Para Block Development Officer's (BDO) office.

LINKS TO BANGLADESHI EXTREMISTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Dec 30: Eleven people have been arrested in Assam and Tripura for their alleged links with Bangladesh-based fundamentalist groups that were aiming to destabilise the Northeast, police said Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, Guwahati Police Commissioner Parthasarathi Mahanta said the Special Task Force (STF) made the arrests on the basis of intelligence inputs provided by central agencies.

"An operation was carried out last night in Barpeta, Chirang, Baksa and Darrang districts of Assam, besides Tripura. We have arrested a total of 11 jihadi elements, who were working under direct orders from Bangladesh-based groups," he said.

Those arrested were members of the Imam Mahmuder Kafilah (IMK) module, he said. "Ten of them were apprehended from Assam, and one from Tripura. Their main aim was to destabilise Assam and the rest of the Northeast. They wanted to establish 'Muslim supremacy' in this part of the country," he claimed. Mahanta said the police teams have made a lot of seizures, sans any arms and ammunition, during the simultaneous raids.



Construction work on nearly 400 km of roads across the national capital will commence as soon as the restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) are lifted

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

11 arrested in Assam, Tripura



Those arrested from Assam were identified as Nasim Uddin alias Najimuddin alias Tamim (24), Junab Ali (38), Afrahim Hussain (24), Mizanur Rehman (46), Sultan Mehmud (40), Md Siddique Ali (46), Rasidul Aalam (28), Mahibul Khan (25), Sharuk Hussain (22) and Md Dilbar Razak (26), he said. Jagir Miah (33) was nabbed from Tripura, he added.

"The Indian security and intelligence apparatus has been keeping a hawk eye on jihadi activities in the Northeast, particularly in Assam," Mahanta said. He said the IMK is a Bangladesh-based offshoot of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), which is banned in India.

"IMK was founded in 2018 by ex-JMB member Jewel Mahmud alias Imam Mahmud

Habibullah alias Sohail, who claims to be the Aamir of IMK and propagates the ideology of 'Ghazwatul Hind'," he said. "It has been reliably learnt that following the regime change in Bangladesh in August 2024, senior leaders of JMB, Ansarulallah Bangla Team (ABT) and Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent

(AQIS) issued directions to IMK leadership to activate and expand its Indian modules," the police commissioner said.

Reacting to the development, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "Fundamentalist elements are active in Assam. We are Bangladesh's neighbour, so Assam will have this problem of fundamentalists for a long period." Following the arrests, a big operation is underway at present, he said,

RAGHUBAR DAS DEMANDS PESA RULES BE MADE PUBLIC

Senior BJP leader Raghubar Das Tuesday demanded that the Jharkhand government make the Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) rules public at the earliest. The former CM said he suspected that the rules, recently passed by the state cabinet, might have ignored many core provisions proposed in the PESA Act, 1996



WATER CONTAMINATION

Three dead, over 100 hospitalised



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore (MP), Dec 30: At least three persons have died and more than 100 others hospitalised in Indore in the past few days after allegedly drinking contaminated water in an area, city mayor said Tuesday.

Local residents, however, claimed that five persons, including four women, have died so far after falling ill due to contaminated water.

According to the local councillor, the residents complained that the water supplied December 25 had an unusual smell and people may have fallen ill after consuming it.

Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr Madhav Prasad Hasani said that after reports of a diarrhoea outbreak in the Bhagirathpura area, the health department surveyed 2,703 households and examined around 12,000 people, providing on-the-spot primary treatment to 1,146 patients with mild symptoms.

He said that 111 patients with relatively serious conditions were admitted to different hospitals, of whom 18 were discharged after treatment.

"The patients said they suffered from vomiting, diarrhoea and dehydration after drinking contaminated water," Hasani said. According to him, several medical teams, along with four ambulances, have been deployed in the Bhagirathpura area to tackle the outbreak. Samples of drinking water from the locality have been collected and sent to laboratories for testing. Talking to reporters, Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava said he received information about the deaths of three persons due to diarrhoea in Bhagirathpura area, but did not disclose their identity.

"We have urged Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to provide appropriate financial assistance to the bereaved families. All patients are being treated at the government's expense," the mayor said.

While the water sample test reports are awaited, prima facie it appears that drainage water may have mixed with drinking water supply lines, contaminating the water. Strict action will be taken against the officials for negligence, he added.

Punjab Assembly passes resolution against G RAM G

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 30: The Punjab Assembly Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution against the VB-G RAM G Act in the Vidhan Sabha, accusing the BJP-led Centre of "taking away" the livelihoods of the poor and Dalit labourers by scrapping MGNREGA under a "deliberate conspiracy".

The House recommended that the Punjab government seek from the Centre to immediately restore the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to its original right-based form. The House also took note that Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) (SAD) has maintained "silence" on this entire issue in the hope of reestablishing an alliance with the BJP for the 2027 assembly polls. The AAP government had called a one-day special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha to oppose the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act (VB-G RAM G).



A toy vendor walks on a road on a foggy winter morning, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Govt's stern warning to online platforms



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

try of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) observing that social media platforms have not been strictly acting on obscene, vulgar, inappropriate, and unlawful content.

"It is reiterated that non-compliance with the provisions of the IT Act and/or the IT Rules, 2021 may result in consequences, including prosecution under the IT Act, BNS, and other applicable criminal laws, against the intermediaries, platforms and their users," the advisory said.

The advisory reminded social media firms of provisions of IT Act and IT Rules 2021 that mandate online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that users of their computer resources do not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any information that is obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, harmful to children, or otherwise unlawful.

Meity said it has come to its notice that there is a need for greater consistency and rigour in the observance of due diligence obligations by intermediaries, particularly in relation to the identification, reporting and expeditious removal of content that is obscene, indecent, vulgar, pornographic, paedophilic, harmful to child or otherwise unlawful, as prescribed under the IT Act and Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

New Delhi, Dec 30: The Centre has warned online platforms, mainly social media firms, of legal consequences if they fail to act on obscene, vulgar, pornographic, paedophilic and other forms of unlawful content.

In an advisory dated December 29, 2025, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) asked social media firms to immediately review their compliance framework and act against obscene and unlawful content on their platform, failing which they may face prosecution under the law of the land.

"Intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, are reminded that they are statutorily obligated under Section 79 of the IT Act... to observe, due diligence as a condition for availing exemption from liability in respect of third-party information uploaded, published, hosted, shared or transmitted on or through their platforms," the advisory said.

