



Unique resolution

Actor Hansika Motwani says, in 2026, she would stop being ready ahead of time for certain occasions

LEISURE | **P2**



Hindu bizman dies

A Hindu businessman, who was brutally attacked, hacked and set on fire three days ago, died Saturday in Bangladesh

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



BYD beats Tesla

Tesla ceded its crown as the world's top electric vehicle maker to China's BYD, after annual sales fell for a 2nd year

BUSINESS | **P11**



Mustafizur row

BCCI asks KKR to release Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from its squad ahead of the IPL's 2026 edition

SPORTS | **P12**

US CAPTURES MADURO

Fill 151 more vacant posts: CM to OPSC

Venezuelan President and his wife aboard US warship Iwo Jima and headed to New York after US strikes

The unprecedented air-strikes launched by the US across Venezuela, followed by President Donald Trump's announcement that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, had been captured and flown out of the country, marked a sharp escalation in Washington's months-long pressure campaign against Caracas. Since September, 2025 the US has expanded its military presence off Venezuela's coast, struck alleged drug-trafficking boats, seized oil tankers, and designated Venezuelan gangs as terrorist organisations, actions that have reportedly killed more than 110 people. The Trump administration has accused Maduro of narco-trafficking, illegal migration, and regional destabilisation, even placing a \$50 million bounty on him. Venezuelan officials, however, claim the US aims to seize control of the country's vast oil reserves. The future of Venezuela's ruling regime now remains highly uncertain



AGENCIES

Caracas, Jan 3: The United States hit Venezuela with a "large-scale strike" early Saturday and said its president had been captured and flown out of the country after months of intense pressure on Nicolas Maduro's government — an extraordinary nighttime operation announced by President Donald Trump on social media hours after the attack. The legal authority for the strike — and whether

US to run Venezuela for now: Trump

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Saturday that US is 'going to run' Venezuela until safe transition of power can take place. Trump said the US planned to run Venezuela until a transition of power can take place. He claimed the American presence was already in place, though there were no immediate signs that the US was running the country. "We're going to run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition," Trump said at a Mar-a-Lago news conference where he boasted that this "extremely successful operation should serve as warning to anyone who would threaten American sovereignty or endanger American lives." Venezuelan state TV broadcast live images of small groups of Maduro supporters taking to the streets in Caracas in protest.

Trump consulted Congress beforehand — was not immediately clear. The stunning, lightning-fast American military action, which plucked a

nation's sitting leader from office, echoed the US invasion of Panama that led to the surrender and seizure of its leader, Manuel Antonio

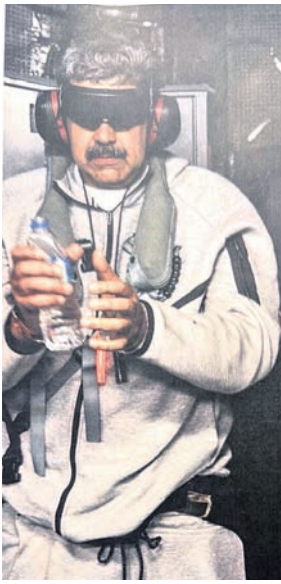


Image of Nicolas Maduro posted by Donald Trump on Truth Social

Noriega, in 1990 — exactly 36 years ago Saturday. US Attorney General Pam Bondi said Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, would face charges after an indictment in New York. Bondi vowed in a social media post that the couple would "soon face the full wrath of American justice on American soil

in American courts." Maduro was indicted in 2020 on "narco-terrorism" conspiracy charges, but it was not previously known that his wife had been. Early Saturday, multiple explosions rang out, and low-flying aircraft swept through the Venezuelan capital. Maduro's government accused the US of attacking civilian and military installations, calling it an "imperialist attack" and urging citizens to take to the streets. Maduro, Trump said, "has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out of the Country. This operation was done in conjunction with US Law Enforcement." The attack itself lasted less than 30 minutes, and the explosions — at least seven blasts — sent people rushing into the streets, while others took to social media to report what they'd seen and heard. It was not known if there were any deaths or injuries on either side or if more actions lay ahead, though Trump said in his post that the strikes were carried out "successfully."

MORE P10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 3: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday recommended to the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) to conduct examinations for filling up an additional 151 vacant posts, including 14 in the state civil service. The CM's direction in this regard came in the wake of a widespread resentment over OPSC's December 31 notification for filling up 314 vacancies in seven services, excluding OAS, OFS and Odisha Revenue Service (ORS). The OPSC had issued a notification for the Odisha Civil Services Examination 2025. These 314 posts comprised vacancies in seven services, of which 104 posts were reserved for women. The only Group A service, Odisha Police Service (OPS), has 12 vacancies. Group B services like the Odisha Taxation and Accounts Service and Odisha Labour Service have vacancies of 176 and 98 posts respectively, while Odisha Skill Development and Employment Service, Odisha Tourism Service, Odisha Excise Ser-



vice and Odisha Cooperative Service have 10, eight, six and four vacancies respectively. "However, keeping in view the resentment among job aspirants, the chief minister intervened and reviewed all these posts and directed to fill the vacant posts," an official release issued by the CMO said. The OPSC has been requested to fill 14 posts in OAS, 113 in Odisha Revenue Service (ORS), 16 in Odisha Transport Service (OTS) and 8 in Odisha Welfare Service (OWS). A total of 151 more posts have been recommended, it said. The CMO said that the chief minister's recommendation will help many youth aspiring for these posts. Majhi maintained that the state government is giving top priority to the employment sector, and about 40,000 government posts have been filled in the last 18 months

Woman BDO attacked by BJP leader at office

Bhubaneswar: A woman OAS officer was allegedly attacked by a local BJP leader at her office chamber in Rajnagar block headquarters in Kendrapara district, triggering protests. While the entire incident has been captured in CCTV installed in the office chamber, the day-to-day work at the block office came to a standstill as the staff resorted to ceasing work to register a protest against the attack on the woman officer. Vehicular traffic in the town was disrupted as BJD workers blocked the entry road to the town.

P5

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I stopped buying. When I feel like smoking, I just inhale air 10-12 times

4 killed in stone quarry explosion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Jan 3: A powerful explosion rocked a stone quarry near Gopalpur village under Motanga police limits in Dhenkanal district Saturday evening, reportedly killing four workers.

The blast occurred around 6 pm in the stone quarry at Gopalpur near Badalo under Odapada tehsil. However, officials have not confirmed the casualties, and no formal statement had been issued by authorities when reports last came in.

Odapada tehsildar and Motanga police rushed to the site and began a search and preliminary inquiry in the dark. Investigators said poor visibility hampered efforts to determine whether explosive materials used for blasting were still present at the site.

According to local accounts, six workers were inside the quarry during blasting operations when soil and debris reportedly collapsed on them as a vibrator was



being used, triggering the explosion. Authorities are examining whether safety norms were violated.

Videos and claims related to the incident have circulated widely on social media, adding to speculation. Officials said a clearer picture would emerge after daylight inspection and a detailed investigation.

Dhenkanal SP Abhinav Sonkar said Motanga police were sent to the site after receiving information. He said the late hour has created difficulties in the search operation and details of the incident remain unclear so far.

1 killed, 2 injured as bus hits auto in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 3: One person was killed and two others injured after a state-run bus rammed into an auto-rickshaw at the busy Rupali Chhak in Bhubaneswar Saturday afternoon, police said.

The auto-rickshaw was waiting at the traffic stop when the city hit it from rear, they said. The driver of the auto-rickshaw died in the accident, while two passengers in it were injured, they added.

"One of the passengers is undergoing treatment at the Capital Hospital, and another injured was discharged after treatment," an officer said. The bus driver, who fled the spot after the accident, was later arrested and booked for culpable homicide, he said.

"He could not clearly explain why the accident happened," the officer said.

The damaged vehicles were removed from the road and traffic flow restored, police said.

P3

How did people invest in ancient Greece

AGENCIES

Perth, Jan 3: In Antiquity, there were no stock exchanges or complex financial products, but a true culture of investment already existed. Whether it was land, goods, or works of art, the Greeks and Romans, like today, sought to secure and grow their wealth despite economic and political risks. "All I want is an income of 20,000 sesterces from safe investments," proclaims a character in a poem by Juvenal (1st-2nd century AD), the Roman poet. Today, 20,000 sesterces would be equivalent to approximately €170,000 in investment interest. Anyone would be very happy to have such a passive annual income.

As the Roman writer Petronius (1st century AD) once wrote, "He who has money



Roman gold ingot, dating to 375 AD, in Bank of England Museum

sails with a favorable wind and governs his fortune as he sees fit." So, in practical terms, how did the Ancients invest their money?

In ancient Greece and Rome, there was no stock market for buying and trading shares of a company. If one wanted to invest their cash, one of the most common options was to acquire

gold or silver. This was done to protect against currency fluctuations and inflation. Metals were generally stored either as ingots or as objects, such as jewellery. Storing these goods could be risky and made them vulnerable to theft.

The Roman poet Virgil (70-19 BC) describes the estate of a wealthy landowner, which included "a high

dwelling, where talents of chased silver are deeply buried," alongside "heaps of worked and unworked gold."

A talent was the largest unit of monetary measurement in ancient Greece and Rome, and was equivalent to approximately 25 kg of silver.

Besides metals, agricultural products were also highly valued, particularly cereals, olive oil, and wine. To profit from agricultural goods, land was purchased and these products were traded on the market.

They also invested in and traded precious goods, such as works of art. When the Romans sacked the city of Corinth in 146 BC, they stole its famous collection of works of art, and then later sold these masterpieces at auction for considerable sums in order to provide profits for the Roman state.



Synthetic Cough Syrups Are Causing the Deaths of Innocent Children

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For Cough and Cold, 100% Safe and Effective:



Bronchom, Swasari Vati, Swasari Gold, Swasari Pravahi and Swasari Avaleha

Replace Chemical, Synthetic & Animal-Based Nutraceuticals Choose Nutrela's Natural Nutrition Range instead.



An Alternative to Synthetic - Dental, Hair and Skin Care, Choose Natural Products from Patanjali.



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FORTUNE FORECAST




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ARIES



Ganesha says you are going to have the time of your life; that is if you make the right plans. At work, there will be the usual ups and downs. But plan the evening well and you may surprise yourself.

TAURUS



It is quite possible that today, you will remain decisive and determined on new joint ventures, predicts Ganesha. The results may fall below your expectations in the afternoon. Fight off stress with a candlelight dinner with your sweetheart, says Ganesha.

GEMINI




It is quite probable that your sweetheart will take most of your time either in person or in thoughts, predicts Ganesha. A casual conversation with someone special in the afternoon may lead to exhilarating moments later in the day. You may fill your wardrobe with new clothes.

CANCER



Today, you will feel blessed. And blessed you are, indeed. You will have the proverbial Midas touch, albeit with a slight difference: you will not touch the people you love and turn them to gold. You will just touch their heart and make them happier.

LEO



There are good days, bad days, and then there are days like today, when Ganesha foresees a mixed bag of fortunes for you. Make your family the centre of your world, and show them the love and affection that they deserve. Early in the day, you may make an attempt to sever ties with your spouse or life partner. Proceed cautiously and deal with this in an open manner. Just make sure that the tension does not escalate within the family.

VIRGO



Handicrafts business will fascinate you today, predicts Ganesha. People will be left wondering what fuels all that dedication and commitment – at work and at home! Ganesha advises you to consummate those bonds of love and roll in the hay with your spouse.

LIBRA



Ganesha's got a feeling that today is going to be a good day for you, as you go ahead and indulge yourself and the ones around you. Chances are that you may shop till you drop, and spend a sizeable amount buying goodies for your loved ones later in the evening. In matters of business, Ganesha foresees you displaying your maturity, and setting an example for others in the team.

SCORPIO



Self-improvement is on your mind today. Self-employed people should expect good profits in business. Expenditure may be more at work today. At the end of the day, the cocktail of work and family will be a heady, pleasing mixture, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS




You act responsible today, and plan a secured future for your kids. For that matter, you go for long-term investments. You will put in extra efforts at work and come out with flying colours. In the evening, you are in a mood to paint the town red. Have a lovely evening!

CAPRICORN



In total control of yourself, you will have the tendency to dominate those around you. It's a trait that keeps resurging at intervals, making you feel all powerful, says Ganesha. Later in the day, you may even enrol yourself for a personality development course to hone your communication and professional skills. But it won't be sailing smooth all throughout. An unfortunate incident at the end of the day may take you off guard, so be careful of your moves, Ganesha advises.

AQUARIUS



Time is money, and you need to understand it fast! Scrap your old schedules and plan new ones that work. Ganesha suggests that the good old planner will work wonders in organising your work. Remember the old adage? A stitch in time saves nine. So get going.

PISCES



Friends are the subject of all your activities today. You will make new acquaintances that will prove to be helpful in times of need. A loved one will make you happy like you've never been before. A candlelight dinner with your sweetheart is probably in the offing, says Ganesha.



JESSIE'S NEW AMBITIONS

Jessie J wants to work in comedy after a difficult year where she underwent treatment after being diagnosed with breast cancer. The 37-year-old pop star revealed in June she had been diagnosed with breast cancer and after undergoing treatment in 2025, she is ready to move on and enjoy life this year.

GOULDING TALKS DATING WOMEN

Ellie Goulding hinted she has dated women in between “toxic, fleeting and passionate” relationships with men. The 39-year-old singer – who has son Alfred, four, with ex-husband Caspar Jopling and is currently expecting a child with boyfriend Beau Minnleir – revealed she has enjoyed romances with women in the past.



Hansika's unusual resolution

Mumbai: Actress Hansika Motwanni has shared a rather unusual New Year resolution, revealing that she plans “to be late” in 2026.

Taking to her Instagram stories, the actress posted a glimpse of herself waiting to begin her Pilates session. She went on to humorously mention that her resolution this year is to stop being ready ahead of time.

“This year and my new year resolution to be late and not be ready before time, if it's for my Pilates class,” Hansika wrote as the caption.

An avid user of social media, Hansika shared a video of herself getting eyebrow microblading on her Youtube channel.

A few weeks ago, she shared a “pointless reel,” giving a glimpse into her mood while getting ready.

The video captured a candid, light-hearted side of Hansika, as she playfully embraced the moment with *Sanun Nahar Wale Pool* by Noor Jehan playing in the background along with a text overlay that read: “The songs I listen to while I look like this.”

Talking about the actress, Hansika began her career as a child actor in Hindi films, and later went on to appear in lead roles in Telugu films, including *Desamuduru*, *Kantri* and *Maska*.



Mumbai: Actress Minissha Lamba, who has worked in films such as *Corporate*, *Bachna Ae Haseeno* and *Bheja Fry 2*, has completed five years of embracing a vegetarian lifestyle, a decision she says has transformed her life in more ways than one.

Minissha took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself looking stunning in a black top paired with a monotone skirt. She reflected on how the change began not as a lifelong resolution, but as a simple one-month commitment driven by her conscience.

Minissha wrote in the caption section: “Today is 5 years, since I turned vegetarian. Can't believe I made it this far. It started out within a month. Which is always a Long Time to give up anything that you like. But the thing is, I wasn't feeling good about eating meat for years leading up to that point.”

She shared that for years she struggled with guilt over eating meat despite having vegetarian choices available.

“Constant guilt over eating animals when there were vegetarian options available. I didn't wanna live in this messed up no man's land of eating and feeling guilty. The guilt had to go. And intellectualising my meat consumption wasn't working anymore,” she said.

Minissha on impact of vegetarianism

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday has set some goals for the year 2026. Through her latest social media post, Ananya revealed that in the New Year, she plans to manifest a special fitness goal, doing a chin-up.

The Kesari: Chapter 2 actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram handle and posted a picture of herself trying a chin-up.

“2026 manifestation is to get a chin up (Crying face and fingers crossed emojis),” the text on her photograph from the gym read.

Ananya loves to stay on top of her fitness game to maintain that picture-perfect physique and also motivates netizens by providing a peek into her workout sessions time and again.

On another note, Ananya recently graced the new episode of the popular reality show *The Great Indian Kapil Show* with her *Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri* co-star Kartik Aaryan.

During the episode, Ananya and Kartik were seen calling out red flags, green flags, and relationship rules of Gen Z.

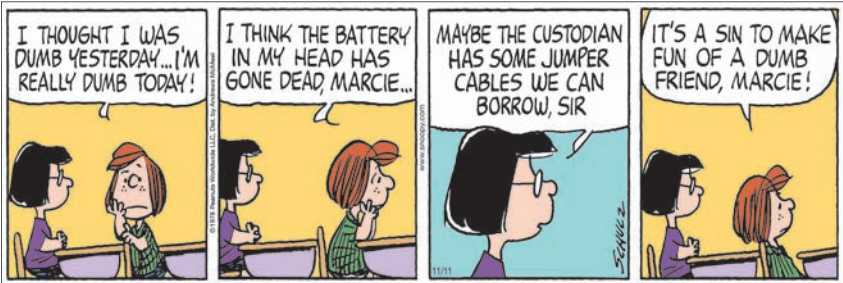
Ananya further disclosed her dad Chunky Panday's masterplan.

She explained that the *Housefull* actor believes that turning up together means earning less, so the smarter move is for each family member to appear individually across *The Great Indian Kapil Show* seasons and keep the money coming.

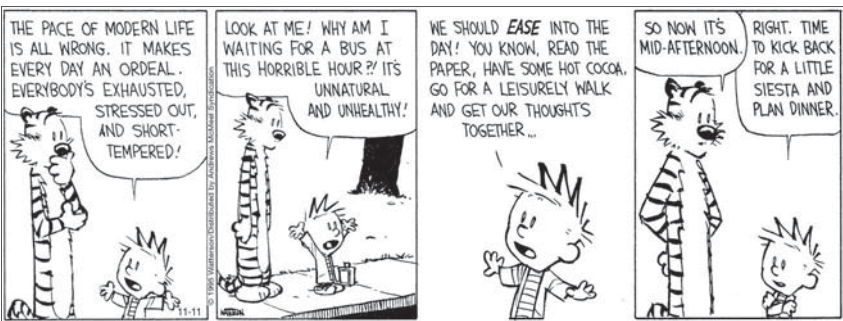
Ananya sets fresh goals



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

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- Across

1 Grape variety

5 Plumbing problem

8 Arrest type

10 European blackbird

11 Bagel topper

12 Tonic's partner

13 Raspy

15 Tough spot

18 Slicker, briefly

19 Samoan staple

20 Vesuvius

23 Wedding helper

24 City in SW England

25 Clever tactic

26 Fencing words (2,5)

Down

1 Chocolate source

2 Standards

3 Tropical songbirds

4 Meek

5 Paint ingredient

6 One of the Leeward Islands

7 Quick look

13 Bah follower

14 Spirits

16 Summer activity

17 Sound quality

19 Shindig

21 Express

22 Gown fabric

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

S	C	A	M	P	E	R	T	U	B	A
E	D	L	A	O	A	O				
M	E	Z	Z	A	N	I	N	E	C	A
I		C	S				K	A	R	E
S	O	B	E	P	I	S	C	O	P	A
O	C	N	O	A	S					
G	L	O	B	A	L	C	L	I	C	H
U	K	R	B	L	K					
I	M	M	E	D	I	A	T	E	S	E
T	A		R	A		E				
A	U	K		T	O	B	O	G	G	A
R	E	A	E	U	P	T				
B	R	A	N		R	E	E	N	T	R

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

P-Pas: Govt introduces Aadhaar-based payment

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 3: In a first, the state government has implemented Aadhaar-based payments to ensure that only genuine farmers registered on Paddy Procurement Automation System (P-PAS) portal receive payment directly into their bank accounts.

According to a government notification, paddy procurement has commenced in 18 districts of the state during this Kharif season. A total of 2,71,318 farmers have been able to sell paddy at their nearest mandis while payment has been successfully credited to 1,85,820 farmers. So far, ₹2,247.52 crore towards minimum support price (MSP) and ₹693.51 crore towards input assistance have been disbursed.

The notification said nearly 1 per cent of the total payments has been identified as failed cases, primarily due to frozen accounts, Aadhaar de-seeding, pending KYC, bank accounts reaching the maximum transaction limit and other reasons.

All such failed cases have been identified, and the farmers concerned are being contacted directly from Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) headquarters on their registered mobile numbers and advised to visit their respective bank branches to undertake necessary corrections. At district levels, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Society (DRCS) offices are also contacting such farmers to facilitate timely rectification of bank details and ensure prompt payment.

In this regard, farmers are informed to update their KYC details at the earliest. For any



For any kind of clarification or assistance, farmers have been advised to contact OSCSC headquarters in person or by dialling toll-free helpline number 1967

clarification or assistance, they may contact OSCSC headquarters in person or by dialling toll-free helpline number 1967.

The government is also conducting a satellite survey to verify agricultural plots to ensure transparency and fairness in the ongoing paddy procurement process.

Using satellite imagery, suspected non-cultivated paddy plots are being systematically identified and subjected to thorough field verification. This process helps confirm genuine paddy cultivation in registered land parcels and accurately detect non-cultivated areas.

A total of 26,14,137 plots across 30 districts have been identified for field survey till

January 2. Of these, verification has been completed for 24,94,437 plots. Official sources said all plots flagged as suspected through satellite imagery are undergoing mandatory field verification. Based on the verification completed till the said date, 5,46,591 plots have been confirmed as paddy-cultivated land, while approximately 19 lakh plots have been identified as non-paddy cultivated land.

DRCS officials have been directed to issue show-cause notices to farmers who have erroneously registered non-cultivated land as paddy fields under the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26.

The satellite verification process follows a three-step mechanism. Initially, suspected plots are identified using satellite imagery, followed by physical verification by district officials. In the final stage, the verified plots are approved by the DRCS authorities at the district level.

Once approval is granted, tokens are generated for plots confirmed to have paddy cultivation. However, tokens are not issued for plots that remain classified as suspected or are found to be non-paddy land.

Body of missing elderly man recovered in Koraput

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Jan 3: The decomposed body of an elderly man, missing since December 17, was recovered from the Hadput-Geruput hill range under Nandapur police station limits. After post-mortem examination, the body was identified and handed over to his family.

According to police sources, the body was recovered Friday from an open forest area of the Hadput-Geruput hills. As the deceased was initially unidentified, Nandapur police had appealed to the public for help in establishing his identity.

Saturday, the deceased was identified as Subarao Kamudi, husband of Tulasa Kamudi, a resident of Harijan Sahi, Kulabir village under Padua police station. Family members said Subarao had been missing since December 17.

Nandapur IIC stated that after receiving information about the missing person, the police followed due procedure, conducted a post-mortem examination, and completed all legal formalities.

"The body was identified with the help of family members, and after post-mortem, it was handed over to them," the IIC said.

Guv, CM pay tributes to JB Patnaik on 99th birth anniv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 3: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday paid tributes to former chief minister Janaki Ballabh Patnaik on his 99th birth anniversary.

Patnaik served as the chief minister of Odisha from 1980 to 1989, and from 1995 to 1999. He also served as Governor of Assam from 2009 to 2014.

Kambhampati, in a social media post said, "On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Odisha's former chief minister, the late Janaki Ballabh Patnaik, a heartfelt tribute of devotion."

Majhi in a post on X said, "On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Janaki Ballabh Patnaik, former chief minister of Odisha, former Governor of Assam, and eminent literary practitioner, devout homage."

Former CM and BJD president Naveen Patnaik also paid tributes to Patnaik, popularly known as JB, remembering his contribution to Odisha's



progress. "I offer my tributes on the birth anniversary of former chief minister and eminent politician Janaki Ballabh Patnaik. His contributions to advancing Odisha on the path of development as well as to the welfare of the people will always be remembered," the BJD president posted on X.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in a message said, "Tribute on the birth anniversary of late Janaki Ballabh Patnaik, former chief minister of Odisha and

Governor of Assam."

Many senior Congress leaders garlanded the photograph of JB Patnaik at a memorial meeting held at Congress Bhawan here.

Former OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik described JB Patnaik as one of the architects of modern Odisha. "His vision, administrative acumen, and deep commitment to democratic values shaped the state. His intellectual legacy and contribution to literature and public life remain inspiring," he said.

Law student among 2 held for brown sugar smuggling

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 3: The Bhubaneswar Excise department Saturday arrested three persons, including a law student, for allegedly smuggling 265 grams of brown sugar in the City's Forest Park area.

The accused have been identified as Devi Prasad Das (30), a law student from the Bhimtangi area, Santosh Nayak (33) and Sukant Nayak (36).

According to Excise sources, officials received a tip-off about brown sugar being smuggled



among elite students and professionals in the City. Acting on the information, the Excise team tracked down the accused and arrested them inside Forest Park while they were allegedly attempting to sell the contraband. During the search,

265 grams of brown sugar was recovered from their possession.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the accused were procuring the contraband from Khurda and selling it in the city's Airport and Forest Park

areas. Sukant and Santosh are history-sheeters—Sukant is a habitual drug peddler, while Santosh had earlier spent six years in jail in connection with a murder case registered at the Janla outpost.

"Devi was involved in peddling drugs to college and university students as well as elite sections. He was also using social media and other connections to distribute drugs. After tracking him, we arrested him along with two other peddlers," said Bhubaneswar Excise SP Debasish Patel.

PATIENT, ATTENDANTS STUCK IN SLNMCH LIFT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Jan 3: In what has exposed glaring lapses in medical infrastructure and administrative preparedness at Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH), Koraput, a critically-ill patient was trapped inside a lift while being shifted to the General Medicine department Saturday, said sources.

The patient, father of advocate Krishna Sank, was rushed to SLNMCH after his health condition deteriorated. While the attendants were taking him

through the lift around 2pm, it suddenly stopped midway, leaving the patient and his attendants stranded for nearly 15 minutes.

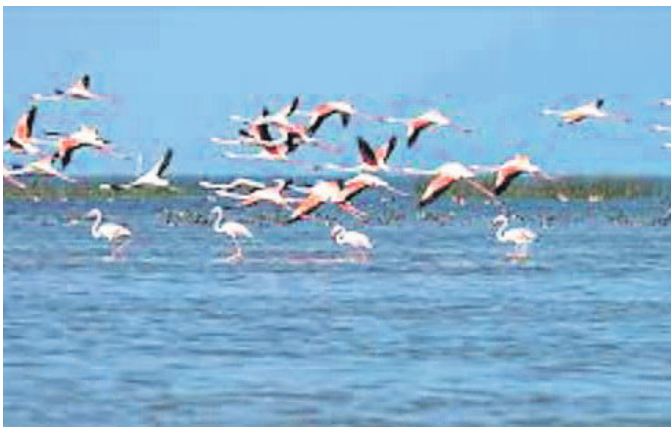
Pintu Sahu, who was accompanying the patient, said, "It was terrifying. The patient was serious, and there was no immediate response. In a medical college hospital, such negligence is unacceptable."

The incident has raised serious concerns over maintenance of essential facilities like lifts. Despite repeated assurances of improved healthcare services, such incidents highlight the gap between claims and ground reality.

Patients and attendants alleged that there was a delay in response from hospital authorities, pointing towards poor coordination and lack of emergency protocols.

Health activists and locals have demanded immediate intervention by the district administration, a thorough safety audit of hospital infrastructure, and accountability of those responsible, before a more serious tragedy occurs.

Govt to restore Chilika lake



Minister Harichandan says silting at the lake's mouth has disrupted its natural exchange of water with the sea

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 3: The Odisha government will soon undertake restoration work at Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and a designated Ramsar site, as its brackish character has been

adversely affected by silting at the lake's mouth.

Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan has directed Forest, Environment and Climate Change department officials, Chilika Development Authority (CDA), and IIT-Chennai to immediately initiate restoration measures and prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) based on comprehensive scientific studies.

Chairing a high-level meeting on biodiversity conservation and development of the Chilika region, the minister stated that the silting at the

lake's mouth has disrupted the natural exchange of water between the lake and the sea.

As a result, seawater is unable to enter the lake properly, affecting its brackish character and disturbing the ecological balance.

This disruption has led to noticeable fluctuations in fish populations and other marine species, posing a threat to the lake's rich biodiversity.

Discussions focused on dredging the blocked lake mouth, removing silt to improve water-holding capacity, conserving biodiversity, developing surrounding areas, and protecting the livelihoods of communities dependent on Chilika.

The minister said the CM would soon be briefed on the outcomes of the meeting, and the Central government would be apprised of the proposed action plan.

MP Sambit Patra, department's Principal Secretary Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma, IIT-Chennai Professor Neelanjana Saha, CDA Chief Executive Yogajay Nanda, and Chilika DFO Amlan Nayak were present in the meeting.

Neuralink can restore full body functionality: Musk

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 3: Billionaire Elon Musk Saturday said his brain-computer interface company Neuralink can possibly restore full body functionality.

The breakthrough focuses on the motor cortex, restoring "full body functionality" for people with severed spinal cords.

"I am confident at this point that restoring full body functionality is possible with Neuralink," the Tesla and SpaceX founder shared in a post on the social media platform X.

"Neuralink can essentially help bridge communications from the cortex, past the point in the neck or spine, where the nerves are damaged. It is possible from a physics standpoint to physically restore full body functionality," he said in a video post.

The motor cortex technology feature was announced by Musk in 2022, and the testing began in humans in the same year.

The device includes a chip



that replaces a small piece of bone and is connected to the brain via a series of thin, threaded electrodes. The company's N1 implant includes 1,024 electrodes distributed among 64 threads, according to the company's website.

In September, the company announced that it had implanted its device in 12 patients.

Meanwhile, January 1, Musk's California-based neurotechnology firm announced taking major steps toward re-

storing vision, with a brain implant that allows the visually impaired, even those blind from birth.

Blindsight, Neuralink's brain chip aimed at restoring vision, received "breakthrough device" designation from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in September 2024. The company is expected to begin high-volume production of the device this year.

"Neuralink will start high-volume production of

Neuralink will start high-volume production of brain-computer interface devices and move to a streamlined, almost entirely automated surgical procedure this year

brain-computer interface devices and move to a streamlined, almost entirely automated surgical procedure in 2026. Device threads will go through the dura without the need to remove it. This is a big deal," he shared on X.

According to Musk, Blindsight will help people who have lost both eyes, and they will be able to see. He also claimed that, provided the visual cortex remains intact, the device can restore vision even in people who have been blind since birth.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	28.2°	25.4°	Very dense fog
Min Temp	14.8°	13.4°	
Humidity	96%	96%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Woman BDO attacked by BJP leader at office



PNN & AGENCIES

Rajnagar, Jan 3: A woman OAS officer was allegedly attacked by a local BJP leader at her office chamber in Rajnagar block headquarters in Kendrapara district, triggering protests.

While the entire incident has been captured in CCTV installed in the office chamber, the day-to-day work at the block office came to a standstill as the staff resorted to ceasing work to register a protest against the attack on the woman officer.

Vehicular traffic in the town was disrupted as BJD workers blocked the entry road to the town.

The incident occurred Friday afternoon. BJP leader Lalit Kumar Behera, who contested unsuccessfully in the last Assembly polls, along with his supporters, allegedly barged into the chamber of Rajnagar BDO Tilottama Prusty and intimidated her to expedite some office work.

Later, he allegedly tried to attack her. However, Behera was stopped by his supporters from physically assaulting the woman officer on duty.

No FIR has been registered so far, while an administrative inquiry has been ordered.

“The Rajnagar BDO has

Curbs imposed as Talcher tops nationwide AQI list

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, Jan 3: The Angul district administration Saturday imposed a series of curbs in Talcher after air pollution in the city, a major industrial and coal hub, reached alarming levels making it the most polluted in the country.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) crossed 300, categorised as “very poor,” in six cities nationwide Saturday morning. Of these six cities, four are in Odisha.

With an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 355, Talcher ranked as the most polluted city in the country, followed by Angul at second place with an AQI of 329.

While conditions were severe Friday, there was no significant improvement Saturday, raising concerns over prolonged exposure and its impact on public health.

Officials warned that the high pollution levels pose serious risks to lung health, with even morning walkers reporting breathing discomfort.

In view of the “very poor” air quality in the Talcher Municipality area and keeping in mind the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage-II guidelines, the Angul district administration has issued an order under Section 163(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), as per Order No. 19.

Under the directive, multiple restrictions have been imposed across the Talcher Municipal Council area for the next seven days to curb pollution levels.

Under the measures, all construction activities will be prohibited daily from 6pm to 10am. Any demolition or earthwork



within the civic body limits has been banned. Roads under the municipality area, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) must be sprinkled with water at least three times a day.

Entry of heavy vehicles into Talcher has been completely barred. Open burning of garbage, burning of coal at roadside eateries, and lighting of any kind of open fire have been strictly prohibited.

Separate restrictions have been imposed on daytime movement of all coal and ash-laden trucks by the Talcher Sub-Collector and the regional transport officer. On National Highway 149, no truck will be allowed to operate without proper covering or tarpaulin.