The advisory follows the Minis-

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER ATHMALLIK (KL) DIVISION
At-Haridanali, PO/PS-Athmallik, Dist-Angul, Pin-759125
Email-dfo.kl.alk@gmail.com, Mob No.8280342716
Order No. 183/ Date 30.12.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bid Identification No.DFO(KL) ALK-04 (online) 2025-26
No.MM-443: 1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik (KL) Division, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate in Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work "Construction of Forester Quarter at Kadaligarh (KL) Range office Campus under Athmallik (KL) Division for the year 2025-26.
2. No. of Works : 1 No.
3. Nature of Works : Building Works
4. Class of Contractor : 'C' or 'D' Class
5. Estimated Cost : 16.53,040/-
6. Completion period : 2.5 Calendar Months
7. Availability of Bid documents : 31.12.2025 (5.00 PM) to 12.01.2026 (05.00 PM)
8. Last date for Receipt of Bids : 12.01.2026 upto 5.00 PM
9. Opening of Bids : 13.01.2026 at 11.00 AM
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender, if any, will be hosted on the website only.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Athmallik (KL) Division
OIPR-08155/11/0007/2526

ZILLA PARISHAD OFFICE, BALANGIR
Dist.: Balangir, Odisha, PIN - 767001
E-mail: ori-dbolangir.odisha.gov.in, Ph.: 06652-232863
Notice No. 7416 Date: 26.12.2025
INVITING TENDER FOR SELECTION OF SERVICE PROVIDING AGENCY FOR PROVIDING MANPOWER UNDER RURAL HOUSING SCHEME
No. CAD-2850: Zilla Parishad, Balangir invites sealed tender from registered man power service providing agencies/companies/firms for providing service of different categories of man power under Rural Housing Scheme in Zilla Parishad, Office and 14 Blocks. The bid should be reached to the undersigned by Speed Post or Registered Post only. The last date of submission of tender is 17.01.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.
The details of Request for Proposal can be viewed in the district website i.e. <https://balangir.odisha.gov.in>. Further the bid documents can be downloaded from the same website from 26.12.2025 to 17.01.2026.
1. Opening of RFP documents: 20.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M. (Technical Bid)
2. Opening of RFP documents: 22.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M. (Financial Bid)
3. RFP can be downloaded from the district administration website. The bidders are required to submit the non-refundable document fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) only in shape of Account Payee Demand Draft in favour of the C.D.O.-cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Balangir payable at Balangir from any of the Scheduled Commercial Bank along with the Proposal in Technical Bid. In absence of such document (Cost of Tender fee) the RFP will be rejected.
Sd./- C.D.O.-cum-E.O.
Zilla Parishad, Balangir
OIPR-19367/11/0006/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-894
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PARALAKHEMUNDI (R&B) DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI
Tel. Ph. No.: 06815-222542, E-mail ID: eerbparala@yahoo.com
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. S.E., PKD, R&B DIVN.-17/2025-26
No. 10178 **INVITATION FOR BIDS** Date: 23.12.25
1. The Superintending Engineer, Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha Invites Percentage rate bid in Single Cover system to be received in on ONLINE MODE only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:
2. Nature of works : Roads & Buildings Works
3. No. of Works : 06 (Six) Nos. of works
4. Estimated Cost (Approximately) : Rs.47.14 lakhs to Rs.2.24 lakhs
5. Bid Cost : Rs.6,000/- & Rs.2,000/-
6. Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'C' & 'D' Class
7. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : 10.00 hrs. of Dt.03.01.2026 to 17.00 hrs. of Dt.15.01.2026
8. Date of opening of the Bid : 12.00 hrs. of Dt.16.01.2026
9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason therefor.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division
OIPR-34186/11/0012/2526

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, GANJAM, BERNAMPUR
Phone: 0680-2291405, E-Mail: eerw_gm1@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. Online Tender // 22 // SERWDG-I / 2025-26
1 Name of the Work : Repair to Road Works
2 Estimated Cost : Rs.35.29 lakhs
3 Period of Completion : As per Annexure Column No. 06
4 Date & Time of Availability of Bid Documents in the Portal : A.M. to 08.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.
5 Last Date/Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal : 08.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.
6 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Ganjam, Bernampur
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Executive Engineer
OIPR-25085/11/0045/2526 R.W. Division-I, Ganjam, Bernampur

international

of the day quote

China and South Korea are important neighbours and partners. We look forward to this visit playing a positive role in advancing the China-South Korea strategic partnership under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state

LIN JIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

Peace is on the horizon, there is no doubt that things have happened that give grounds for hope that this war can end, and quite quickly, but it is still a hope, far from 100% certain

DONALD TUSK | PRIME MINISTER, POLAND

The ceasefire has only just been agreed so there is fragility. We should avoid instigation or things that could diminish the ceasefire.

SHASAK PHUANGKETKEOW | FOREIGN MINISTER, THAILAND

SHORT TAKES

Israel supports Somaliland at UN

United Nations: Israel has defended its formal recognition of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland, but several countries at the United Nations questioned whether the move aimed to relocate Palestinians from Gaza or to establish military bases. Israel became the first country to recognize Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state Friday. It is not a hostile step toward Somalia, nor does it preclude future dialogue between the parties. Recognition is not an act of defiance. It is an opportunity," Israel's Deputy UN Ambassador Jonathan Miller told the UN Security Council Monday. Israel's recognition of Somaliland gives it a potential strategic partner countering Yemen's Houthis, who during the Gaza war traded blows with Israel and whose attacks on vessels in the Red Sea have disrupted shipping there.

Junta party claims massive poll lead

Bangkok: The political party backed by Myanmar's ruling military claimed Tuesday it won a commanding lead in the initial round of the first general election in five years, even though the state election body has not named the winners. Voting is taking place in three phases due to ongoing armed conflicts, with the first round held Sunday in 102 of Myanmar's 330 townships. The remaining phases will take place January 11 and January 25, but 65 townships won't participate because of the fighting. A senior official of the Union Solidarity and Development Party told The Associated Press that the party has won 88 seats of the total 102 lower house seats contested in the first phase.

Over 3,400 candidates contest in Nepal polls

Kathmandu: As the deadline to submit a closed list of candidates for the proportionate voting system ended on Monday, the Election Commission Tuesday made public the details of political parties participating under the system. During the March 5 general elections, Nepalese voters will elect 165 Parliament members through direct voting, and 110 will be elected through the proportionate voting system. As per the statement issued by the EC, a total of 64 political parties have submitted the names of 3,424 candidates who are contesting for 110 seats under the proportionate system. A total of 58 electoral symbols have been allotted for the candidates under the system, it added.