The NHAI and the NH Division, Pallahara, have been directed to ensure regular water sprinkling at all their construction sites.

The order will remain in force for seven days unless extended. Police, municipal authorities, all executive agencies and the Regional Transport Office have been directed to en-

sure strict enforcement. The district administration has instructed the Talcher Sub-Divisional Magistrate to conduct daily monitoring and submit a daily compliance report to the office.

Residents alleged that amid prevailing cold conditions, commuting on roads has become extremely difficult due to dense dust and smoke. According to locals, nearly 80 per cent of Talcher’s population is suffering from respiratory ailments.

The soil and water in Talcher are already contaminated, and now even the air has become heavily polluted. While the state and Central governments earn crores of rupees in revenue from Talcher, residents allege they are being deprived of basic rights.

As people cry out in distress over the worsening pollution, public representatives, the administration, the pollution control board and industrial authorities are accused of remaining silent spectators, knowingly ignoring the crisis. Even access to clean air has now become a rarity in Talcher.

Mining officer suspended for nexus with sand mafia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Jan 3: The Jagatsinghpur district mining officer has been suspended on charge of collusion with leaseholders and sand mafia in illegal sand mining.

The suspension of Satish Kumar Tarai came 17 days after the Sub-Collector flagged the matter and District Collector J Sonal wrote to the state government seeking action against the officer December 16. The department ordered the suspension Saturday as part of disciplinary proceedings.

In an official order issued under Letter No-96, the state government said the action was taken on the Governor’s directions, as clarified by the additional secretary. During the suspension period, Tarai’s headquarters will be the Directorate of Mines and Geology. He has been barred from leaving the headquarters without prior permission from the competent authority.

Copies of the suspension order have been forwarded to the Directorate of Mines and Geology in Bhubaneswar, the personal secretaries to the departmental minister, the Chief Secretary, and the Additional Chief Secretary of the Steel and Mines department, as well as the Jagatsinghpur District Collector and District Magistrate for information.

Residents of Jagatsinghpur district have been complaining of rampant illegal sand mining in the area. Unchecked movement of overloaded sand-laden Hyva trucks has caused widespread public distress.

Acting on complaints, authorities conducted a major crackdown November 25 near the Kilpal sand ghat on the Mahanadi river under Tirtol police limits. During the raid, officials seized 46 Hyva trucks loaded with sand and three



excavators allegedly involved in illegal extraction and transportation of sand. Five drivers and a mechanic were arrested at the time.

In a similar operation Sub-Collector Prashant Kumar Tarai, over a tip-off and with assistance from district police, raided the Jaipur sand ghat in the same police jurisdiction December 11. The team seized 22 Hyva trucks. While three drivers were nabbed, others managed to flee.

During the raid, the concerned mining officer lodged a complaint at Tirtol police station. However, questions were raised over his role in the matter. Subsequently, Sub-Collector Tarai filed a complaint against the district mining officer at Jagatsinghpur police station. Based on the complaint, police registered a case (992/25) and launched an investigation. Fearing police action, the mining officer has reportedly remained absent from duty since then.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/
E-Tender/100, Dated. 31.12.2025
e-Tender/NorthKUR-330-2025,
Dtd.: 26.12.2025

DESCRIPTION : STANDARDISATION OF HEIGHT GAUGES AT LEVEL CROSSINGS / ROAD UNDER BRIDGE / ROBI/ LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY WITH RDSO TYPE HEIGHT GAUGES UNDER SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (NORTH) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 288.60 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2.94,300/-, Completion Period : 10 (Ten) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 16.01.2026.

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : www.iरेps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer(s) / bidder(s) can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-968/Q/25-26 | Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY INDICATIVE NOTICE

EXTENSION OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE UPTO 15.01.2026 OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO. SBP/Pers/Staff/Re-engagement/Loco Pilot/2025, DATED 10.10.2025

The detailed Notification No. SBP/Pers/Staff/Re-engagement/Loco Pilot, dated 10.10.2025 is available in East Coast Railways website on the following Path: www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

About us Division > Sambalpur Division > Recruitment.

PR-972/Q/25-26 | Divisional Railway Manager (Personnel) / Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETELCONBBST-379E, Dated : 27.12.2025

NAME OF WORK : DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, MODIFICATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 25KV OHE FOR NEW COACHING COMPLEX LINE BETWEEN MANCHESWAR BHUBANESWAR NEW STATION AND DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, MODIFICATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF EXISTING GANTRY AT PATIA SP DUE TO INFRINGEMENT AND PROVISION OF AT BETWEEN MANCHESWAR TO BHUBANESWAR NEW IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 390.84 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 3,45,400/-, Completion Period of the Work : 6 Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of 19.01.2026.

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.iरेps.gov.in

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

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

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Con-III) / PR-216/CI/25-26 | Bhubaneswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 63/ET/SBP/ENGG/2025-26, Dated : 26.12.2025

(1) e-Tender No. 63-eT-DENC-SBP-25
NAME OF WORK: CONSTRUCTION OF A STANDARD RPF POST BUILDING AT BALANGIR RAILWAY STATION WITH MALE / FEMALE HAZAT, LADIES CHANGING ROOM, MALKHANA, CCTV ROOM, ETC. AT PLATFORM-1.

Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,26,04,152.36, Bid Security : ₹ 2,13,100/-

(2) e-Tender No. 64-eT-DENC-SBP-25

NAME OF WORK: CONSTRUCTION OF A GRP OUT POST BUILDING & STANDARD RPF POST BUILDING AT BARGARH ROAD RAILWAY STATION WITH MALE / FEMALE HAZAT, LADIES CHANGING ROOM, MALKHANA, CCTV ROOM, ETC. AT PLATFORM-1.

Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 2,15,61,223.39, Bid Security : ₹ 2,57,900/-

Completion Period for the Work : 10 (Ten) Months (for Sl. No. 1) and 12 (twelve) Months (for Sl. No. 2).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 19.01.2026 (for both Tenders).

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.iरेps.gov.in

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

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) / PR-970/Q/25-26 | Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2025-42, Dt. 22.12.2025

NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF CIBs & Tibs AT BAMUR, BOINDA, ATTABIRA, DUNGIRPALI, LOISINGHA, SAINITALA, THERUBALI, BISSAM CUTTACK, LANJAGARH ROAD & NORLA ROAD RAILWAY STATIONS OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION. SCOPE OF THE WORK: (1) CIB AT PLATFORM 1 & 2 OF BAMUR, PLATFORM 1 & 2 OF BOINDA, PLATFORM 1 & 2 OF ATTABIRA, PLATFORM 1, 2 & 3 OF DUNGIRPALI, PLATFORM 1 & 2 OF SAINITALA, PLATFORM 1, 2 & 3 OF THERUBALI, PLATFORM 1, 2 & 3 OF BISSAM CUTTACK, PLATFORM 1 & 2 OF LANJAGARH ROAD AND PLATFORM 1, 2, 3 & 4 OF NORLA ROAD (2) TIB AT BAMUR, BOINDA, ATTABIRA, DUNGIRPALI, SAINITALA, THERUBALI, BISSAM CUTTACK, LANJAGARH ROAD, NORLA ROAD

Tender Value in (₹) : 5,65,99,991.60, **BID SECURITY (₹) :** 4,33,000.00

Date and time of closing of Tender : At 1100 Hrs. of 19.01.2026

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.iरेps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) / PR-965/Q/25-26 | Sambalpur

70-yr-old detained for ‘rape’ of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 3: Police Saturday detained a 70-year-old man in connection with the alleged rape of a minor girl in the Khetrajpur police station area of Sambalpur city.

According to sources, the 16-year-old girl was alone at her residence Saturday evening when the accused, a neighbour of the victim, allegedly entered the house and raped her.

After family members returned home, the victim reportedly narrated the incident to them. Acting on a complaint, police reached the spot and detained the accused, who was later taken to the police station for questioning. The victim has undergone medical examination.

A case (1/26) has been registered in this connection and further investigation is underway, said Khetrajpur IIC Anil Pradhan.

Gajapati teacher found drawing dual pensions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mohana, Jan 3: A retired government school teacher in Gajapati district allegedly received two pensions simultaneously for nearly 15 years, triggering a formal investigation by the state treasury recently came to light.

According to official records, the case pertains to a former headmaster who retired in 2010 and is accused of drawing duplicate pension benefits under the same name, raising serious questions about lapses in administrative oversight and financial controls within the Education department.

The Directorate of Treasuries & Inspection (DTI) has issued a letter directing the Mohana Block Education Officer (BEO) and the Block Development Officer (BDO) to conduct a detailed inquiry into

the matter. The directive was issued vide Letter No. 12131 dated November 20, 2025.

The retired teacher, identified as Radhakrushna Acharya, had served as the headmaster of Government Project Upper Primary School at Betarsing village under Mohana panchayat. He retired from service September 30, 2010.

Following his retirement, pension benefits were sanctioned with effect from February 14, 2011, based on a recommendation submitted by the then BDO. However, documents indicate that another pension approval in his name was again processed April 12, 2012, based on a separate recommendation, resulting in two pensions being disbursed simultaneously from October 1, 2010.

Officials said the alleged duplication continued uninterrupted



for nearly 15 years without detection, even as several retired teachers across the district reportedly struggled to receive their rightful pension benefits.

Sources in the state treasury said the case is part of a larger statewide review, which has reportedly identified 32 retired teachers who have been drawing two pensions since 2010.

When contacted, Acharya claimed he was unaware that two pensions were being credited to his account.

He said that if an excess amount had been paid, the government could recover the money from his pension.

Mohana BEO Narendra Behera confirmed that the retired teacher was receiving two pensions and said an inquiry was underway to ascertain how the irregularity occurred. The incident has sparked debate among local intellectuals and civil society members.

Tiger census begins in Ghumusar forest div

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Jan 3: The tiger census has begun in several forest divisions under the Berhampur Regional Forest Circle, including Ghumusar North and South divisions, after a delay caused by technical glitches in the online reporting portal, forest officials said Saturday.

The census, which started Friday, will continue till January 7 in Ghumusar North, Ghumusar South, Boudh, Berhampur and Baliguda forest divisions. Officials said areas showing preliminary signs of tiger presence will later be monitored using trap cameras for about a month.

During the first phase, forest personnel will conduct foot surveys for three days, covering up to 5 km daily to identify pugmarks, scat and other indicators of tiger movement. This will be followed by three more days of evidence collection. Officials said data on other wildlife species, including elephants and gaurs, will also be collected, along with vegetation details of the surveyed areas. In addition, genetic analysis and satellite data will be mapped as part of the exercise. Daily reports will be uploaded to the central portal, officials said.

Earlier, tiger census operations were conducted between November 15 and 21 in the Phulbani and Paralakhemundi forest divi-

sions under the same regional circle. However, the exercise in remaining divisions was postponed due to some technical glitches in the portal. The census resumed after the system was rectified.

North Ghumusar divisional forest officer Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty said 74 teams have been deployed for the exercise under the supervision of Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs) and range officers. Forest staff had undergone training in November ahead of the census.


India conducts a nationwide tiger census every four years. Officials said the findings would help shape future tiger conservation strategies at the national level.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

BOI

Bank of India

 Indian Bank ALLAHABAD		ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR At: Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur - 768003		APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)	
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Chatuanka Branch for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon.</p> <p>The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</p>					
CHATUANKA BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors		Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property	
Borrowers: 1) M/s. Shree Shyam Store, Prop.: Mr. Anand Kumar Agrawal (Firm), 2) Mr. Anand Kumar Agrawal, S/o: Mr. Amitchand Agrawal, Both are At: Kadopada, Ward No.: 10, Patnagarh, Bolangir, Odisha - 767025 / Guarantor / Mortgagor: Mrs. Meena Agrawal, W/o: Mr. Anand Kumar Agrawal, At: Kadopada, Ward No.: 10, Patnagarh, Bolangir, Odisha - 767025		₹24,88,731/- as on 08.10.2025 + interest and cost thereon	09.10.2025 / 30.12.2025	All that piece and parcel of property recorded in the name of Smt. Meena Agrawal, W/o: Mr. Anand Agrawal under Plot No.: 2006/6436/ 10175, Area: Ac.0.054dec. under Khata No.: 678/2986, At: Kadopada, Ward No.: 10, Mouza: Jugeswar Meher, Bounded by North: Jugeswar Meher, South: Road & Duryodhan Mishra, East: Jugeswar Meher, West: Anand Agrawal.	
Place: Sambalpur, Date: 03.01.2026		Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank			

“

Higher always higher! Let us never be satisfied with what is accomplished.



THE MOTHER

Dragon Dominance

One of the more interesting things to look forward to in 2026 is the rivalry between the two great powers of our age.

The United States has enjoyed a full century of global dominance from the end of the World War I (the US entry in the final stages of the trench-war standoff was thought to be decisive against imperial Germany) in 1918 to the present time. This period of dominance is ending if it is not over already.

In 2000, the United States ruled over global trade. Today it is China which is the largest partner for more than 150 nations. For many there is no option: New India is reluctant to engage with Beijing but is forced to import more from China than from any other nation. Winning the trade wars globally has given China the sort of leverage that perhaps even the US did not have at its peak a quarter century ago.

China takes in \$3 billion in trade surplus per day, which is astonishing, and that is what its \$ 1.1 trillion surplus for 2025 means. This will increase this year because of momentum. China exported 10 lakh cars in 2020 and five years later this became 70 lakh cars. And these cars are getting better and cheaper, meaning even more adoption globally.

In renewable energy, making the devices that produce solar and wind energy, China has no competitor. It has 85% global market share in the former and some 60% in the latter. Some 70% of the world’s electric vehicle batteries are made in China. It makes half or more of the world’s steel, aluminium and cement. About three fourths of the world’s drones are Chinese. More than half of the world’s ships are now made in China, particularly the most complicated ones: LNG tankers, cruise ships, large military vessels and of course container ships that carry all the goods around the globe.

Under president Trump, the US tried to bully the world with tariffs. China alone stood and punched back successfully while most nations including New India have ‘eaten the tariffs’ as Trump puts it.

But China gave it back and won. Trump backed down from his escalation, and today the US defence industry has to go to Beijing cap in hand to beg for the magnets and materials without which they cannot make their missiles and jets. A few weeks ago Trump eased the export controls on high end chips from Nvidia to China but Xi Jinping said China would not buy them and would make their own, even if they were slightly less efficient for now. Last month, a report claimed that China had made a breakthrough in the only remaining high-tech sector where it had been denied access: lithography for chips.

This did not surprise people because it is generally understood that if something is linked to manufacturing, however complicated it is, China will get it done. The same applies to commercial aircraft, which for more than six decades has been a duopoly enjoyed by Boeing in the US and Airbus in Europe. China introduced its commercial jet last year and in 2026 we will see wider adoption of it. The bits that are for now imported: the engine turbines, the landing gear, some software, will be made local.

China commissioned its first indigenous high-end aircraft carrier a few months ago, and this year will likely bring out its first nuclear-powered one. After that happens, replicating and even improving it will be a piece of cake for the global manufacturing powerhouse.

A US defence report said that in 10 years’ time China would have almost as many carriers as the US has today (which is 11) and would in fact have more in the western Pacific, which is where the action is. The same situation is to be found in the air and China in 2025 showed fighter aircraft which were ahead of the aging American fleet.

The US dominance was in large part powered by the fact that the world’s talent migrated to America. This openness came with some advantages for Indians, particularly the middle class, because of our unique anglophone advantage. The Trump policies have ended that as we can see with the H1B programme’s fees and the problems in the US universities.

China, like India, has never welcomed immigrants. But it is comfortable with its uniformity and has headed off some of the issues that population stagnation has brought through vigorous deployment of industrial technology.

In 2018, China first felt open American hostility through trade. It anticipated what was coming and spent the next seven years preparing itself, the only nation to do so. It was ready by the time Trump returned to power a year ago and it has now become unstoppable.

It spent that time in ensuring that it would not be dependent but would instead become ‘atmanirbhar.’ It achieved this so fully in such a short period of time that it is now the world that has become dependent on it.

It has done so by going the opposite route the US has taken. It has increased the role of government, it has curbed the excesses of corporates, it has rejected the most advanced technology and chosen to make its own. It forced banks to stop lending to real estate and fund industry instead.

All of that planning and execution has put it in the place where it is today, the only serious challenger for global dominance to a US that is ageing in population, closing itself to the world and falling behind.

It will be fascinating to see what new developments this year will bring in this great rivalry of our time between the two modern giants.