Begum Zia: The unwavering legacy of resistance, reform

Zia, the longtime chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a three-time prime minister, died early Tuesday in Dhaka after a prolonged illness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Dec 30: Khaleda Zia, the first woman prime minister of Bangladesh and the second in the Muslim world, dominated the country's politics for decades alongside her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina. Zia, the longtime chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a three-time prime minister, died early Tuesday in Dhaka after a prolonged illness. She was 80. She is admired by her supporters for her role in restoring democracy in the country following military or quasi-military rule since 1975. Zia largely dominated Bangladesh's politics in the 1990s as well as in the early 2000s. Her political journey, spanning over four decades, was one of tremendous highs and lows: from leading a major party and governing the country to being convicted on corruption charges and later receiving a presidential pardon. Zia's rise as a public figure is widely viewed as accidental. A decade after becoming a widow at the age of 35, she assumed the role of prime minister, but

her entry into politics was not planned. She was largely unfamiliar with the political world until she was seemingly dragged into it following the assassination of her husband, President Ziaur Rahman, a military strongman turned politician, in an abortive army coup May 30, 1981. Before this, she was merely regarded as the wife of a general and later the First Lady. However, she quickly made her mark as the top leader of the BNP, the party her husband had founded in 1978. She was enrolled as a primary member January 3, 1982. By March of the following year, she became the party's vice president, and in May 1984, BNP's Chairperson - a position she held until her death. Her main rival throughout this period was Sheikh Hasina, the chief of the Awami League. After the 1982 military coup by the then Army chief Gen HM Ershad, Zia initiated a movement for restoring democracy. In 1986, Ershad announced a presidential election amid simultaneous campaigns by Zia's BNP-led alliance and Hasina's Awami League-led 15-party coalition. Both alliances initially decided to boycott the polls, but the Awami League, along with the Communist Party and other parties, eventually participated. Zia's alliance stuck to the boycott, and Ershad placed Hasina under house arrest before the

widely believed rigged March election, securing his position as president as a nominee of the Jatiya Party. "Her (Zia's) popularity soared after she boycotted the polls in 1986," wrote Professor Howher Rizvi, who later became international affairs adviser of Hasina's government. After the fall of the Ershad regime in December 1990, a caretaker government headed by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed conducted the elections in February 1991. BNP emerged as the party with majority to the surprise of many who believed the Awami League would win the polls. The new parliament amended the constitution, switching to a parliamentary system from a presidential form of government, and Zia became the first woman prime minister in Bangladesh and second in the Muslim world after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto. BNP was re-elected to power in 1996, but the government lasted only 12 days as the Awami League staged vigorous street campaigns. Zia's government quit after introducing the caretaker government system. Though BNP lost the fresh election in June 1996, the party won 116 seats, becoming the largest opposition in the country's history. In 1999, Zia formed a four-party coalition and launched agitations protesting the then-ruling Awami League government. She was re-elected in 2001. In 2006, she



China encircles Taiwan in massive military display



REUTERS

Taipei/Beijing, Dec 30: China fired rockets into waters off Taiwan Tuesday, showcased new assault ships and dismissed prospects of US and allied intervention to block any future attack by Beijing to take control of the island in its most extensive war games to date. As part of drills rehearsing a blockade, China's Eastern Theatre Command conducted 10 hours of live-fire exercises, launching rockets into waters to the north and south of the democratically governed island. Chinese naval and air force units also simulated strikes on maritime and aerial targets and carried out anti-submarine drills around the island, while state media released images touting Beijing's technological and military superiority and its ability to take Taiwan by force if necessary.

China carries out 10 hours of live-firing drills around Taiwan
Chinese military rehearses blockade of island's north and south
Taiwan says China is simulating strikes on U.S.-made weapons

Named "Justice Mission 2025", the drills began 11 days after the US announced a record \$11.1 billion arms package to Taiwan, drawing the Chinese defence ministry's warning that the military would "take forceful measures" in response.

DETERRING 'EXTERNAL FORCES'
For the first time, China's military said the drills were aimed at deterring outside intervention. "Any external forces that attempt to intervene in the Taiwan issue or interfere in China's internal affairs will surely

ly smash their heads bloody against the iron walls of the Chinese People's Liberation Army," China's Taiwan Affairs Office said in a statement Monday. Beijing has also intensified its rhetoric over Taiwan in the weeks since Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggested a hypothetical attack on the island could trigger a military response from Tokyo. Chinese leader Xi Jinping last week promoted the commander of the Eastern Theatre Command, which oversees Taiwan-facing operations, to full general - a move which analysts say serves to shore up the military's combat readiness after a leadership purge. US President Donald Trump downplayed the drills Monday, talking up his relationship with Xi and saying China has carried out naval exercises around Taiwan for 20 years. The drills this week, the sixth major round of war games since 2022, were the largest by area and the closest yet to Taiwan. **SHOW OF FORCE** A senior Taiwan security official told Reuters that China appeared to be simulating striking land-based targets such as the US made HIMARS rocket system, a mobile artillery system with a range of about 300 km (186 miles) that could hit coastal targets in southern China.

Russia's nuclear-capable Oreshnik missiles go active

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Dec 30: Russia's nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system has entered active service in Belarus, Russia's Defence Ministry said Tuesday, as the US efforts to broker a deal to end the nearly four-year war in Ukraine have entered a pivotal stage. The ministry released a video showing combat vehicles that are part of the mobile intermediate range ballistic missile system driving across a forest as part of combat training. The ministry's announcement followed a statement from Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who said earlier

this month that the Oreshnik had arrived in the country. Lukashenko said that up to 10 such missile systems will be stationed in Belarus. Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that the Oreshnik would enter combat duty before the year's end. He made the statement at a meeting with top Russian military officers, where he warned that Moscow will seek to extend its gains in Ukraine if Kyiv and its Western allies reject the Kremlin's demands in peace talks. The announcement comes at a critical time for Russia-Ukraine peace talks. US President Donald



Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at his Florida resort Sunday and insisted that Kyiv and Moscow were "closer than ever before" to a peace settlement. However, Moscow and Kyiv

This terrorist action is aimed at collapsing the negotiation process
DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESPERSON, KREMLIN



remain deeply divided on key issues, including whose forces withdraw from where in Ukraine and the fate of Ukraine's Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, one of the 10 biggest in the world. Trump

US BOOSTS ISRAEL'S AIRPOWER
Boeing, was given an \$8.6 billion contract for the F-15 Israel Program, the Pentagon said Monday, after US President Donald Trump met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Florida



stepped down from office, passing power to a caretaker administration. In September 2007, she was arrested on what her party claimed were "baseless charges of corruption". Zia's electoral popularity can be gauged by the fact that she never lost in any constituency. "She was elected in five separate parliamentary constituencies in the elections of 1991, 1996 and 2001, while in 2008, she won in all three constituencies from where she contested," a BNP leader said. Zia was born August 15, 1946, to Taiyaba and Iskandar Majumdar in Dinajpur district in undivided India. Her father migrated from Jalpaiguri, where the family ran a tea business, to what was East Pakistan after the partition. In 1960, she married Army Captain Ziaur Rahman, who became the president of Bangladesh. Zia spent her last 15 years as a major opposition leader fighting what her party described as the 'autocratic' Hasina regime and also the corruption charges against her. She was sentenced to five years in jail February 8, 2018, in the Zia Orphanage Trust case and later received a seven-year sentence in the Zia Charitable Trust case. In 2024, a day after Hasina was ousted from power, Zia was granted a presidential pardon and released.

The following day, she returned to politics with a massive rally, breathing new life into the BNP despite her ailing health. During Zia's first term as prime minister from 1991 to 1996, relations with India were a mix of normal diplomacy and tensions, particularly over water sharing of the Ganges and cross-border insurgencies. Her government adopted a "Look East" policy, signalling a strategic alignment with China and Islamic countries rather than India. But her second tenure saw a very low ebb in bilateral ties that largely stalled connectivity and trade expansion, while New Delhi expressed strong concern over militant groups operating from Bangladesh and cross-border infiltration. Zia, however, visited India twice as the Prime Minister in 1992 and 2006 and once as the Opposition leader in 2012 at the invitation of the Indian government. Her 2006 state visit yielded agreements on trade and security, and her 2012 visit as the opposition leader was aimed at rebuilding BNP ties with New Delhi. Her son and heir-apparent, Tarique Rahman, who is currently BNP's acting chairman, recently returned home after living in London in self exile since 2008. Her other son, Ararat Rahman, died of a cardiac arrest in 2015. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir recently dubbed Zia as the 'Mother of Democracy'.

Saudi Arabia bombs Yemen port



UAE says it is withdrawing its remaining forces in Yemen voluntarily in crisis with Saudi Arabia

REUTERS

Dubai, Dec 30: The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday said it was pulling out its remaining forces in Yemen after Saudi Arabia backed a call for UAE forces to leave the country within 24 hours. The move followed a Saudi-led coalition airstrike on the southern Yemeni port of Mukalla. The attack on what Riyadh said was a UAE-linked weapons shipment marked the most significant escalation between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi to date in a widening rift between the two Gulf powers. Once the twin pillars of regional security, the two Gulf heavyweights have seen their interests diverge on everything from oil quotas to geopolitical influence. Declaring its national security a red line, Saudi Arabia earlier Tuesday alleged the UAE had pressured Yemen's southern separatists to conduct military operations that had reached the kingdom's borders. It was Riyadh's stron-

- UAE says it is disappointed by Saudi statement
- Saudi-backed head of Yemen's presidential council asks UAE to leave
- Saudi-led coalition pitted against UAE-backed southern separatists
- Coalition says two ships originated in UAE's Fujairah

gest language yet against the UAE in the falling-out between the neighbours, who once co-operated in a coalition against Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis but whose interests in Yemen have steadily grown apart in recent years. Frictions grew inside the coalition as Abu Dhabi backed southern separatists seeking self-rule, while Riyadh kept supporting Yemen's internationally recognised government, eventually creating an open rift between the Gulf allies. The coalition struck Tuesday what it said was a dock used to provide foreign military support to the UAE-backed separatists. The head of Yemen's Saudi-backed presidential council gave Emirati forces an ultimatum of 24 hours to leave. The UAE said in a statement that it had been surprised by the airstrike, and that the shipment that had been attacked did not contain weapons and was destined for Emirati forces.

Trump warns Iran of possible strike

REUTERS

Palm Beach, Florida, Dec 30: US President Donald Trump said Monday the United States could support another major strike on Iran were it to resume rebuilding its ballistic missile or nuclear weapons programs and warned Hamas of severe consequences if it does not disarm. Speaking beside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu following a meeting at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, Trump suggested Tehran may be working to restore its weapons programs after a massive US strike in June. "I've been reading that they're building up weapons and other things, and if they are, they're not using the sites we obliterated, but possibly different sites," Trump told reporters during a press conference. "We know exactly where they're going, what they're doing, and I hope they're not doing it because we don't want to waste fuel on a B-2," he added, referring to the bomber used in the earlier strike. "It's a 37-hour trip both ways. I don't want to waste a lot of fuel." Trump, who has broached a potential nuclear deal with Tehran in recent months, said his talks with Netanyahu focused on advancing the fragile Gaza peace deal he brokered and addressing Israeli concerns over Iran and over Hezbollah in Lebanon. Iran, which fought a 12-day war with Israel in June, said last week that it had conducted missile exercises for the second time this month. Netanyahu said last week that Israel was not seeking a confrontation with Iran, but was aware of the reports, and said he would raise Tehran's activities with Trump. Trump said he wanted to move to the second phase of the ceasefire deal between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas reached in October after two years of fighting in Gaza, a progression that entails international peace-keeping forces deployed in the Palestinian enclave. Israel and Hamas accuse each other of major breaches of the deal and look no closer to accepting the much more difficult steps envisaged for the next phase. Hamas, which has refused to disarm, has been reasserting its control as Israeli troops remain entrenched in about half the territory.

business

of the day quote

I believe that just as we can drive 10x improvement in velocity, efficiency, quality, and outcomes by AI-transforming our workflow. We can also achieve a 10x impact on India through our businesses and philanthropic initiatives

MUKESH AMBANI | RELIANCE INDUSTRIES CHAIRMAN

Fleet operators and taxi drivers look for vehicles that deliver maximum uptime, predictable maintenance and low operating costs, and the Hyundai Prime range has been developed precisely with these priorities in mind

TARUN GARG | HMIL MD & CEO DESIGNATE

Amid a sharp rise in the number of wealthy Indians with higher disposable incomes, premium and luxury housing dominated value contribution in 2025, particularly across markets such as the MMR (Mumbai Metropolitan Region)

TANU SHORI | FOUNDER & CEO, SQUARE YARDS

SHORT TAKES

Cement industry to grow 6-7%: ICRA

New Delhi: The Indian cement industry is anticipated to sustain its mid single-digit growth journey in the nest fiscal, helped by the factors including steady demand from housing and infrastructure projects, said rating agency ICRA in its report. It expects India's cement industry to grow about 6 to 7 per cent in FY27, and touch 6.5 to 7.5 per cent growth in the current fiscal year FY26. Moreover, the agency also expects the industry "to add 85-90 million MTPA capacity during FY2026-FY2027", while operational EBITDA is estimated to be at Rs 880-930 per Metric Tonnes (MT) in FY2027 helped by better pricing and higher volumes. "Cement demand remained strong, with volumes expanding by 8.5 per cent in FY2026, aided by robust construction activities. With post-monsoon construction expected to pick up pace, a sequential improvement in demand is likely to take place in H2 FY2026," it said. Besides, GST reforms, which slashed duty on finished cement from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, along with increased spendings by the government on infrastructure spending, is expected to bolster demand momentum through FY2026 and FY2027.