Aakar Patel

In 2018, China first felt open American hostility through trade. It anticipated what was coming and spent the next seven years preparing itself, the only nation to do so. It was ready by the time Trump returned to power a year ago

FOCUS MEDICINE

PAINFUL PROHIBITION



A new initiative called ClusterFree has launched global open letters calling on governments to provide legal access to psychedelics for people with cluster headache. I have signed, and I hope that you will, too

attacks for months. Patients have reported anecdotally that vaporized DMT, another psychedelic drug, aborts attacks seconds after they begin.

The problem is that in almost every jurisdiction, psilocybin, LSD, and DMT are prohibited substances. Psilocybin has a long history of ritual use by Indigenous peoples in Mexico and Central America. More recently, psilocybin and LSD have been used by millions of people for recreational as well as religious purposes.(I tried LSD in the 1970s, with a friend supervising. I enjoyed the trip but didn't feel a need to take it again.)

Switzerland provides a model for reconciling the need for compassionate treatment with the need for legal barriers against the widespread use of drugs that should be taken under supervision. Since 2014, the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health can authorize medical practitioners to use prohibited substances as a last resort to treat patients who have exhausted other remedies.

In 2024, 723 patients were treated with MDMA, LSD, or

psilocybin. The majority of these treatments were for mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD, but 16 patients were treated with either psilocybin or LSD for cluster headache or migraine. Nine cluster headache patients were treated at a single pain clinic in Zurich; a case series reported that eight showed temporary improvement, with the attacks ceasing in six.

Canada has a procedure for permitting the use of psilocybin to treat cluster headaches, but so far, it has been invoked for only one patient with that condition. Australia permits authorized psychiatrists to prescribe psychedelic substances, but only for patients suffering from depression or PTSD. In both these countries, there is a strong case for widening access.

Not surprisingly, when laws bar doctors from prescribing drugs that may spare their patients the agony of cluster headaches, some patients will buy the drugs on the street and take them at home. Even if these patients benefit, allowing doctors to prescribe the drugs

is the only way to guarantee the purity of the drug and that it will be taken under adequate supervision. Moreover, every patient who self-medicates is a lost opportunity to increase our knowledge of how best to treat this excruciating condition.

Standard methods of assessing the importance of treating a medical condition include counting the number of years of life saved, adjusted for the quality of those years. Although we could, in theory, assign a strongly negative weighting to a year lived with frequent cluster headaches, to do so would imply that it could be an improvement if the person with the condition were to die. Health economists are, no surprise, reluctant to use a metric that does this.

A recent article in Nature: Humanities and Social Science Communications found the funding provided in the United Kingdom for research on cluster headaches to be “orders of magnitude” less than that provided for multiple sclerosis, a condition that affects a similar number of people. The authors conclude that, given that we regard the provision of anesthesia for surgery to be essential, we should also recognize relief for extreme pain as essential.Finding ways to do so should warrant the highest funding priority.

A new initiative called ClusterFree has launched global open letters calling on governments to provide legal access to psychedelics for people with cluster headache.I have signed, and I hope that you will, too.

The writer is Professor in Medical Ethics at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, National University of Singapore.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM HISTORY

Land that defeated the mighty Ashoka

History records victories, but it remembers defeats more vividly, especially when they transform the conqueror himself. Odisha, the ancient land of Kalinga, holds such a rare distinction. It is the land that defeated emperor Ashoka, not by arms alone, but by conscience. The blood-soaked plains of Kalinga did what no empire could, they compelled the mightiest ruler of ancient India to renounce violence and embrace Dharma. That singular moment elevated Odisha from a geographical entity to a moral force in civilisational history.

Odisha’s glory, however, neither begins nor ends with Ashoka. In the Ramayana, Kalinga finds mention as a sacred and strategically significant land. The Dandakaranya region, which extends into parts of present-day Odisha, became a refuge for sages and ascetics. The Sabara tribe, indigenous to Odisha, earned immortality through Shabari, whose devotion to Lord Rama transcended caste, class, and creed. Her story is not merely devotional folklore. It is a civilisational assertion that Utkal has always stood for spiritual egalitarianism.

The Mahabharata further elevates Odisha’s stature. Kalinga was a formidable kingdom, allied with the Kauravas in the Kurukshetra war. Its warriors were renowned for their naval prowess and military discipline. Princess Bhanumati, daughter of King Chitrangada, married Duryodhana in a significant political and strategic alliance that highlights the prominence of Kalinga in ancient Indian geopolitics.

Beyond epics, Odisha emerged as a beacon of maritime excellence. Ancient Kalinga traders sailed to Bali, Java, Sumatra, and Sri Lanka centuries before modern globalisation found vocabulary. The annual Boita Bandana ritual continues to commemorate this maritime legacy. The architectural brilliance of the Konark Sun Temple, the spiritual magnetism of Shree Jagannath culture, and the refined aesthetics of Odissi dance collectively attest to Odisha’s former status as an intellectual, artistic, and economic powerhouse.

Yet, the irony of history is cruel. A land so rich in heritage has long struggled with underdevelopment, poverty, and invisibility in national discourse. Despite abundant mineral resources, fertile lands, and a long coastline, Odisha has remained under-leveraged.

Natural disasters, colonial exploitation, and post-independence policy neglect slowed its progress. Human development indicators lagged behind potential, and migration became a necessity rather than a choice for many Odias.

However, the present Odisha stands at a crucial inflexion point. In recent years, the state has demonstrated remarkable administrative resilience, especially in disaster management, healthcare outreach, and social welfare delivery. Its industrial ecosystem is expanding, with investments in steel, aluminium, renewable energy, and port-led development. Yet, growth must now transcend GDP figures and enter the realm of inclusive, sustainable, and culturally anchored development.

Odisha’s future development must rest on three strategic pillars. First, heritage-led tourism and cultural economy. The state’s civilisational assets, from Buddhism and tribal traditions to temple architecture, are global in appeal. With thoughtful infrastructure, storytelling, and international positioning, Odisha can emerge as a spiritual and cultural tourism hub rivalling global destinations.Second, knowledge, skill, and youth-centric

growth. Odisha’s demographic dividend can be transformed into an intellectual dividend through investments in higher education, research institutions, creative industries, and skill ecosystems rooted in local strengths such as handicrafts, textiles, and marine resources.Third, sustainable and people-centric industrialisation. Development must not come at the cost of displacement or ecological erosion. Odisha has the opportunity to model ethical industrial growth, balancing tribal rights, environmental stewardship, and economic progress.

Odisha is not merely a state. It is a civilisational narrative awaiting reclamation. From defeating Ashoka’s arrogance to shaping India’s moral compass, from epic legends to maritime empires, Odisha has already made a significant contribution to history. What we need now is vision, confidence, and national recognition. The land that once transformed an emperor can still inspire a nation, if allowed to rise to its rightful place.

The writer is a Research Scholar, Department of Business Administration Berhampur University

WISDOM CORNER

“

I pay no attention whatever to anybody's praise or blame. I simply follow my own feelings.

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

“

Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

“

The music that I have learned and want to give is like worshipping God. It's absolutely like a prayer.

RAVI SHANKAR

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ 1809:

Louis Braille, who developed a system of printing and writing that is extensively used by the blind and that was named for him, was born near Paris.

■ 1948:

Burma—today called Myanmar—formally gained independence from Great Britain, completing the peaceful transfer of power negotiated by Burmese leader Aung San and British Prime Minister Clement Attlee in 1947.

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



US’ unlawful strikes

Sir, The reported US strikes on Venezuela, ordered by President Donald Trump, represent a troubling breach of international law and established norms governing the use of force. Absent a United Nations Security Council mandate, a clear act of imminent self-defense, or the consent of the Venezuelan state, such actions lack legal justification under the UN Charter. Framing kinetic operations as counter-narcotics or coercive diplomacy does not convert them into lawful uses of force; it merely obscures the erosion of sovereignty and the prohibition on unilateral military intervention. These strikes risk normalizing “policy by bombardment,” bypassing diplomacy and multilateral mechanisms designed precisely to manage disputes without war. Beyond their illegality, they undermine regional stability, embolden tit-for-tat escalation, and deepen humanitarian suffering in a country already facing severe crisis. They also weaken the global rules-based order the United States claims to defend, setting precedents other powers may invoke tomorrow. International law is not a menu of convenience; its restraints exist to protect weaker states from coercion by stronger ones. The US should be held to the same legal standards it espouses, and accountability—not exceptionalism—must guide responses to alleged wrongdoing across borders.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Housing dreams

Sir, India’s mega cities have become prohibitively expensive on housing. Salaried class finds that most of their income goes into rent or home loans, leaving little for savings or lifestyle. Statistics reveal that between 2020 and 2024, while property prices in India grew at an annual rate of 9.3%, household income has only risen by 5.4%. This means that even though your salary is rising, it isn’t enough to keep pace with the cost of living, since the gap between income and home prices keeps widening. In the current economic scenario, a middle-class Indian might never be able to buy his dream home, at least not on his salary alone. So, it is time to redefine the Indian dream, because a house is only a home if you can truly afford to live in it, without losing your sanity.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

One-third of Aravalli range under ecological risk: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Jan 3: A people-led conservation collective, ‘We Are Aravalli’, Saturday released a satellite audit claiming that nearly one-third of the Aravalli mountain range is under ecological risk, and demanded a complete ban on mining across the region.

According to the collective, an independent forensic analysis using satellite data and the Bristol FABDEM bare-earth model has found that 31.8 per cent of the Aravalli hill area lies below 100 metres in height, making it vulnerable to loss of legal protection under existing classifications.

The group said the government’s assessment of the affected area at 0.19 per cent does not reflect the geological reality of the range. Climate scientist and environment activist Sudhanshu, associated with the group, said the findings highlight a serious policy gap.

“Low-elevation hills are being wrongly dismissed as wasteland. Scientifically, these ridges are critical groundwater recharge zones and natural



dust barriers. Removing protection from them will accelerate desertification and water stress across north-west India,” he said. The collective said the threatened zones play a crucial role in water security and air quality for nearly 300 million people across Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.

It warned that mining in these areas could worsen desert expansion from the Thar region, reduce groundwater recharge for cities such as Jaipur and Gurugram, and increase particulate pollution in the Delhi-NCR.

Interactive maps and datasets from the audit have been

made public, with all codes released as open source to enable independent verification, the group said. Based on the findings, the group has called for the entire Aravalli range to be declared a fully protected zone, the removal of height-based distinctions between hills and mountains, and an immediate ban on mining for construction and decorative stone.

It has also sought cancellation of existing mining leases, inclusion of regions such as Chittorgarh, Nagaur, Bundi and Sawai Madhopur within the recognised Aravalli system, and restoration of degraded hills.

Temp dips below zero in parts of Kashmir

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius Friday night, down from the previous night's 0.1 degrees Celsius

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 3: After a few days of respite, the cold returned to Kashmir as the minimum temperatures dropped in the valley and settled below the freezing point at most places, officials said Saturday.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius Friday night, down from the previous night's 0.1 degrees Celsius, they said.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir remained the coldest spot, with the mercury dipping to minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, while the tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town of the valley, saw the mercury settling at minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a minimum of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius.



Qazigund, the gateway town of the valley, saw the mercury settling at minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a minimum of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius

The region is currently in the midst of ‘Chilla-e-Kalan’, the 40-day period of extreme cold, during which night temperatures often drop several degrees below the freezing point.

However, current readings show a departure from normal

patterns.

During this period, the chances of snowfall are most frequent and maximum as well.

However, the plains of the valley have not received any snowfall so far this season.

The India Meteorological De-

partment forecasts light rains or snow at the isolated places in the higher reaches of north and central Kashmir January 5 and 6.

The weather is expected to remain largely dry until January 4.

LoC gets first community radio station in Rajouri



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Jan 3: The first community radio station along the Line of Control has been set up in Jammu and Kashmir’s Rajouri district, strengthening information outreach in border areas, officials said.

The station, ‘Radio Sangam’ has been established by the Indian Army in collaboration with the civil administration and locals at Keri village, nearly one kilometre from the Line of Control (LoC), they said.

Officials said this is the first community radio station on the LoC, which aims to counter misinformation and propaganda from across the border while providing a credible platform for sharing authentic information and addressing local issues.

Due to its strategic location, the station’s broadcasts can also be heard in areas across the LoC, they added.

The radio station was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri Abhishek Sharma in the presence of civil society members, civil administration officers and locals.

Addressing the gathering, Sharma said the station would promote social awareness and public participation, help amplify local voices, and strengthen the link between the administration and border residents, while also countering propaganda from across the LoC.



Rajasthan’s nomadic Rabari tribesmen with their camels during ‘International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists’, in Bhopal, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Raj mandates newspaper reading in govt schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Jan 3: The Rajasthan government has made daily newspaper reading compulsory in all government schools in an effort to promote reading habits, improve vocabulary and enhance general awareness among students.

According to a December 31 order, students will be required to read newspapers for at least 10 minutes during the morning assembly. The initiative aims to familiarise students with current affairs and develop their ability to understand and



analyse news at an early stage.

The directive from the state’s school education department instructs government senior secondary schools and English-medium schools to subscribe to a minimum of two newspapers

— one Hindi and one English — while government upper primary schools must ensure the availability of at least two Hindi newspapers.

The expenditure towards newspaper subscriptions will be borne by the Rajasthan School Education Council, Jaipur. Schools have also been asked to identify five new words from the newspapers each day and explain their meanings to students to strengthen language skills. During morning assemblies, one national-level newspaper in English and one in Hindi will be read aloud. The order

further states that students should be divided class-wise and encouraged to read and discuss editorials and major national, international and sporting developments.

Officials said the programme is designed not only to improve students’ general knowledge and social awareness but also to prepare them better for competitive examinations.

The move comes a week after the Uttar Pradesh government introduced a similar directive in government schools, making newspaper reading a mandatory activity.

Tourists flock to Guldanda to witness season’s first snowfall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhaderwah/Jammu, Jan 3: The season’s first snowfall, followed by bright sunshine, has transformed Guldanda in Jammu and Kashmir’s Doda district into a picturesque winter hotspot, attracting a large number of tourists and locals with its scenic beauty.

The snowfall on New Year’s Day has offered much-needed relief to the tourism stakeholders hit hard by the Pahalgam terror attack last April that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

The locals and the tourism players said the snowfall, the first of the season after a prolonged dry spell of two-and-a-half months, drew more than 200 tourist vehicles to Guldanda, located at a height of 9,555 ft above sea level on the Bhadarwah-Pathankot highway in

Jammu province.

The sudden rush of visitors has brought cheers to the faces of tour operators and hoteliers, as all hotels and homestays are packed to capacity, which is considered a good omen for winter tourism.

“The tourism industry was literally on a ventilator after the Pahalgam attack, and the war-like situation between India and Pakistan that followed Operation Sindoor.

“But the snowfall on the first day of 2026 acted as a catalyst to break the ice. Since the last two days, all the hotels and guesthouses are packed with tourists from across the country,” Manish Kotwal, a hotelier from Nalthi-Bhaderwah, said.

He expressed hope that the positive trend will continue in the coming months.

Not only the hoteliers, but the small vendors putting up



makeshift shops in Guldanda are also overjoyed with the sudden spurt in tourist footfall.

“The tourists are very happy, and so are we. The arrival of

visitors means a source of livelihood for the local youth. We hope this phase continues for a longer period,” Yasir Wani, a local vendor, said.

Tourists from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan were seen enjoying the snow-clad slopes in Guldanda and Chattargalla, describing the experience as “fairytale-like” as they admired the beauty of the adjoining alpine meadows.

“We are regular visitors to the Vaishno Devi shrine, but this is our first visit to Bhaderwah, and the experience is unbelievable. The beauty of this valley is beyond words, and the vibe is so wonderful that we feel like staying here forever,” Aadiya Vajpayee, 21, from Kanpur said.

She said they reached here on New Year’s Eve and were blessed to witness the snowfall.

“We were extremely excited to see snow for the first time. It felt like a fairytale,” Monica from Churu in Rajasthan said.