'Tourism needs targeted approach'

New Delhi: India's tourism sector requires a far more targeted, ecosystem-wide approach including strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) capabilities, improved destination infrastructure and service quality to convert high visitor volumes into higher incomes and realise its full potential, a Crisil Intelligence report said on Tuesday. Despite being a large livelihood engine, the domestic tourism sector is yet to realise the full potential of its economic value due to weak supply-side enabling conditions, said the report titled "Tourism for livelihoods: Building circuits of growth in India". "Alongside cultural richness and natural diversity, India has the entrepreneurial base and domestic demand to emerge as a global tourism powerhouse. With focused reforms to strengthen supply-side foundations and unlock high-value demand, tourism can become a high-multiplier livelihood engine, creating resilient incomes for millions of households across rural and urban India," said the report.



From January 1, 2026, 100 per cent Australian tariff lines will be zero-duty for Indian exports, unlocking fresh opportunities for labour-intensive sectors

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

RUPEE RISES 23 PAISE

The rupee rose 23 paise to close at 89.75 against the greenback Tuesday primarily on account of dollar selling by the Reserve Bank. Strong industrial output numbers supported the local unit, but a stronger greenback, higher global crude oil prices, and foreign fund outflows prevented sharper gains, forex traders said.



Investors' wealth surges by ₹30.20L-cr in 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Dalal Street investors became richer by Rs 30.20 lakh crore this year, helped by over 8 per cent surge in the BSE benchmark Sensex, despite facing multiple headwinds in the form of foreign fund exodus, tariff-related uncertainties, elevated valuations and a weakening rupee.

Analysts said despite the headwinds, stock markets demonstrated resilience, helped by strong domestic investor support and macroeconomic stability, which was marked by strong GDP growth.

"Despite outflows continuing to be an issue for foreign investors, the resilience of the market was demonstrated. One of the key drivers for the Indian market in 2025 has been the presence of robust domestic investor support," Nitin Rao, CEO, InCred Wealth, said.

Till December 29, this year, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 6,556.53 points, or 8.39 per cent. The benchmark hit its record high of 86,159.02 on December 1.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms surged by Rs 30,20,376.68 crore to Rs 4,72,15,483.12 crore (USD 5.25 trillion) so far this year.

The mcap of BSE-listed companies had hit the coveted Rs 400-lakh crore mark for the first time in April last year.

The year 2025 can be best de-



scribed as a year of consolidation and transition for Indian equities, Ponnudi R, CEO, Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

"After several years of strong double-digit returns, benchmark indices delivered more moderate gains, with Sensex and Nifty rising around 8-10 per cent for the year. While these returns may appear modest compared to previous years, they came amid global headwinds, foreign fund outflows, and valuation corrections," he noted.

On the domestic front, markets grappled with muted corporate earnings growth, elevated valuations, a weakening rupee, and persistent FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) outflows, Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investment, said.

These factors kept sentiment

he said.

A record number of initial public offerings (IPOs) this year also helped markets log gains.

Among the year's largest main-board IPOs, Tata Capital's Rs 15,512 crore issue topped the list, followed by HDB Financial Services (Rs 12,500 crore), LG Electronics India (Rs 11,607 crore), Hexaware Technologies (Rs 8,750 crore), Lenskart Solutions (Rs 7,278 crore) and Billionbrains Garage Ventures (Rs 6,632 crore).

In India, consistent SIP inflows, increased retail participation, and confidence in the long-term growth story have provided stability even during global volatility, Pranay Aggarwal of Stoxkart, said.

Reliance Industries is the country's most-valued firm in terms of market valuation. The company has a market capitalisation of Rs 20,91,173 crore, followed by HDFC Bank (Rs 15,25,457.75 crore), Bharti Airtel (Rs 11,86,978.75 crore), Tata Consultancy Services (Rs 11,77,199.05 crore), and ICICI Bank (Rs 9,60,478.36 crore) in the top-five order.

The Sensex had jumped 5,898.75 points or 8.16 per cent last year. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms had surged Rs 77.66 lakh crore to Rs 4,41,95,106.44 crore in 2024.

In 2023, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies climbed sharply by Rs 81.90 lakh crore.

Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar launches 'MAHI'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar, part of the Manipal Hospitals Group, launched MAHI (Manipal Hospitals Healthy India), a new-age preventive health and wellness platform aimed at making proactive healthcare more accessible and personalised.

The platform was unveiled in the presence of Babu Singh, MLA, Ekamra Constituency, and Saktimay Mahapatra, Cluster Director - South East, Manipal Hospital, along with senior clinicians and key stakeholders.

Highlighting the need for preventive care, industry estimates show India's preventive health market is expected to cross Rs 16,000 crore by 2026, while post-COVID trends indicate a sharp rise in health awareness and early screening. MAHI has been positioned as a consumer-friendly

preventive healthcare companion, offering customised health check packages across life stages and conditions. These include profile-based packages for teens, men, women and seniors; condition-based packages for diabetes, PCOS, thyroid, cardiac risk and cancer markers; and organ-based packages for heart, liver, kidney, lung, eye and bone health.

Speaking on the occasion, Babu Singh said, "Preventive healthcare is essential for building a healthier society. Initiatives like MAHI promote early diagnosis and regular health check-ups, encouraging people to prioritise wellness before illness."

Commenting on the launch, Saktimay Mahapatra said, "With MAHI, we aim to empower individuals and families to adopt preventive care as a part of everyday life and reduce the burden of chronic diseases through early intervention."

India's Russian crude imports dip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: India's imports of Russian crude oil are set to register a sharp pullback in December, but the decline reflects short-term disruptions rather than a structural shift in sourcing patterns.

According to real-time data analytics company Kpler, Russian crude imports into India are expected to fall to around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in December, down from 1.84 million bpd in November, marking the lowest level since December 2022.

Indian refiners continue to buy Russian crude from non-sanctioned entities.

The drop, flagged by analysts as early as October, has been driven by disruptions resulting from US action on top Russian exporters, Rosneft and Lukoil, as well as due to the impact of EU sanctions on Russian-linked product flows.

"India's appetite for Russian crude cooled sharply in December, with imports falling to their lowest levels since 2022 as major refiners cut intake following sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil. This appears to be a near-term adjustment, with Russian crude imports into India expected to recover gradually from January as new intermediaries step in and supply chains re-establish," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling, Kpler.

Silver hits fresh record of ₹2.41 lakh per kg



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Silver prices hit a new record high of Rs 2.41 lakh per kg in the national capital Tuesday, rising by Rs 1,000 in line with firm global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

However, gold of 99.9 per cent purity extended its losses for the second straight day, declining Rs 2,800 to Rs 1,39,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from the previous close of Rs 1,41,800 per 10 grams Monday.

In the international markets, spot silver was trading higher by USD 3.72, or 5.15 per cent, to USD 75.85 per ounce, while gold rose USD 69.61, or 1.61 per cent, to USD 4,401.59 per ounce.

Strong industrial demand and firm global prices boosted the white metal in local markets, marketmen said.

"Despite near-term volatility, silver continues to find support from structural supply constraints and strong industrial demand, particularly from solar, electronics, and data center infrastructure. However, stricter margin rules may keep price gains measured in the short term. MCX Silver March may appreciate to Rs. 226,000/kg as the undertone is bullish in the international markets," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), silver futures for March 2026 delivery soared by Rs 9,590, or 4.27 per cent, to Rs 2,34,019 per kilogram in a business turnover of 11,915 lots.

The white metal had skyrocketed by Rs 14,387, or 6 per cent, to touch a record high of Rs 2,54,174 per kilogram on Monday.



India, the world's third-largest oil importer, became the largest buyer of discounted Russian crude after Western countries shunned Moscow following its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Traditionally reliant on the Middle Eastern oil, India sharply ramped up Russian imports as sanctions and reduced European demand made barrels available at steep discounts, pushing its share from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of total crude imports.

In December, Russia remained the country's top supplier but its share fell to less than a quarter of all oil imports from about a third in November.

Following US sanctions on Rosneft, Lukoil and their majority-owned subsidiaries taking effect on November 21, refiners including Reliance Industries, Hindustan Petroleum, HPCL Refinall Energy and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals temporarily halted Russian imports. The only exception is Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, which continues to rely heavily on Russian crude after EU sanctions curtailed alternative supplies.

"Russian crude oil imports to India are retreating sharply in December, with volumes forecast to fall to around 1.2 million bpd (25 per cent of India's total import) - down from 1.84 million bpd in November," Ritolia said.

After 125 bps cut, all eyes on rupee mgmt from RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 30: The Reserve Bank cut its key rates at four of the six monetary policy reviews of 2025 by a cumulative 1.25 per cent, courtesy inflation touching record lows, in what the newly appointed Governor Sanjay Malhotra called as a "rare Goldilocks period" for the economy.

Malhotra cut the key rates right from his first policy announcement in February to support growth, and also slashed key rates by 0.50 per cent in June as it saw the space created by lower inflation.

Completing a year in office, the career bureaucrat-turned-central banker termed it as a "rare goldilocks period" for India, with growth exceeding 8 per cent despite headwinds like the US tariffs and geopolitical changes, and

inflation under 1 per cent.

He also made it clear that growth will soften going ahead, and inflation will inch up closer to the RBI's target of 4 per cent.

Amid concerns on the nominal GDP growth remaining low, Malhotra said the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) actions are dictated by the real GDP arrived at after subtracting the inflation levels.

Actual inflation outcomes came much lower than the RBI's projections on price rise, leading to some voices of concern on the central bank's forecasting, and Poonam Gupta, an academic who got inducted during the year, said there are no systemic biases in the estimation.

The RBI's actions on rates, accompanied with explicit expectations of borrowing costs going down, came as a jolt for banks, which were impacted



by narrowing in the net interest margins (NIMs) and a subsequent dent to core incomes. Tempering the impact were central bank's moves on ensuring adequate liquidity in the system and more importantly, regulatory relaxations.

At his maiden press outing in February after announcing a 0.25 per cent cut in rates, Mal-

hotra underlined that while financial stability is important, the "cost of regulations" should also be taken on board and committed to lessen the impact of RBI's moves.

What followed through the year was a slew of relaxations. The crescendo was the October policy announcement with 22 regulatory measures, including

some initiatives uncharacteristic of an otherwise conservative institution.

Some, like allowing banks to fund India Inc's global acquisitions or going back on the "forms of business" regulation draft under which the RBI had mulled preventing banks from having other entities engaged in same activities or tweaks on the infra finance front, led to the obvious questions on financial stability.

However, Malhotra justified this and affirmed that financial stability is the foremost priority for the central bank and spoke of the need to ensure that regulations are not impeding economic growth and added that sufficient precautions have been built into the new relaxations.

Interestingly, the announcement on acquisition finance came within weeks of SBI Chairman C S Setty publicly

pitching for such a move.

The RBI also climbed down on its previously mulled draft on project finance requiring banks to set aside up to 5 per cent provisions on loans. The move was flagged as a challenge by bankers, but the RBI brass had maintained that this was "conservative" given the previous experiences with lending to the segment.

Apart from the regulatory relaxations, banks got a big breather in the form of almost no major supervisory action from the RBI this year, a departure from the central bank's actions under Malhotra's predecessor Shaktikanta Das, where even major lenders were slapped with cease-and-desist orders.

Malhotra's focus seems to be around customer centricity and quicker redressal of issues, which has shone in a slew of speeches and comments.

WORLD RAPID AND BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

Erigaisi's double bronze feat

At 22, Arjun Erigaisi returns with rare world bronze medals in both rapid and blitz, highlighting his elite rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, Dec 30: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi suffered a shattering semifinal loss to top Uzbek player Nodirbek Abdusattorov as the ace Indian settled for a bronze medal on a day when defending champion Magnus Carlsen stormed into the final from an unviable situation, in the World Blitz Championship here Tuesday.

Eight-time world blitz champion Carlsen set up a title showdown with Abdusattorov after defeating American Fabiano Caruana 3-1 in the other semifinal.

Erigaisi, 22, can take heart in the fact that he will return home two World bronze medals -- in rapid and blitz -- a feat which very few players in the world have achieved.