732 ha of sanctuary land denotified

Kota (Raj): Rajasthan government has issued a notification altering the boundaries of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary, freeing from restrictions 732 hectares of land on both sides of the Chambal river, a decision welcomed by homeowners and traders in the area but which has also sparked environmental concerns. According to the notification, issued by order of the Governor and signed by the state Principal Secretary, the Gharial sanctuary area will now include the Chambal River stretch from Jawahar Sagar Dam to Hanging Bridge, which, before the de-notification, extended to Kota Barrage. The de-notified area includes forest land, riverine areas and uninhabited land from the Hanging Bridge up to the Kota Barrage. The revised boundary notification is aimed at clearly defining protected areas of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary while excluding specified revenue regions, ensuring better administrative clarity and conservation management, officials said. Located on the Chambal River near the tri-point of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the sanctuary is known for its rich biodiversity, including endangered species such as the gharial, red-crowned roof turtle and Ganges river dolphin, and several species of migratory birds and is also home to slothbears, leopards, etc.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, GANJAM, BERNAMPUR

E-Mail: eerw_gm1@yahoo.co.in

Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice	
Bid Identification No. Online Tender // 21 // SERWDG-I / 2025-26	
Letter No. 6986/RWDG-I/BAM//	Date: 24.12.2025
1 Name of the Work	: Building Works
2 Estimated Cost	: Rs.81.03 lakhs
3 Period of Completion	: 09 (Nine) Calendar Months as shown in Column No. 06 of Annexure
4 Date & Time of Availability of Bid Documents in the Portal	: From 04.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 21.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.
5 Last Date/Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal	: 21.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.
6 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Ganjam, Berhampur

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

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R.W. Division-I, Ganjam, Berhampur

OIPR-25085/11/0047/2526

WORKS DEPARTMENT No. B-903 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION

e-mail: bhadraknbddivision@gmail.com

Government of Odisha “e” Procurement Notice	
Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) BDK-30/2025-26	
No. 10239	Dt.24.12.2025
Nature of Works	: Civil Works and EI Works
Number of Works	: 6 (Six) Nos.
Amount put to Tender	: Rs.3.70 to 47.00 lakhs
Class of Contractor	: B&HT Class
Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: 05.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
Last date/time of receipt of bid in the portal	: 12.01.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.
Date of Opening of Bid	: Dt.13.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
Name & address of the Office Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Bhadrak (R&B) Division

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal “<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>”.

All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Bhadrak (R&B) Division

OIPR-34079/11/0033/2526

OFFICE OF THE NIMAPARA NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL

AU/Po/Ps : Nimapara, Dist.-Puri, Odisha, Pin-752106, e-Mail : nimapadanac@gmail.com,
Web : www.nimaparanac.in, Phone No. : (06758-454167)

No.01/Date 02.01.2026

e-Procurement Notice

No.C-1977 : Bid Documents consisting of Work Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractors and set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

1. Tender Reference No. : NP-NAC-04/2025-26

2. Tender I.D No. : 2026_ORULB_124109_1 to 7

3. Name of the work : Civil Construction works as mentioned in website.

4. No. of work : 07 Nos.

5. Estimated Cost : Rs.13.27,603 to Rs.16.93,220

6. Period of Completion : 30 days

7. Date & time of Bidding : Dt.03.01.2026 to Dt.11.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.

8. Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt.11.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.

9. Bids received online shall be opened on Dt. : Dt.12.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

10. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Nimapara N.A.C.

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Nimapara N.A.C.

OIPR-13112/11/0043/2526

of the day **quote**

Vajpayee taught us to remain humble while in power and to serve national interests while in opposition. Even while criticising anyone, he always maintained dignity and avoided hurting them

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

India is a country of the youth and it is the responsibility of the education department to prepare the youth and future generations with education in mother tongue, competency based studies and skill based studies

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

We will ensure Sangli transforms into a clean city with modern upgradation. Work on the pre-feasibility report for an airport in Sangli is underway

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

SHORT TAKES

Dog lovers protest at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi: Animal rights activists and volunteers from various animal protection groups gathered for a peaceful demonstration at the Jantar Mantar Saturday, demanding the Supreme Court reconsider its recent order to remove street dogs from public spaces. The protest, held ahead of a hearing on the matter in the top court next week, saw around 30 participants holding placards with creative visuals to highlight their concerns, with one wearing a dog costume to draw public attention, the organisers said. One of the participants termed the Supreme Court order to relocate street dogs from schools, hospitals and transport hubs both “impractical” and “inhumane”, which will result in millions of dogs getting confined to shelters for life.

TMC RS MP Mausam Noor returns to Cong

New Delhi: Ahead of West Bengal assembly polls, Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Mausam Noor returned to the Congress Saturday, saying she wants to carry forward the legacy of her uncle and former party stalwart Ghani Khan Chaudhary. Noor (46), whose tenure as Rajya Sabha MP ends in April, is likely to contest the upcoming assembly polls in West Bengal from Maldah. She was a two-time Congress MP representing Maldaha Dakshin in the Lok Sabha from 2009 to 2019. She has also been a Youth Congress president in West Bengal. Noor rejoined the Congress at the party headquarters in the presence of Jairam Ramesh, Congress in-charge for West Bengal, Ghulam Ahmed Mir, and the party’s state unit president, Shubhankar Sarkar.

Accused Bilal Malla sent to judicial custody

New Delhi: A Delhi court Saturday remanded Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, one of the accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast case, to judicial custody for 13 days till January 16. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) produced Malla at the Patiala House Court amid tight security Saturday, upon the expiry of his 8-day NIA custody granted on December 26. Mediapersons were barred from covering the proceedings.



After assuming office in April 2022, our government launched a massive recruitment drive under which 61,281 government jobs have been provided so far
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

KERALA GEARS UP FOR ATTUKAL PONGALA FESTIVAL

Preparations for the annual Attukal Pongala festival, scheduled from February 23 to March 4, were reviewed at a meeting chaired by Kerala Education and Labour Minister V Sivan-kutty Saturday. Officials from various government departments attended the meeting to assess arrangements for the temple festival



GANDHINAGAR TYPHOID SURGE

Over 100 persons hospitalised; Shah reviews situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar, Jan 3: Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi Saturday reviewed the situation at Gandhinagar Civil Hospital after 104 patients, including children, were admitted for suspected typhoid.

Typhoid cases have been increasing in the Civil Hospital in the last three days, with 104 patients admitted to the paediatric ward, officials said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah discussed the situation with the district collector over the phone three times and will take a review again in the evening

Sanghavi said senior officials, including the deputy collector, have been asked to assess the situation at the hospital, while arrangements such as food and other facilities have been made for families of admitted patients. A team of 22 doctors has been formed to treat the patients, he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah discussed the situation with the district collector over the phone three times and will take a review again in the evening, Sanghavi added.

“At present, 104 suspected cases have been reported. The administration is continuously strengthening treatment and monitoring arrangements. Efforts are ongoing to provide better facilities to patients and their families,” he said.

HIMACHAL RAGGING-LINKED DEATH

Assistant Professor suspended; HP, UGC order separate probes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla (HP), Jan 3: As outrage mounted over the death of a 19-year-old Dalit student, the Himachal Pradesh government Saturday suspended an assistant professor booked on charges of sexually harassing her and announced an inquiry into allegations, including those of ragging and caste related abuse of the victim, while the University Grants Commission also set up a fact-finding committee.

The accused, Assistant Professor (Geography) Ashok Sharma of Government College, Dharamshala, in Kangra district, denied the allegations. Police said he was being questioned.

Taking serious note of the case, the National Commission for Women said it highlights the “serious failure of the security mechanism in educational campuses” and directed the state Director General of Police to ensure immediate arrest of all the accused, fair and time-bound investigation, preservation of post-mortem and medical records and strict action under the various laws.

Kangra police said the investigation in the case, registered on the complaint of the deceased girl’s father, is being conducted by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dharamshala, and all relevant evidence, including medical records, video clips and statements of witnesses, are being collected.

“The family members of the deceased woman have been included in the investigation



and the police team took some documents and a mobile phone in possession. The accused assistant professor is being questioned,” said Additional Superintendent of Police, Kangra, Veer Bahadur.

The police said that according to the college administration, they did not receive any written complaint regarding ragging.

A case of sexual harassment under section 75 of BNS was registered against Ashok Sharma, while three female students were booked for voluntarily causing hurt and common intention under section 115(2) and 3(5) of BNS besides Section 3 of the Himachal Pradesh Educational Institution (Prohibition of) Ragging Act 2009 Thursday (January 1).

The order of the assistant professor’s suspension came hours after the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu promised strict action in the matter.

“Based on the video statement of the deceased woman in which she had named the professor, the accused professor would be immediately suspended and an inquiry would be initiated against him. Strict action would be taken against all those involved,” he told reporters.

Cong to launch nationwide ‘MGNREGA Bachao Sangram’

Ramesh claimed that no BJP-ruled state is in a position to implement the G RAM G law, which is against the federal structure of the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: The Congress Saturday announced a nationwide ‘MGNREGA Bachao Sangram’ from January 10 to February 25 to demand the withdrawal of the VB G-RAM-G Act, and restoration of MGNREGA as a rights-based law, the right to work, and the authority of panchayats.

Addressing a joint press conference, Congress general secretaries KC Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh said through the new VBG RAM G Act, the Centre has ensured complete centralisation as “employment will no longer be a right under the new Act”, which will be challenged in court.

On whether the states ruled by the INDIA bloc constituents would not implement the new Act or oppose it, Venugopal said the Congress would hold consultations with all the alliance partners on the way forward.

A consensus will be reached within the opposition-ruled chief ministers, and “we will explore possibilities of how to move forward on this”, Venugopal said. Ramesh claimed that no BJP-ruled state is in a position to implement the G RAM G law, which, he said, is against the federal structure of the country.

Venugopal also termed the Act an attack against the federal structure itself, as “no dis-



MGNREGA Bachao Sangram will commence January 10 and continue till February 25

cussion was held with the states to implement it, even as their finances will be disturbed”.

He said through the ‘MGNREGA Bachao Sangram’, the Congress aims to defend the right to work, protect the Panchayati Raj institutions, and stand with the women workers, Dalits, Adivasis, and the rural poor by taking the issue to every village of the country.

“Our clear demand is to withdraw the VB GRAM G Act and restore MGNREGA in its original, rights-based form, restoring people’s right to work and the authority of the panchayats,” Venugopal said.

Sharing details, he said the MGNREGA Bachao Sangram will commence January 10 and continue till February 25.

“This is not only a Congress programme... We will hold detailed discussions with all the opposition-ruled states, and

fight together,” Venugopal said. District-level press conferences will be held January 10, followed by a day-long fast and symbolic protests at the district headquarters January 11, the Congress leaders said.

From January 12 to 29, panchayat-level chaupals and mass contact programmes will be organised at all the gram panchayats, followed by ward-level peaceful sit-ins January 30 to press for the right to work, they said.

From February 7 to 15, state-level gheraos of Vidhan Sabhas will be organised, while four major rallies will be held between February 16 and 25 before the culmination of the nationwide movement, Venugopal said. Ramesh said it is not just a ‘MGNREGA Save Campaign’, it is the ‘MGNREGA Save Struggle’ and its first phase will begin January 8 with preparatory meetings at all the state Congress headquarters to finalise plans for the agitation.

While the VB G RAM G Act has a grand name, the only guarantee in it is “dangerous centralisation”, Ramesh said.

“There is no guarantee of employment or financial assistance for the state governments,” he noted.

CHHATTISGARH ANTI-MINING PROTEST

5 held for assaulting woman cop, tearing off her clothes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raigarh, Jan 3: Five persons have been arrested for allegedly assaulting and ripping off the uniform of a woman police constable during an anti-mining protest in Libra village in Chhattisgarh’s Raigarh district, officials said Saturday.

A demonstration by residents of 14 villages against a coal mining project turned violent in the Tamnar block December 27, resulting in arson and stone pelting.

The arrested persons have been identified as Mangal Rathia, Chinesh Khamari, Prem-singh Rathia, Kirti Shriwas, all residents of Amgaon village, and Vanmali Rathia, who is from Jharna village. Two others are absconding, a police officer said. They were booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita and section 67(A) of the Information Technology Act, he added. A mob had surrounded a woman constable in a field and assaulted her.

A video surfaced on social media Thursday showing the constable lying on the ground



and begging for mercy even as two men rip her clothes off and question her presence at the protest site. She was seen crying with folded hands and repeatedly requesting the mob to let her go. “Don’t tear, bhai. I will not do anything. I did not hit anyone,” she says.

One of the accused is seen pulling her torn uniform, while another films the assault and later threatens her with a sandal and yells at her.

A blurred video of the assault was shared on Facebook by the All India Mahila Congress Friday. “The video of a female police constable being assaulted while her clothes were torn in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, is extremely disturbing. If even female police officers are not safe, what hope is there for ordinary citizens?” the Congress stated on a Facebook post.

Sandeshkhali mob attack on police injures 6; 9 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 3: Six policemen were injured and a police vehicle vandalised in a mob attack during an attempt to arrest a TMC worker in Sandeshkhali, once again pushing the coastal block into political focus ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

The incident occurred Friday night when a team from Nazat police station went to Boyermari village in Sandeshkhali to arrest local TMC activist Musa Mollah in connection with alleged illegal occupation of land and water bodies for pisciculture, police said.

As officers tried to pick up Mollah from his residence and place him inside the police vehicle, a group of villagers, described by police as his supporters, allegedly blocked the car, threw stones and vandalised it.

Six policemen, including an officer, were injured and later treated at a local hospital before being discharged.

Taking advantage of the chaos, Mollah managed to escape, police said, revising earlier information that he had been arrested.

“We have arrested nine people so far, but Musa Mollah is still absconding. Efforts are on to nab



him,” a senior police officer told PTI. Earlier it was reported that Mollah was nabbed by the police. Police sources said Mollah had been served repeated notices in a land dispute case, which he allegedly ignored.

Following complaints that agricultural land was being filled with saline water, a Basirhat sub-divisional court had imposed prohibitory orders on the disputed property.

Reinforcements were rushed to the area after the police team came under attack. Besides ar-

resting nine people, the police detained two local TMC leaders, including the gram panchayat pradhan and upa-pradhan of Boyermari Gram Panchayat 2, for allegedly instigating the violence, officials said.

Raids were carried out in nearby houses and CCTV footage was being examined to identify other accused, police said, adding that the situation was under control with additional forces deployed as a precaution.

The incident triggered sharp

political reactions. BJP leader Sajal Ghosh said the attack reflected the “desperation and brazenness” of ruling party activists under Mamata Banerjee’s government.

“From attacks on central agencies earlier to attacks on state police now, the pattern remains the same,” he said. The ruling TMC sought to distance itself from the violence. Party spokesperson Arup Chakraborty condemned the attack as “deplorable” and said the party did not support such acts.

NCC plans to train 1L cadets as first responders for disasters

These cadets will be known as Yuva Apda Mitras, and they will be trained and linked with the national database, so that the services can be used by the nation in case of need in future

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has planned to train one lakh cadets as first responders in the wake of natural disasters, and raise a group of ‘cyber warriors’

who can contribute to bolstering India’s digital defence mechanism, a top official said Saturday.

These will be integrated with the national database, Director General, NCC, Lt Gen Virendra Vats said during a press conference on the NCC’s Republic Day Camp 2026 that began December 30 at the Cariappa Parade Ground at Delhi Cantonment.

He announced that for the “first time, parade and contingent commanders of the NCC will march carrying a sword during the 2026 Republic Day Parade, “at par” with the members of military contingents.

The officer also said the NCC



has started work on raising four to five hubs across the country where select cadets can be trained on drone and counter-drone aspects.

A total of 2,406 NCC cadets,

including 898 girls, from across the country are participating in the annual camp this year. More than 200 cadets from over 20 friendly foreign countries, including Bhutan, Sri Lanka,

Brazil, Bangladesh, Nepal and Malaysia, are also taking part. The month-long camp features several inter-directorate competitions and events like the best cadet competition, small arms firing, marching contingent during the Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path, and flag area designing.

This year, 127 cadets from Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh Union territories, and 131 cadets from the Northeastern region are participating, officials said. Lt Gen Vats, in response to a query, said the NCC plans to increase its strength from 17 lakh to 20 lakh in a phased manner, and “we plan

to achieve it by 2028”. Girls cadets form 40 per cent of the total current strength, he added. He also made a Power-Point presentation on the occasion outlining various future plans of the NCC.

In coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the NCC has planned to train as many as one lakh cadets as “first responders” in the wake of any natural disaster, he said. These cadets will be known as Yuva Apda Mitras, and they will be trained and linked with the national database, so that the services can be used by the nation in case of need in future, Lt Gen Vats said.

This historic event marks the reunification of the Piprahwa gem relics of Lord Buddha, repatriated after 127 years, with relics, gem relics, and reliquaries from the 1898 excavation and subsequent 1971-1975 excavation at the Piprahwa site

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION CULTURE MINISTER

The government expects these officials to visit their adopted schools at least once a month to offer career counselling and prepare the students for competitive examinations

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | CHIEF MINISTER, HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Congress along with the public, labourers and all like-minded will fight until the VB-G RAM G Act is withdrawn, like it was done in case of farm laws

SIDDARAMAIAH | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

POST OF THE DAY

Adani supplies power to Bangladesh- not a traitor. Our EAM visits Bangladesh and reaches out- not a traitor Sheikh Hasina is housed in India- not a traitorous act. KKR buys Mustafizur and @iamsrk is a traitor, and KKR is bullied by the BCCI into dropping the Fizz. What a joke!

@ajay43

SHORT TAKES

Ex-Kerala min gets 3 years jail term

Thiruvananthapuram: A court here Saturday sentenced former Kerala transport minister Antony Raju and a court official to imprisonment for tampering with evidence in a 1990 drug seizure case. Raju, a serving MLA of the Janadhipathya Kerala Congress and an LDF ally, was convicted by the Nedumangad Judicial First Class Magistrate Ruby Ismail in connection with tampering with evidence related to the seizure of 61.5 grams of hashish from an Australian national at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in 1990. The court also convicted K S Jose, a former clerk of a court in Thiruvananthapuram, in the case.

20 Maoists surrender before T'gana police

Hyderabad: In a significant blow to the CPI (Maoist) insurgency, high-ranking commander Badse Sukka alias Deva, along with 19 underground cadre, surrendered before the Telangana police. This surrender sounded the death knell for the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) and the Telangana State committee of the CPI (Maoist) party.

Woman held for killing daughter-in-law

Thane: A 60-year-old woman from Maharashtra's Thane district has been arrested for allegedly killing her daughter-in-law over a dispute involving a railway job and gratuity funds, police said Saturday. While the accused woman wanted to keep her deceased son's gratuity money, she also wanted her grandson to get a job on compassionate grounds, not the victim, an official said.

Heartiest congratulations to Subi Taba on being conferred the Ramnath Goenka Sahitya Samman for Best Fiction 2025 for her acclaimed work Tales from the Dawn-Lit Mountains

PEMA KHANDU | CHIEF MINISTER, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

3-DAY WORLD TELUGU CONFERENCE KICKS OFF

The three-day World Telugu Conference kicked off here on Saturday with a celestial wedding ceremony of Lord Venkateswara. Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker C Ayyannapatrudu participated in the conference today



Avoid travel to Venezuela: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: India Saturday night advised its nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to Venezuela in view of the situation arising out of the capture of the oil-rich country's president by the US.

The Ministry of External Affairs also asked all Indians who are in Venezuela to exercise extreme caution and restrict their movements. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was captured in a large-scale US strike on the capital city of Caracas, according to President Donald Trump.

The US action has triggered political uncertainty in the South American country, with many leading powers, including Russia and China, slamming Washington for the operation and capture of Maduro and his wife. "In view of recent developments in Venezuela, Indian nationals are strongly advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Venezuela," the external affairs ministry said.

"All Indians who are in Venezuela for any reason are advised to exercise extreme caution, restrict their movements, and remain in contact with the Embassy of India in Caracas," it said. The ministry asked Indians to get in touch with the embassy through phone number +58-412-9584288 (also for WhatsApp calls) as well as email.

There are around 50 Non-Resident Indians and 30 Persons of Indian Origin in Venezuela.

Hours after the operation in Caracas, Trump posted a photo of Maduro aboard the US warship USS Two Jima.

Maduro is being brought to New York, where he will face charges relating to supporting drug cartels, according to US authorities.

Left parties condemn US aggression on Venezuela



The Communist Party of India also strongly condemned the aggression, and called a gross violation of the UN Charter, international law, and the universally accepted principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: Left parties Saturday condemned the US attack on Venezuela, and said the real target is its oil reserves.

In a statement issued here, the CPI(M) demanded immediate end to US aggression and withdrawal of all its troops from the Caribbean Sea.

The CPI(M) said it "strongly condemns the blatant act of US aggression on Venezuela by bombing various sites in the country". "For the last few weeks the US has mobilised its military and naval forces around Venezuela in order to

enforce regime change. This is the real face of the US National Security Strategy 2025, announced in the first week of December 2025," the CPI(M) said.

It said the concentration of US forces in the Western Hemisphere and open declaration of its intent to bring the entire region under its control represent the "Trump corollary to the Monroe Doctrine".

The Monroe Doctrine is a US foreign policy declaring the Americas off-limits to future European colonization and interference.

"Latin America should be declared a zone of peace and the US should not be allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign countries," the CPI(M) said.

The Left party also said the the UN Security Council should pass a resolution condemning the US aggression and international pressure must be mounted on the US to immediately stop its aggression on Venezuela.

The CPI(ML) Liberation also condemned the attack, and said aims to impose a US-backed colonial order.

INDORE WATER CONTAMINATION TRAGEDY

Cong, BJP workers clash

45 Oppn party members detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Jan 3: Around 45 Madhya Pradesh Congress functionaries were detained Saturday as a "precautionary measure" after a clash with BJP workers when a fact-finding committee of the Opposition party was at Indore's Bhagirathpura area, where water contamination has claimed six lives.

The Congress committee under former state minister Sajjan Singh Verma, which includes MLAs Mahesh Parmar and Pratap Grewal, was on its way to meet affected families when BJP workers gathered at the spot carrying black flags and shouted slogans, eyewitnesses said. Congress workers too replied with slogans denouncing the ruling party, following which the two sides clashed, scuffled with each other and threw slippers, they added.

A police team that arrived at the spot escorted the Congress' fact-finding committee members and workers out of the area and took them to the



central jail, they said.

"To maintain law and order in Bhagirathpura, 45 people, including 10 women, were detained as a precautionary measure. They were later released on bail," Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh Vyas told PTI.

Congress leaders alleged the police acted at the behest of the ruling BJP and prevented the fact-finding committee from meeting the affected families.

This was, however, rejected by BJP leaders who said the Congress was indulging in "dirty politics" over the water contamination tragedy.

According to officials, six people have died and more than 200 were hospitalised in an outbreak of vomiting and diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water in Bhagirathpura, which has a large population from low and middle-income groups.

The death figures, however, vary, ranging from 10 to 16.

While Indore Mayor Pushy- amitra Bhargava had said on Friday that he had information about 10 patient deaths linked to the outbreak, residents put the figure at 16, including that of a 6-month-old child.

14 Naxalites killed in separate encounters

In 2025, a total of 285 Naxalites were gunned down in separate encounters with security forces in Chhattisgarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sukma/Bijapur, Jan 3: In the first Naxalite encounter of 2026, at least 14 Maoists, including wanted ultras Vetti Mangdu and Madvi Hunga, were killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Sukma and Bijapur districts in the Bastar region Saturday, officials said.

While 12 Naxalites, including Mangdu and Madkam, and five women, were neutralised by the security forces during an exchange of fire in Sukma, the bodies of two Maoist cadres were found in the forests of Gaganpalli village in Basaguda, Bijapur.

State Police unit, District Reserve Guard (DRG) had launched the anti-naxal operations based on inputs about the presence of Maoist cadres, a senior police official said.

Hailing the security personnel, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that due to the precise strategy, sustained pressure, and strong ground presence of the security forces, the Maoist network has been rapidly weakening.

The operation in the southern region of Sukma was launched Friday night by the DRG. An exchange of fire broke out around 8 am in the forest of the Kistaram area, said Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan.

"The bodies of 12 cadres, including five women, and automatic weapons were recovered from the encounter site,"



he said.

Two among them were identified as Vetti Mangdu, incharge of the Konta area committee of Maoists, and Madvi Hitesh alias Hunga, the secretary of the same formation, Chavan said, adding that the identity of the remaining cadres is yet to be ascertained.

A cache of weapons, including AK-47, INSAS, and self-loading rifles, has been recovered from the encounter site.

Mangdu and Hunga were involved in several Maoist incidents, including an IED blast in Konta area in June last year in which then Additional Superintendent of Police (Konta) Akash Rao Girepunje was killed, Chavan said.

Girepunje was killed, and two other police officers were

injured June 9 when an IED planted by Naxalites exploded at a stone quarry near Dondra village.

During a separate operation in Bijapur, a gunfight broke out in a forest in the southern region of the district around 5 am, another official said, adding that the bodies of two Naxalites were recovered. Their identity is yet to be established.

CM Sai, meanwhile, stated that trust, development, and security are new directions for Bastar, where peace, not violence, has now become the only option.

Decisive success has been achieved in the anti-Naxal operations conducted by security forces in Bijapur and Sukma districts, in which 14 Maoists were neutralised, he stated.



A member of the International Kinnar Akhada offers prayers at Sangam on the occasion of 'Paush Purnima', marking the start of the 'Magh Mela' festival, on a cold winter morning, in Prayagraj, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Modi inaugurates exhibition of sacred Piprahwa Relics

The prime minister said the sacred Piprahwa Relics travelled to different countries with significant Buddhist populations, including Vietnam, Thailand and Russia, where waves of faith and devotion arose, and people turned up in huge numbers to pay homage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday inaugurated an exposition of sacred ancient gems and bone fragments linked to the Buddha, asserting that they were not mere artefacts but part of India's revered heritage.

The prime minister said the sacred Piprahwa Relics travelled to different countries with significant Buddhist populations, including Vietnam, Thailand and Russia, where waves of faith and devotion arose, and people turned up in huge numbers to pay homage.

"This shared heritage of Lord Buddha is proof that India is not connected merely through politics, diplomacy, and economy, but through deeper bonds of emotions, faith and spirituality," he said.

Modi was speaking at a function to inaugurate the exhibition "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" at Qila Rai Pithora Cultural Complex in south Delhi.

He recalled that the sacred relics were returning to India after more than 125 years at the intervention of the government and the Godrej Group, which together stopped them from being auc-

tioned off in Hong Kong last May.

"For India, the sacred relics of Bhagwan Buddha are not merely artefacts; they are a part of our revered heritage and an inseparable part of our civilisation," the prime minister said at the event here in the presence of Buddhist scholars, diplomats and other guests.

"India is not only the custodian of Lord Buddha's sacred relics but also the living carrier of his tradition," he said.

Striking a personal note, Modi said his birthplace — Vadnagar in Gujarat — was a major centre of Buddhist studies and Sarnath near Varanasi, where



Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon, was his karmabhoomi. The prime minister represents

the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat in Parliament.

Modi said before being in government, he travelled as a pilgrim to Buddhist sites, and as Prime Minister, he has had the privilege of visiting Buddhist pilgrimage centres across the world. He recalled his visits to Lumbini in Nepal, To-ji Temple and Kinkaku-ji in Japan, Giant Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an, China, and the Gandan Monastery in Mongolia.

The prime minister said his visit to Jaya Sri Mahabodhi in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, was an experience of connecting with the tradition sown by

Emperor Ashoka, Bhikkhu Mahinda, and Sanghamitra.

He said that his visits to Wat Pho in Thailand and the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore further deepened his understanding of the impact of Lord Buddha's teachings.

The prime minister said he made a point to carry saplings of the Bodhi tree to places of Buddhist pilgrim centres across the world.

"One can imagine the profound message for humanity when a Bodhi tree stands in the botanical garden of Hiroshima, a city devastated by the atomic bomb," he said.

of the day

Quote

Pakistan firmly rejects the irresponsible assertions made by the Indian External Affairs Minister. India seeks to deflect attention from its own troubling record as a neighbour that contributes to regional instability

TAHIR ANDRABI | FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESPERSON, PAKISTAN

China is willing to take this visit as an opportunity to enhance political mutual trust and expand mutually beneficial cooperation with Ireland

MICHAEL MARTIN | PRIME MINISTER, IRELAND

Let us all pray together for peace: first, among nations bloodied by conflict and suffering, but also within our homes, in families wounded by violence or pain

POPE LEO XIV | HEAD OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

SHORT TAKES

Trump blocks chips deal

Washington: President Donald Trump Friday blocked US photonics firm HieFo Corp's \$3 million acquisition of assets in New Jersey-based aerospace and defense specialist Emcore, citing national security and China-related concerns. In an order, opens new tab released by the White House, Trump said HieFo was "controlled by a citizen of the People's Republic of China" and that its 2024 acquisition of Emcore's businesses led the president to believe that it may "take action that threatens to impair the national security of the United States." "The Transaction is hereby prohibited," Trump said, ordering HieFo to "divest all interests and rights in the Emcore Assets, wherever located," within 180 days.

Migrant boat capsizes

Banjul: Dozens are missing after a boat carrying more than 200 migrants on their way to Europe capsized off the coast of Gambia, the West African nation's leader said late Friday, setting off a frantic search and rescue operation. At least 102 survivors have been rescued and seven bodies recovered from the boat that capsized on New Year's Eve in northwest Gambia's North Bank region, Gambian President Adama Barrow said in a state broadcast.

Chopper crash kills 4

Superior: A private helicopter crashed Friday in a mountainous area of Arizona, killing all four people aboard, officials said. Those killed were the 59-year-old pilot, two 21-year-old women and a 22-year-old woman, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office said in a post on the social platform X. Their names have not been released. It may have been caused when the helicopter hit a "recreational slackline" that was more than half a mile (more than a kilometre) long and strung across the mountains, the office said.

At least 10 dead in Iran protests

Dubai: Violence surrounding protests in Iran sparked by the Islamic Republic's ailing economy killed two other people, authorities said Saturday, raising the death toll in the demonstrations to at least 10 as they showed no signs of stopping. The new deaths follow US President Donald Trump warning Iran on Friday that if Tehran "violently kills peaceful protesters," the United States "will come to their rescue."



We will not yield to the enemy (US). We will speak with the protesters but talking to rioters is useless. Rioters should be put in their place

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

SYRIA UNVEILS NEW CURRENCY

Syria started the process of circulating new currency bills Saturday as the crisis-hit nation seeks to stabilise the economy as it recovers from the fall of Bashar Assad's government. A decree issued earlier this week by President Ahmad al-Sharaa said that "old Syrian currency" will be gradually withdrawn from circulation



Shock US strike upends Venezuela

The attack followed months of escalating pressure by the Trump administration, which has built up naval forces in the waters off South America and, since early September, has carried out deadly strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats in the eastern Pacific and Caribbean

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Caracas (Venezuela), Jan 3: The United States carried out a lightning military strike on Venezuela early Saturday, capturing President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, and spiriting them out of the country. American officials say the pair will face narco-terrorism charges in US courts. The overnight operation left Venezuela reeling, with its leadership uncertain and details of casualties and the impact on its military still to emerge. Countries across the region and the wider world were absorbing the destabilising implications of the apparently unilateral US action.

Rising US pressure, then an overnight attack Explosions rang out, and low-flying aircraft swept through Venezuela's capital, Caracas, early Saturday. At least seven blasts were heard in an attack that lasted less than 30 minutes. The targets appeared to include military infrastructure. Smoke was seen rising from the hangar of

a military base in Caracas, and another military installation in the capital was without power. Venezuelan officials said people had been killed, but the scale of casualties was unclear. Trump said in a social media post that Maduro "has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out of the Country." **US terrorism charges** US Attorney General Pam Bondi said on social network X that Maduro and Flores had both been indicted in the Southern District of New York and "will soon face the full wrath of American justice on American soil in American courts."

She said Maduro faced charges of "Narco-Terrorism Conspiracy, Cocaine Importation Conspiracy, Possession of Machineguns and Destructive Devices, and Conspiracy to Possess Machineguns and Destructive Devices against the United States."

Maduro was indicted in March 2020, during Trump's first term, but the indictment against Flores was not previously made public.

Questions over legality

The US does not recognise the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and the legal implications of the strike under US law were not immediately clear.



•Trump says US successfully hit Venezuela, took away Maduro

•Most direct US action in region since 1989 Panama invasion

•Explosions rock capital Caracas and other locations

The Trump administration maintains that Maduro is not the legitimate leader of Venezuela and claims he has effectively turned Venezuela into a criminal enterprise at the service of drug traffickers and terrorist groups.

Mike Lee, a US senator from Utah, said on X that the action "likely falls within the president's inherent authority under Article II of the Constitution to protect US personnel from an actual

or imminent attack."

Maduro's government accused the United States of an "imperialist attack" on civilian and military installations and urged citizens to take to the streets.

World leaders split

Venezuela's neighbour, Colombia, sent troops to the border and anticipated an influx of refugees from Venezuela.

Cuba, a supporter of the Maduro government and a longtime adversary of the United States, urged the international community to respond to what President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez called "the criminal attack."

Russia's Foreign Ministry said the attack and capture of Maduro would be "an unacceptable infringement on the sovereignty of an independent state."

US allies in Europe — critical of Maduro but mindful of international law — offered muted responses as they scrambled to understand the scale and implications of the attack.