The Indian ace was on song on day two of the qual-

In the rapid Swiss event, Erigaisi finished the 13-round with 9.5/13 points. On tie-breaks he ended third behind Magnus Carlsen (gold) and Vladislav Artemiev (silver) to claim the bronze medal. He had notable wins, including a victory over world No 1 Magnus Carlsen in a rapid game earlier in the tournament, contributing to his strong score

In the blitz event, after the Swiss rounds and entering the knockout stage (top 4), Erigaisi lost in the semifinals to Nodirbek Abdusattorov (2.5-0.5), which placed him in the bronze position. Along the way, he had impressive individual wins in the blitz Swiss portion, including defeating Magnus Carlsen and other top grandmasters

ification rounds.

After stunning the likes of global icon Carlsen and his nemesis in the semifinal, Abdusattorov, on the opening day Monday to emerge sole leader on 10 points from 13 games, Erigaisi went through the remaining six rounds on day two with steely resolve.

He won four rounds and drew two to remain sole leader with

15 points and securing a place in the knockouts.

Erigaisi was drawn against 2021 World Rapid champion Abdusattorov, who secured a place in the last-four by the skin of the teeth, barely managing to nudge Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to fifth spot on 'best tie-break' rule after both ended on 13 points.

With Erigaisi in a stunning form and the advantage of beating Abdusattorov on day one of the competition, the Indian was expected to go full steam.

But things took a different and difficult turn for Erigaisi who lost the semifinal 2.5-0.5. He could not convert the advantage with white in the opening game in the knockout, losing in 47 moves to be 0-1 down.

A resurgent Abdusattorov turned things decisively his way in the second game by played 'Rc5' on the 75th move, ending the game in 83 moves.

With the Uzbek needing only half-a-point to seal his place in the final, Abdusattorov settled for a quick draw with black pieces after 33 moves despite being in a winning position, rendering the fourth game pointless.



SHORT TAKES

Addya wins jr trap gold

New Delhi: Delhi teenager Addya Katyal came up with a calm and composed performance to clinch the junior women's trap title in the National Shooting Championships at the Karni Singh Range here Tuesday. The 15-year-old took the top-podium spot with 42 hits, while Uttar Pradesh's Sabeera Haris ran her close before settling for silver with 41. Tanisska Senthilkumar of Tamil Nadu secured the bronze with 28 hits. Addya had earlier topped the qualification round with an impressive 112 hits, and carried that strong form into the final. Bhavya Tripathi of Delhi finished second in qualification with 110 but ended the final in sixth place. Tanisska qualified third with 105, followed by Darshna Rathore of Rajasthan (104), Sabeera Haris (102), and Ananya Yaduvanshi of Delhi (101), completing the top-six who advanced to the medal round. The final saw Addya maintain consistency under pressure, pulling away at the crucial stages. Sabeera mounted a strong challenge and remained in contention till the closing series, eventually finishing just one hit behind.

Hosts Morocco into top 16

Rabat: Morocco forward Ayoub El Kaabi netted a double and midfield maestro Brahim Diaz added another as the Africa Cup of Nations hosts turned in a convincing performance in outclassing Zambia 3-0 Monday to top Group A. El Kaabi powered home an early headed goal and then scored with one of his trademark bicycle kicks while Diaz netted for the third successive game as Morocco swept their opponents aside to finish on seven points ahead of second-placed Mali on three. After a timid start to the tournament, with a nervy opening game win over tiny Comoros and then an uninspiring 1-1 draw with Mali Friday, Morocco finally looked like the favourites that many have made them for the 24-team tournament. Morocco captain, and recently crowned African Footballer of the Year, Achraf Hakimi came on to great acclaim as a 64th minute substitute and had a beaming smile on his face in his first outing since suffering an ankle injury in the Champions League almost eight weeks ago.

OFC CEO Raj Athwal quits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 30: Top domestic football club, Odisha FC, is undergoing a period of transition at the top, with CEO Raj Athwal stepping down from his role just four days after the club mutually parted ways with head coach Sergio Lobera.

The club confirmed Athwal's departure in an official statement, noting that the decision was communicated by the CEO and accepted by the management.

"Odisha FC can confirm that CEO Raj Athwal has informed the club management of his decision to move on, and the club has accepted the same. The club would like to thank Raj for his leadership, professionalism, and contributions during his tenure with the club. Under his stewardship, Odisha FC secured its first-ever silverware with the Super Cup triumph, followed by the Indian Women's League 2023-24 and achieved qualifica-



tion for the AFC competition knockout stages by both the men's & women's teams of Odisha FC," the statement, shared on X, read. The club also outlined interim administrative arrangements as it navigates the transition period.

Reacting to Athwal's exit, club owner Rohan Sharma expressed his appreciation for the outgoing CEO's contributions over the past five years. Athwal's departure comes shortly after Odisha FC announced the end of their association with head coach Lobera December 26, with both parties agreeing to part ways.

Women in Blue dominate SL

Harmanpreet leads India's 15-run win over SL in 5th T20I, 5-0 series triumph for eves



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 30: Bowlers produced a spotless effort after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur led the way with a doughty 68 as dominant India defeated Sri Lanka by 15 runs in the fifth T20I to complete a 5-0 whitewash, here Tuesday.

Harmanpreet's first fifty of the series came at an important juncture in the game when India were left struggling at 77 for five, as her 43-ball knock took the hosts to 175 for five.

Sri Lanka responded with half-centuries from opener Hasini Perera (65) and Imesha Dulani (50) but failed to find the flourish towards the end, finishing at 160 for seven. India thus capped an exceptional World Cup-winning year on a bright note.

Despite losing their skipper Chamari Athapaththu (2) early in the chase, Sri Lanka responded with a second-wicket partnership of 79 runs between Perera and Dulani which kept them in hunt.

Both Perera and Dulani batted with conviction to regularly find boundaries and rotated the strike well, but the failure

to clear the ropes during their 56-ball association also meant that Sri Lanka remained slightly behind the asking rate.

Sri Lanka No 3 Dulani cracked eight fours in her 39-ball innings and Perera held one end strongly with her 42-ball knock, but a slip-up in the form of wickets in cluster saw the required run rate moving past 13 per over.

Sri Lanka needed a big finish in the second half which they could not produce, as Indian spinners Deepti Sharma (1/28) and Vaishnavi Sharma (1/33) bowled stifling spells.

Amanjot Kaur (1/17) dismissed Dulani in the 12th over to give India the opening and Deepti capitalised on it.

Deepti trapped Nilakshika Silva leg-before in the 14th over to become the leading wicket-taker in women's T20Is with her 152nd dismissal in 134 matches at 18.62, going past Australia's Megan Schutt (151 wickets in 123 matches at 16.57).