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the bloc "has repeatedly stated

Maduro's heavy-handed rule finally ended by Trump

THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S 12-YEAR RULE IS MARKED BY ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND SOCIAL CRISES

Nicolas Maduro ruled Venezuela with a heavy hand for more than 12 years, presiding over deep economic and social crises and resisting pressure from domestic opponents and foreign governments for political change. His rule abruptly ended Saturday when President Donald Trump announced U.S. forces had captured him and flown him out of the country. A 63-year-old socialist and the handpicked successor of the late Hugo Chavez, Maduro was long accused by critics both at home and abroad of being a dictator who jailed or persecuted political opponents and repeatedly staged sham elections. Maduro, a salsa aficionado with a flair for theatrics, often called opposition politicians "fascist demons" and took pride in resisting US pressure against him, even having his invocation to Trump of "yes peace, not war" remixed into an electronic song. He was sworn in for a third term in January 2025 following a 2024 election that was widely condemned as fraudulent by international observers and the opposition. Thousands of people who protested against the government's declaration of victory were jailed.

Venezuela's opposition, the United States and many other Western countries also considered Maduro's election win in 2018 to be a sham. His government's repressive measures were highlighted by the awarding of the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to opposition leader Maria Corina Machado.

Maduro was born into a working-class family on November 23, 1962, son of a trade union leader. He worked as a bus officer Chavez led a 1992. He agitated released

driver during the time army failed coup attempt in for Chavez to be and backed his fervent leftist agenda in an era when socialism was well out of favor.

that Maduro lacks legitimacy and has defended a peaceful transition. Under all circumstances, the principles of international law and the UN Charter must be respected. We call for restraint."

China condemned the US airstrikes on Venezuela and the capture of its president,

Nicolas Maduro and his wife, describing it as a hegemonic act that seriously violates international law. "China is deeply shocked by and strongly condemns the US's blatant use of force against a sovereign state and action against its President," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

YEMEN CONFLICT

Saudi allies reclaim eastern city

REUTERS

Dubai, Jan 3: Yemen's Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government, said Saturday it had retaken control of Mukalla, the key eastern port and capital of Hadramout province, from UAE-backed southern separatists who seized it last month.

The fast-moving crisis in Yemen has opened a major feud between the two Gulf powers and fractured the coalition of forces, headed by the internationally recognised government, who are fighting the Iran-backed Houthi movement.

Rapid government gains since Friday have reversed many of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) gains last month and cast doubt on the viability of its intention to hold a referendum on independence within two years.

Saudi-backed forces had already taken control of key locations in Hadramout, a large province with stretches of desert along the Saudi border.



- Yemen crisis triggered major Gulf feud
- Saudi-backed forces retake areas in eastern Yemen
- Southern separatists seek independence referendum

STC forces blocked roads leading to Aden from the northern provinces, residents said. The group appealed for regional and international leaders to intervene against what it described as a "Saudi-backed military escalation". In a statement, it added that northern Islamist factions - an apparent reference to the Islah party that is part of the internationally recognised government - had targeted civilians and vital infrastructure.

Hindu bizman dies 3 days after attack in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Jan 3: A Hindu businessman, who was brutally attacked, hacked and set on fire three days ago, died Saturday in Bangladesh, reports and a minority faith group leader said.

This is the fifth death of a person from Hindu community since December and radical groups in Bangladesh are visibly trying to intimidate the minority faiths, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council spokesman Kajoj Debnath said.

Khokon Chandra Das, 50, was assaulted near Keurbhanga Bazar in Damudya in Shariatpur district, about 100 kilometres south of Dhaka, Wednesday night while returning home after closing his shop. "Das died this morning after battling for life for three days," Debnath confirmed.

Das, who ran a medicine



shop and mobile banking business, was travelling in an autorickshaw when the attackers intercepted the vehicle and allegedly beat him up, hacked him with sharp weapons and then poured petrol on his head before setting him on fire, media reports had said Thursday.

In a bid to save himself, Das jumped into a roadside pond as locals raised an alarm. The attackers fled the scene, police

Pak backs China's Op Sindoor mediation claim

India has been consistently maintaining that there is no place for any third-party intervention in matters relating to India and Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 3: Pakistan has backed China's claim that Beijing played a role in defusing tension with India during Operation Sindoor, calling it "diplomacy for peace" that was part of international efforts.

Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said that the leadership of China was in constant touch with the leadership of Pakistan, and "had made certain contacts with the Indian leadership as well in those three-four days from May 6 to 10th and maybe prior to that and after that."

"So, I think those contacts, characterised by a very positive diplomatic exchange, contributed in bringing down temperatures and bringing peace and

security in the region. So, I'm sure that the Chinese characterisation of mediation is correct," he said Thursday while replying to a question about Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's claim that India-Pak tensions were among the list of hotspot issues "mediated" by China in 2025.

India has maintained that the conflict with Pakistan in May last year was resolved through direct talks between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both countries' armies.

India has also been consistently maintaining that there is no place for any third-party intervention in matters relating to India and Pakistan.

Andrabi described China's claim of mediation as "diplo-



It was diplomacy for prosperity, for security, and this has been a hallmark of a number of international efforts that went into resolving that conflict in those three to four fateful days

TAHIR ANDRABI | FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESPERSON, PAKISTAN

macy for peace".

Speaking at a symposium in Beijing Tuesday, Wang said tensions between India and Pakistan were among a list of hot issues mediated by China in 2025.

India launched Operation

Sindoor May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes between the two countries and ended

Pak tests indigenous 'Taimoor' missile

Pakistan Air Force has successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenously developed Taimoor Weapon System, capable of hitting targets at 600 kilometres, it was announced Saturday. This launch marks another significant milestone in the advancement of national aerospace and defence capabilities, the army said in a statement issued in Rawalpindi. "Taimoor Air-Launched Cruise Missile is capable of engaging enemy land and sea targets with high precision at a range of 600 kilometers, carrying a conventional warhead," it added. Equipped with a state-of-the-art navigation and guidance system, Taimoor is designed to fly at very low altitudes, enabling it to effectively evade hostile air and missile defence systems.

with an understanding to stop the military actions May 10. Pakistan employed Chinese hardware during the conflict, highlighting its dependence on Beijing's defence technology.

ANTI-CORRUPTION CRACKDOWN

China detains record number of officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Jan 3: China detained a record 65 deputy ministerial level officials in 2025, 12 per cent higher than those caught a year ago, in the ongoing anti-corruption campaign being carried out on the orders of President Xi Jinping.

Those detained included top officials in charge of China's provinces and cities, senior administrators in ministries, top financial regulators and bankers, senior executives of state-owned enterprises and presidents of prestigious universities.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), China's top discipline and anti-corruption body, said the 2025 detentions were 12 per cent higher than 58 senior officials caught in the anti-corruption fight in 2024, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Saturday.

Xi, 72, currently in his unprecedented third five-year term as President, started the anti-graft campaign against "tigers and flies," meaning big and small officials, when he took over power in 2012.

State media reports previously said over a million officials, including dozens of high-level military officials, were punished. Several top army generals were also removed last year in the anti-graft campaign.

Observers say that the intensity of the campaign and its continuation also helped Xi to consolidate his power in the party and military.

In an October internal speech, excerpts of which were made public Wednesday, Xi emphasised that corruption was "the greatest threat" facing the party and said the cases were another reminder that the fight remained "grim and complex."

The latest to be detained was Zhang Shiping, 71, former vice-chairwoman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

She was detained Tuesday for suspected corruption, the Post report said.

of the day

quote

India's future workforce must not only be digitally aware but AI-confident

JAYANT CHAUDHARY | UNION MINISTER

Enduring markets are not built on momentary highs or cycles of optimism. They are built on institutions that inspire trust, regulation that evolves with markets, and systems that continuously adapt and upgrade

TUJIN KANTA PANDEY | CHAIRMAN, SEBI

Distributors remain key market enablers in taking Indian components across India and global supply chains

ASHOK CHANDAK | PRESIDENT, IESA

SHORT TAKES

Bharat Coking Coal IPO to open Jan 9

Mumbai: State-owned Bharat Coking Coal, a subsidiary of Coal India, has filed its Red Herring Prospectus with the Registrar of Companies to launch its Initial Public Offering January 9, marking the first mainboard IPO of the new year 2026. The public issue will be entirely an offer-for-sale of 46.57 crore equity shares by its promoter Coal India. There is no fresh issue component, which means the company itself will not receive any funds from the IPO. All proceeds from the issue will go to Coal India as the selling shareholder. In its prospectus filed on January 2, Bharat Coking Coal said the main objectives of the IPO are to carry out the offer-for-sale and to gain the benefits of listing its equity shares on the stock exchanges.

PNB's global business surges 9.57% in Q3

Mumbai: State-owned Punjab National Bank Friday said its global business rose 9.57 per cent year-on-year to ₹28.92 lakh crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal. The bank has shared its provisional business figures for the period ended December 31, 2025, with the stock exchanges. According to the exchange filing, its domestic business stood at ₹27.65 lakh crore during the October-December period, up 9.09 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2024-25. Bank's global deposits grew 8.54 per cent year-on-year to ₹16.6 lakh crore, and domestic deposits rose 8.32 per cent year-on-year to ₹15.97 lakh crore. Punjab National Bank further said its global advances were up 10.98 per cent year-on-year to ₹12.32 lakh crore, while domestic advances increased 10.15 per cent annually to ₹11.68 lakh crore.

Hindustan Zinc mined metal production rises

New Delhi: Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) reported a four per cent rise in mined metal output to 2,76,000 tonnes in the third quarter of the current fiscal year, primarily on account of higher ore production. The company's mined metal output was 2,65,000 tonnes in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. The production of saleable metal during the third quarter also rose by four per cent. Of the total saleable metal output, refined zinc production was 2,21,000 tonnes and refined lead output was 49,000 tonnes. However, the saleable silver production during the quarter declined marginally by one per cent to 158 metric tonnes, the company said in a filing to BSE.



"I think by 2032, we would be very significant among the top 4 nations of the semiconductor industry, and by 2035, we would be among the best. This direction is clearly visible. This can be clearly predicted"

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

NTPC'S NUCLEAR PLANS

NTPC is exploring multiple international collaborations in the area of technology and fuel to push its nuclear ambitions to diversify energy generation. NTPC is looking to set up around 30 GW of company-owned nuclear projects across various locations in the country in line with the government's ambition of having 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047. Sources said the company is eyeing 2 GW of nuclear capacity as early as 2032



Transport Ministry plans Aadhaar-style ID for EV batteries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: The transport ministry has proposed assigning Aadhaar-like unique identification number to EV batteries to ensure their end-to-end traceability and efficient recycling.

The proposed framework will make it mandatory for battery producer or importer to assign a 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) to batteries, as per the draft guidelines issued by the ministry.

They will also have to upload the relevant Battery Pack Dynamic data on the official portal of BPAN.

"The battery producer or importer shall have the obligation of assigning a unique Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) to each battery that they introduce in the market and the battery they put to self-use."

"BPAN shall be in a clearly visible and accessible position. The location shall be chosen in a way that it cannot be destroyed or deteriorate," the guidelines said.

BPAN will capture and store vital information starting from raw material extraction and manufacturing to its usage, recycling, or final disposal, as per the 'Guidelines For Implementation Of Battery Pack Aadhaar System'.

According to the guidelines, any change in attributes of BPAN due to recycling and repurposing shall result in a new BPAN by the same or a new producer or importer.

This system aims to bring transparency, accountability, and sustainability to the battery ecosystem by enabling accurate tracking of performance, and environmental impact.

BPAN will play a crucial role in enabling second-life usage, regulatory compliance, and efficient recycling.

Electric vehicle applications account for 80–90 per cent of the total lithium-ion battery demand in India, significantly exceeding demand from industrial or non-automotive applications.

While the guideline recommends applicability of BPAN for industrial batteries above 2 kWh, it is proposed that electric vehicle batteries be given priority during standard formulation, considering their scale, safety implications, and regulatory relevance.

"This approach will ensure that the Battery Pack Aadhaar framework addresses the most impactful segment of the Indian battery ecosystem in its initial phase," the draft guidelines said.

They also recommended that the Battery Pack Aadhaar framework be taken forward through the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) route under the Automotive Industry Standards Committee (AISC), following the established multi-step standardization process.

This will enable structured stakeholder consultation, technical validation, and harmonization with existing automotive regulations while ensuring national uniformity and regulatory acceptance, it said.

Tesla loses EV crown to BYD

In a first, the Chinese automaker's electric vehicle sales surpass Musk's Tesla after years of narrowing the gap

REUTERS

Washington, Jan 3: Tesla ceded its crown as the world's top electric vehicle maker to China's BYD, after annual sales fell for a second year, hit by rising competition, the expiry of US tax credits and brand backlash.

With global EV sales rising 28% last year, BYD outsold Tesla for the first time on an annual basis, helped by rapid growth in Europe, where the Chinese automaker has been widening its lead over the US rival.

Tesla, whose sales fell about 8.6% in 2025, is facing intense competition, especially in Europe, raising questions about its ability to revive the core auto business as CEO Elon Musk steers the company towards robotics and humanoid robots.



- Tesla's annual sales decline for second consecutive year
- EV demand softens after US tax credit expiration

- Tesla's focus shifts to robotics and self-driving technology
- Tesla loses top EV maker title to China's BYD

es rose nearly \$6,000 to \$53,300, according to J.D. Power data.

Tesla said it delivered 418,227 vehicles in the October-December quarter, down 15.6% from 495,570 a year earlier. Analysts expected 434,487 vehicles, or a 12.3% drop, according to Visible Alpha.

For the full year, Tesla delivered 1.64 million vehicles, compared with 1.79 million in 2024. Analysts polled by Visible Alpha had expected de-

liveries of about 1.65 million vehicles.

The decline in deliveries was not a major surprise, given the market had already priced in weaker demand after US EV tax credits ended, said Seth Goldstein, senior equity research analyst at Morningstar.

Meanwhile, Tesla said it deployed 14.2 GWh of energy storage products, a record high. It is set to report fourth-quarter results January 28.

INTENSIFYING COMPETITION IN NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE

Growing competition from Chinese and European automakers such as BYD, Volkswagen and BMW has weighed on Tesla's sales momentum.

Tesla registrations declined across much of Europe in December but jumped in Norway, where record sales contrasted with shrinking market share in rest of the region in 2025.

BYD said sales outside of China climbed to a record 1 million vehicles in 2025, up about 150% from 2024. The company has said it aimed to sell as many as 1.6 million vehicles outside China in 2026, though it has not dis-

Malabar's 'Brides of India' campaign



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 3: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's largest gold and diamond retail chains, unveiled the 15th edition of its flagship 'Brides of India' campaign Saturday at its Chandrasekharpur outlet celebrating the diversity, traditions and emotional depth of Indian bridal heritage.

Recognised as one of India's largest and most anticipated bridal campaigns, the 2026 edition brings together 22 brides and 10 leading celebrities, including Sabyasachi Mishra, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, NTR, Karthi, Anil Kapoor, Sreenidhi Shetty, Rukmini Maitra, Prarthana Behere and Manasi Parekh. The campaign reflects the rich cultural fabric of India, highlighting how bridal jewellery is deeply intertwined with rituals, memories and personal identity.

The campaign was launched by Padmini Purohit, Founder of Gunjan Makeup, in the presence of the Malabar management team. As part of the campaign, customers can avail up to 30% discount on making charges of gold, uncut and gemstone jewellery, along with up to 30% discount on diamond value.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, said, "Each year, the Brides of India campaign is our tribute to the brides of this country, and the 15th edition marks a significant milestone for us. This edition celebrates the depth of traditions the memories, rituals and relationships that define every bride. With Malabar's commitment to transparency and quality assurance, we want every family to feel confident in choosing jewellery that is meaningful and trustworthy."

Indians lose over ₹52,976 crore to cyber frauds over six years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: Indians lost over ₹52,976 crore to various frauds and cheating cases over the past six years, with Maharashtra recording the highest monetary losses in such offences, according to reports.

Losses of about ₹19,813 crore and 2,177,524 cheating-related complaints were recorded in 2025, according to data from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) that compiled information from National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

Reported losses in 2024 was ₹22,849.49 crore with 1,918,852 complaints, and smaller sums were recorded in earlier years pointing to a worrying surge in financial crimes such as investment traps, digital arrest, online scams and banking frauds.