Perera's fall in the 17th over shut the doors on the Islanders.

Earlier, a resolute knock from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (68) and a late assault

from Arundhati Reddy (27 not out) took India to a competitive 175 for seven.

India were left tottering at 77 for five after 10 overs, but Harmanpreet stood tall with her first impactful knock of the series.

Later, Arundhati smacked four fours and a six to make a vital 11-ball 27 not out to push the hosts past the 150-mark.

Harmanpreet struck nine fours and a six in her 43-balls knock and dazzled with some powerful hits on both sides of the wicket, while her 61-run sixth wicket stand with Amanjot Kaur (21) was equally important.

For the large part of her knock, Harmanpreet kept losing partners which also dented India's hopes for a bigger total but with Amanjot, the Indian skipper ensured her bowlers had a total on board to defend.

Using the long handle to a good effect, Harmanpreet also pierced the field deeply on the off-side for a few boundaries.

It wasn't an ideal start for India with the new opening pair of debutant G Kamalini and Shafali Verma falling cheaply after

vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was rested from this match.

Coming off three consecutive fifties, Shafali (5) looked to attack from the beginning but she was caught at long-on by Imesha Dulani off Nimasha Meepage in the second over.

Having hit a couple of fours in her maiden outing, Kamalini (12) missed connecting on an attempted sweep off Kavisha Dilhari (2/11) and was pinned in front, as an attempt to overturn the decision through DRS proved futile.

In need of a partnership, India's hopes were placed on Harleen Deol (13) and Harmanpreet. But having received one lifeline through a dropped catch, Harleen went for a big heave across the line off Rashmika Sewwandi, only to get an inside edge onto her stumps.

Brief scores:

India: 175 for 7 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 68, Amanjot Kaur 21, Arundhati Reddy 27 not out; Chamari Athapaththu 2/21, Kavisha Dilhari 2/11) beat **Sri Lanka:** 160/7 in 20 overs (Hasini Perera 65, Imesha Dulani 50) by 15 runs

INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Nita FA's unbeaten run continues

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Dec 30: Nita Football Academy continued their unbeaten streak in the Indian Women's League 2025-26 after edging past Garhwal United FC 1-0 in a closely contested match at the National Centre of Excellence here Tuesday.

A seventh-minute goal by Pyari Xaxa turned out to be the difference, helping the table-toppers strengthen their hold on first place.

With this victory, Nita FA moved to 10 points from four matches, having registered three wins and one draw so far. Garhwal United, on the other hand, endured a second consecutive loss and stay on six points after four games.

Even before Garhwal could



settle into their defensive shape, the breakthrough arrived in the seventh minute. Neha showed excellent determination down the left flank, shrugging off the challenge of Alka Indwar before delivering a teasing cross across the face of goal. Pyari, completely unmarked inside the box, met it

with a crisp first-time volley to give the goalkeeper no chance.

Despite conceding early, Garhwal struggled to find rhythm in their build-up play. The match settled into a scrappy pattern, with both sides prioritising defensive solidity over attacking adventure. Nita FA were content to control the tempo, while

Garhwal focused on limiting the damage rather than committing bodies forward.

Clear-cut chances were rare for the remainder of the first half, with neither goalkeeper significantly tested. Garhwal's best moment arrived just before the break when Sanfida Nongrum was picked out at the edge of the box. The midfielder struck a fierce right-footed effort that beat the goalkeeper but crashed back off the cross-piece, much to Nita FA's relief.

The second half followed a similar script, with the contest evenly balanced but lacking penetration in the final third. The final whistle confirmed another disciplined and efficient display from Nita FA, who once again found a way to grind out a result.

Bindra-led Task Force highlights deficits in Indian sports administration

The panel noted lack of a professional cadre of sports administrators, and outdated training opportunities for them with "limited focus on competencies or continuous professional development"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: An Abhinav Bindra-led Task Force set up by the Sports Ministry has pointed out "systemic deficits" in India's sports administration, including "inadequate and ill-equipped" athletes for governance roles, and recommended the setting up of an autonomous statutory body to train a specialised cadre that would also feature IAS officers.

The 170-page report of the Task Force has been submitted to Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who Tuesday said "all its recommendations will be implemented".

To address the current "gaps" that ail the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the National Sports Federations (NSFs) and the state depart-

ments, the committee has recommended that a National Council for Sports Education and Capacity Building (NCSECB) be set up under the Ministry "to regulate, accredit, and certify sports administration training." The nine-member Task Force was set up in August this year and featured, among others Adille Sumariwala and former Target Olympic Podium Scheme's CEO Cdr. Rajesh Rajagopalan.

The panel highlighted lack of a professional cadre of sports administrators, and outdated training opportunities for them with "limited focus on competencies or continuous professional development." It also said that most athletes are "ill-equipped" when it comes to skills needed to transition from their sporting careers into administrative roles.

"This report is both diagnostic and prescriptive. It identifies the structural, functional, and systemic gaps that currently constrain sports governance, but more importantly, it charts a roadmap for transformation," said Bindra in its preface.

The Task Force was entrusted with a wide-ranging mandate and it included evaluation of the current administrative framework across institutions such as SAI, NSFs and state associations.

"We engaged deeply with the sporting ecosystem. We consulted athletes, government officials, SAI administrators, NSF representatives, state functionaries, academic experts, and international institutions," Bindra said in the report.

The SAI, which has also

been deemed understaffed by the parliamentary standing committee on sports, came in for some heavy scrutiny even from the Task Force along with the state sports departments.

Describing the two as the "backbone" of India's sports administration, the panel concluded that "both institutions face deep systemic and capacity challenges that hinder professionalism, efficiency, and governance effectiveness."

No clear pathway for athletes in governance

The panel noted that while the soon-to-be-implemented National Sports Governance Act makes athlete representation in NSF Executive Committees mandatory, there is no system in place to train them for the job.

"India does not yet have a structured Dual Athlete Career Pathway integrated with the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model, which supports athletes in combining elite performance with education, leadership,

and governance skills," it said.

"...the real gap lies in athlete preparedness to take up these governance and leadership roles effectively. Most athletes retire without the relevant skills in administration, leadership, or governance, leaving them underprepared for the responsibilities such positions demand," it added. The panel cited international success stories to state that proper training is a must for making competent administrators out of athletes.

Governance Gaps in NSFs

Over-centralisation of authority in NSFs was cited as a major governance concern by the Task Force.

Civil Service Integration

The panel recommended that IAS and state cadre officers must be trained in structured sports governance modules at both induction and advanced stages, given their central role in implementation.