Analysts attributed the sharp rise to rapid digitisation, increased online transactions and more sophisticated scam networks. The data showed Maharashtra suffered the largest monetary losses from cheating cases last year at ₹3,203 crore with 2,833,20 complaints, followed by Karnataka at ₹2,413 crore and 2,132,28 complaints, according to a report from Indi-



ALARMING TREND

- Losses of ₹19,813cr and 2,177,524 cheating-related complaints in 2025
- Reported losses in 2024 was ₹22,849.49cr with 1,918,852 complaints
- Maharashtra suffers largest monetary losses of ₹3,203cr last year

Tamil Nadu posted losses of 1,897 crore and 1,232,90 complaints, Uttar Pradesh at ₹1,443 crore and 2,752,64 complaints; and Telangana with ₹1,372 crore of losses and 95,000 complaints, were among top five states accounting for more than half the

national total, the report said.

Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS) data showed that around 21 crore cyber fraud complaints were reported in 2025 with 45 per cent of them originating from Southeast Asian countries – Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos.

The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has been launched to enable citizens to report complaints relating to various categories of cybercrime, with a special focus on offences targeting women and children. A dedicated cybercrime helpline number, 1930, provides immediate assistance to victims of online financial frauds.

Flexible gig work ensures reliable income: Deepinder

According to estimates, there are over 12.7 million gig workers in India, with government think tank NITI Aayog saying this workforce is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: Amid the debate on gig workers' payouts and working conditions, Eternal Founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal said this model does not pressure riders, and flexible schedules and welfare benefits make gig work a reliable source of income for many.

Eternal owns Zomato and Blinkit businesses.

His remarks come at a time when gig workers' unions have been staging protests, demanding better payouts and

improved working conditions.

"In 2025, Zomato and Blinkit spent over ₹100 crore on insurance coverage for delivery partners. In 2025, average earnings per hour (EPH), excluding tips, for a delivery partner on Zomato were ₹102. In 2024, this number was ₹92. That's a ~10.9 pc year-on-year increase. Over a longer horizon also, EPH has shown steady growth," Goyal said on X.

He claimed that the 10-minute delivery promise does not pressure riders, explaining how flexible schedules and welfare



benefits make gig work a reliable source of income for many.

However, his comments drew mixed responses from internet users on X, with several accusing riders of rash driving and violating traffic rules to meet 10-minute delivery deadlines.

The Gig & Platform Services Workers' Union (GPSWU) last month wrote to Union Minister for Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya raising several issues, with a key highlight being their demand to "urgently discontinue 10-20-minute

service delivery mandates to prioritise worker safety".

Goyal also battled for "less regulation" for India's gig economy, arguing that it will eventually help bring more people into the "organised" workforce.

"Delivery partners are not overworked on our platforms. In 2025, the average delivery partner on Zomato worked 38 days in the year and 7 hours per working day, reflecting true gig style participation rather than fixed schedules. Only 2.3 pc of partners worked more than 250 days in the year. Demanding full-time employee benefits like PF, or guaranteed salaries for gig roles doesn't align with what the model is built for," he argued.

The Eternal founder said most delivery partners work

for a few hours and only a few days in a month.

"But if someone were to work for 10 hours/day, 26 days/month, this translates to ~Rs 26,500/month in gross earnings. After accounting for fuel and maintenance (~20 pc), the net earnings for the partner are ~Rs 21,000/month," he stated.

In November, the government notified all four labour codes, ushering in major reforms, including universal social security coverage for gig workers.

The labour ministry has proposed a 90-day annual work threshold as the mandatory eligibility criteria for gig and platform workers to access social security under new draft rules on the Social Security Code 2020, published on December 31.

INDIA-NZ ODIs

Siraj makes comeback, Iyer included subject to fitness



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: Senior India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj Saturday made a comeback to the ODI side for the three-match home series against New Zealand while batter Shreyas Iyer was included subject to fitness clearance.

Siraj, who was overlooked for the home series against South Africa, is back in the ODI setup. His new ball partner Jasprit Bumrah was expectedly rested from the series with the focus on the shortest format ahead of the T20 World Cup beginning next month.

Iyer, who was hospitalised during the ODI series in Australia in November for spleen laceration, will need to prove his match fitness in a Vijay Hazare Trophy game January 6 to get fitness clearance from the Centre of Excellence (COE). He returns to the squad as vice-captain.

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya was not cleared by the COE to bowl 10 overs in a match and therefore the

selectors did not include him in the team for the series beginning in Vadodara January 11. There is also little point in risking him with T20 showpiece around the corner.

The other two matches will be played in Rajkot and Indore January 14 and 18 respectively. "Shreyas Iyer's availability is subject to fitness clearance from BCCI COE," said the BCCI in a statement.

"Hardik Pandya has not been cleared by the BCCI COE to bowl 10 overs in a match, and considering the ICC Men's T20 World Cup to follow, his workload is being managed," it added.

Ruturaj Gaikwad could not get the selectors' nod despite scoring a fine hundred during the South Africa series. With captain Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer not part of the South Africa ODIs due to injuries, Gaikwad had made a splendid 105 off 83 balls batting at number four in Raipur.

After being dropped from the T20 World Cup squad, Gill will take back the ODI leader-

ship mantle from KL Rahul, who led the team in the former's absence.

Despite speculation, Rishabh Pant has retained his place as the second wicket-keeper in the squad. Tilak Varma and Dhruv Jurel, who were part of the previous series, have been left out with senior players returning from injuries.

The pace attack comprises Siraj, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh with all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy being the fourth option.

India superstars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, now one format players, are once again expected to draw huge crowds to the three venues.

SQUAD

Shubman Gill (C), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Shreyas Iyer (VC; subject to fitness clearance), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohd Siraj, Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal

SHORT TAKES

AIFF to announce ISL dates next week

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Saturday said that the date of commencement of the delayed 2025-26 season of the Indian Super League (ISL) will be announced next week after the Coordination Committee formed to look into the matter submitted its report. After a meeting of its Emergency Committee Saturday, the AIFF said it will conduct the top-tier league, though the clubs have raised some issues earlier. It is learnt that the AIFF is likely to propose a February 15 start of the ISL whose 2025-26 season has been delayed after the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) with the former commercial rights holders FSDL ended December 8. The Coordination Committee recommended that the AIFF should bear the cost of refereeing and broadcast production, while the clubs should organise home matches "as they had done in previous editions". It is also learnt that the Committee wanted the AIFF to levy a participation fee of Rs 1 crore per club.

Wawrinka opens farewell tour in style

Perth: Stan Wawrinka's 40-year-old legs didn't let him down over three-plus hours in his first singles match of a 2026 farewell tour Saturday. Three-time Grand Slam singles champion Wawrinka beat Arthur Rinderknech of France, who is ranked 29th to Wawrinka's 157th, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5). The match went 3 hours, 16 minutes. Wawrinka announced in December that this year would be his last on the ATP tour. "Today was a tough battle. . . it's amazing to come here for the first time, to have so much support," Wawrinka said Saturday. "Twenty years on tour, you kind of always play in the same place and tournaments. So for me it's amazing to have this opportunity this year to play in Perth." Ahead of his first match, Wawrinka said he hoped to improve on his current ranking and move back into the top 100 before he retires. His highest ranking was No 3, achieved when he won the Australian Open in 2014.

KKR releases Mustafizur amid tensions

The pressure had been mounting on the BCCI over the Bangladeshi player's participation after recent killing of a Hindu man in the country and India's expression of concern for the safety of minorities there

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 3: Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman has been released by IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders after being instructed to do so by the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) amid heightening diplomatic tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

KKR had acquired the services of the 30-year-old left-arm for Rs 9.20 crore from a base price of Rs 2 crore after an intense bidding war with Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals at the players' auction last month.

The BCCI said KKR will be allowed to name a replacement player if required for the event scheduled to start March 26.

"The BCCI has asked Kolkata Knight Riders to release Mustafizur Rahman from its squad. They can ask for replacement, if needed. And upon request, BCCI will allow a replacement player," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI here Saturday.

Asked why the BCCI has asked Kolkata Knight Riders to do so, he replied, "Because



of recent developments all across."

In a statement, the franchise said it has released the player as instructed by the BCCI.

"Kolkata Knight Riders confirms that BCCI/IPL as the regulator of IPL has instructed it to release Mustafizur Rahman from the squad ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

"The release has been carried out following due process and consultations, upon the instruction of the Board of Control of Cricket in India," KKR said in a statement.

The pressure had been mounting on the BCCI over Rahman's participation after recent killing of a Hindu man in the country and India's expression of concern for the safety of minorities there.

The criticism has also extended to KKR co-owner and Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan with some politi-

cians from the ruling BJP questioning the call to include the bowler in the current scenario.

Rahman has featured in eight IPL editions since 2016, missing the tournament only in 2019 and 2020.

He has played for teams such as Sunrisers Hyderabad, Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals, Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals. The upcoming edition was going to be his first for three-time IPL winners KKR. Neither him, nor the Bangladesh Cricket Board have reacted to the development yet.

Rahman was allowed to register for the auction by the Indian Board but the Indo-Ban-

The BCCI has taken this decision after thorough consultation, and Mr Saikia has already conveyed it to the media. The decision is related only to the IPL; we have not discussed the World Cup yet. We will share details once that is done

MITHUN MANHAS | PRESIDENT, BCCI

Haryana snap Odisha winning streak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore, Jan 3: Haryana registered a composed four-wicket victory over Odisha in Match 5 of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 at Alur Cricket Stadium II, Bangalore, riding on a commanding century by Parth Vats in a high-scoring contest.

Asked to bat first after Haryana opted to field, Odisha posted a competitive 305 for 9 in their allotted 50 overs. The innings was anchored by Swastik Samal, who struck a fluent 101 off 102 balls, laced with 10 fours and three sixes. Samal found solid support from Govinda Poddar, who contributed a patient 77 off 82 deliveries, ensuring Odisha maintained momentum through the middle overs.

Haryana's bowlers, however, pulled things back at crucial junctures, with Parth Vats and Anuj Thakral sharing three wickets apiece. While runs flowed freely, Haryana managed to restrict Odisha from crossing the 320 mark, keeping the chase within reach.

In reply, Haryana showcased remarkable composure in pur-



Soumya Ranjan Lenka makes his List-A debut Saturday

suit of the 306-run target. Opener Parth Vats led from the front with a superb unbeaten 157 off 136 balls, displaying a fine blend of patience and controlled aggression. His innings included 13 fours and five sixes and laid the foundation for the chase. Anuj Thakral complemented him perfectly, remaining not out on 59 from 48 balls, striking timely boundaries to keep the

asking rate under control. The duo stitched together a decisive partnership that took the game away from Odisha.

For Odisha, Debabrata Pradhan and Biplab Samantray picked up two wickets each, but their efforts were not enough to halt Haryana's steady progress. Haryana eventually reached 309 for 6 in 48.4 overs to seal the contest comfortably.

The win underlined Haryana's batting depth and chase temperament, while Odisha were left to rue missed opportunities despite posting an imposing total.

BRIEF SCORES

Odisha 305 for 9 in 50 overs (Swastik Samal 101, Govinda Poddar 77, Biplab Samantray 47; Anuj Thakral 3/68, Parth Vats 3/60) lost to **Haryana** 309 for 6 in 48.4 overs (Parth Vats 157 not out, Anuj Thakral 59 not out) by 4 wickets

Pandya unleashes carnage

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya Saturday clobbered nearly half a dozen sixes including five in an over on way to a 93-ball 133, for Baroda against Vidarbha in their Vijay Hazare Trophy contest here. Pandya hit an overall 11 sixes and eight fours to turn the tables on Vidarbha, who had taken control of the game by reducing Baroda to 71 for five at one stage and then 136 for six in the first half. However, batting as low as No 7 in his first match of the competition, Pandya came out all guns blazing to bring up his maiden List A century in his 119th match, taking Baroda to a competitive total of 293 for nine in their 50 overs. In the 39th over, Pandya went after Vidarbha spinner Parth Rekhade to collect a total of 34 runs which included five sixes and a four. The first five balls of the left-arm spinner went flying over the ropes while the final ball was hit for a boundary.

HIL: Lancers to take on Ranchi



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 3: Strong contenders Kalinga Lancers are all set to face debutants Ranchi Royals in their first match of the Men's Hockey India League (HIL) at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai Sunday.

Kalinga Lancers start the new season after an intense pre-season camp, focusing on building structure, cohesion, and match readiness before the league begins. Although Ranchi Royals are making their debut in the Hockey India League, they have a strong core team kept from the former franchise Gonasika.

Speaking ahead of their sea-

son opener, head coach Jay Stacy highlighted the importance of preparation and composure in the opening game.

"The group has worked hard in preparation, and the focus has been on clarity in our roles and discipline across the pitch. Opening games are about settling quickly and playing smart hockey," said Stacy.

The Lancers, last season's second-highest goal scorers, aim to maintain their attacking approach this year while also improving their defensive setup.

Kalinga Lancers will play two matches in Chennai, with their second match against defending champions Bengal Tigers Thursday (January 8).

Eyeing 2026 Asian Games, AFI announces qualification marks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: With a goal to improve overall medal tally in track and field at the Asian Games in Japan, the AFI (Athletics Federation of India) announced qualification mark here Saturday.

While announcing the Asian Games qualification standards, Adille Sumariwalla former AFI president and spokesperson said, the athletes have ample time at hand to peak at the right time and book tickets for the major international multi-discipline competition of the 2026 season. "The AFI will select at least two eligible athletes in each of the events," Sumariwalla added. "The AFI

selection panel will take a final call on the strength of the Indian athletics contingent for the Asian Games."

Sumariwalla, who is also one of the vice presidents of the World Athletics said, the core group of athletes gave a good account of themselves in 2025, which augurs well for the 2026 season.

"Indian athletics contingent won 29 medals, six of them gold at the previous edition of the 2022 Asian Games held in China," Sumariwalla added. "I'm confident that the overall medal tally in athletics will be better at the Asian Games in Japan."

Sumariwalla said, the sixth place finish in track and field events at the previous Asian



Games held in China was the benchmark for 2026 Asian Games. However, in several events including 200m, 400m, 800m and high hurdles the qual-

ification mark has been fifth place finish. "The government (Sports Ministry) has been apprised of the AFI qualification mark," the AFI spokesperson

The domestic calendar will start with National cross country championships January 24 but the first major track and field event—National Senior Athletics Federation Competition will be held from May 22 to 25 in Bhubaneswar

The National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships is scheduled to be held from July 8 to 12 in Bhubaneswar

said.

The qualification mark in events like race walk and marathon, the AFI will decide shortly, Sumariwalla added.

The domestic calendar will start with National cross country championships January 24

gladesh ties have grown more tense amid political unrest in that country.

With Rahman's ouster, it remains to be seen if Bangladeshi players would be excluded from the IPL the same way their Pakistani counterparts have been for the past several years owing to political tensions.

Bilateral cricket uncertain

India and Bangladesh cricket boards had postponed a white-ball bilateral series last year. The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Friday said the series will be played there in September this year.

However, the BCCI is non-committal on the schedule and is unlikely to agree to it given the volatile situation in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh at T20 WC

Bangladesh are also scheduled to play their T20 World Cup games in India next month.

The relationship between the two countries hit a rough note after the ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August last year following anti-government protests.

She was sentenced to death in absentia by a tribunal this year for her alleged role in a deadly crackdown during the agitation in which several students were killed.

NATIONAL SHOOTING

Ajay, Jonathan share golden glory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: Army shooter Ajay Kumar clinched the men's 10m air pistol gold while Karnataka's Jonathan Gavin Antony made a cleansweep of the top-podium spots in the sub-youth, youth and junior categories to make it a golden treble in the National Shooting Championships here Saturday.

Kumar finished on top with a score of 241.1, edging out Railways' Shubham Bisla, who settled for silver with 240.1 after a closely-fought final. Haryana's Anmol Jain secured the bronze with 220.0.

Among notable names, Paris Olympics bronze medallist Sarabjot Singh finished 19th with 580, while reigning world champion Samrat Rana ended 71st on 576. Defending champion Varun Tomar finishing 99th with 575.

The youth men's final saw Jonathan produce a composed performance to top the field with a score of 240.0. Punjab's Guntajpreet Singh secured the silver with 236.0, while Uttar Pradesh's Savej Khan claimed bronze (214.3).

Jonathan then returned to win the junior men's title with a score of 240.5. Haryana's Shiva Narwal finished a close second with 240.3, while Rajasthan's Yogesh Kumar secured bronze on 218.2.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu edged past Madhya Pradesh 36-35 to clinch the senior trap mixed team gold. Prithviraj Tondaiman scored 19, while Nilaa Rajaa Baalu contributed 17 in the win.