

A stable and uninterrupted 11 kV power supply has been ensured for the hydrogen plant established in Jind, which will provide fuel for the train strengthening alternative arrangements and rapid response mechanisms. Last month, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written statement in the Lok Sabha, had said that the Indian Railways has taken up a state-of-the-art project for running its first hydrogen train on a pilot basis.



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You will want to catch up with old friends that you have been neglecting for some time. The stars suggest that you will enjoy yourself. Your excitement will brighten up your activities. Your frankness and honesty are what set you apart from others, says Ganesha.

**TAURUS**  
this day you will tend to be too bossy, too harsh on your subordinates or employees and end up making them miserable as well as hostile. Their insubordination could corrode the respect you get and, in addition, make things unworkable. This acrimony and ill will is sure to spread and foul up your larger professional connections and interests.

**GEMINI**  
You will try to think up creative ways to perform your daily routine to get a break from the boredom and the rut of your daily schedule. You need to mingle more with people and practice some humility. Guests will come visiting at your home. You will spend the evening in conversation with your family, friends or neighbours, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
The day looks set to be so good that you may end up inviting jealousy and envy from people around you. The stars are favourable for matters pertaining to heart. In short, a great day for boosting love and relationships. Fantastic opportunities may come your way, if you have been looking to woo a sweetheart, whispers Ganesha.

**LEO**  
It is an important day for you. Everyone in the office will accept your capabilities and will praise you. You may incur expenses on entertainment and luxuries. Your financial difficulties will now be solved. It is better to have an eye on long term gains. A progressive day on the whole, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Today will be a pleasant day full of surprises and unforeseen changes. You may go for a long drive with your beloved. The trip will be very interesting and will calm your frayed nerves. All in all, Ganesha says, it is an optimistic and happy day, so go ahead and get the best out of it.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says today you will use your mental competency to complete all your work on time. You may not give complete attention to your family as you will be spending time in the office or at work. Your extraordinary intelligence will be showcased at work today.

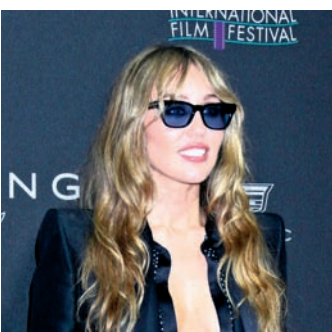
**SCORPIO**  
You are one social butterfly today. However, shunning the gossips, you spread kindness and happiness in your social groups. People will look up to you today for this reason. What goes around, comes around; spread joy and you are sure to receive joy, says Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
It's time for some entertainment. Movies, picnics and dining out is on your mind. Invite your beloved and enjoy quality time with each other. Also, you will spend time with your family and friends, and attend a music concert together.

**CAPRICORN**  
Though you leave no stone unturned to identify the opportunities coming your way, you need to keep your guards on whenever you are a part of a legal matter. Financially, you're likely to bear some heavy losses, and if you're a dealer or a broker, the chances of suffering from them are even higher. Take some precautionary measures well in advance, advises Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS**  
You wish to have more than twenty-four hours in a day! You are determined to finish off your pending work but somehow you will find it extremely difficult to get the load off your shoulders. You will try everything; from canceling your vacations to postponing your dates, but nothing will seem enough, feels Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
Ganesha feels that you will sympathize with people today. This will help you get people's good wishes. You can prove to be a good boss, co worker, husband or wife and son or daughter. Ganesha advises you to carry on with these virtues.

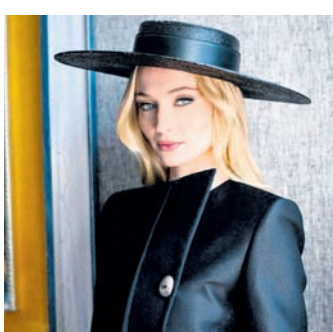


## MILEY OPEN TO ACTING RETURN

American singer-songwriter Miley Cyrus would consider a return to acting if the “opportunity” was right for her. Miley hasn’t had an acting role since appearing in an episode of *Black Mirror* in 2019.

## SOPHIE TURNER IS ON A DATING BREAK

The *Game of Thrones* star Sophie Turner seems to be on a dating sabbatical. The actress hasn’t been on a date for “months.” The actress, who was in a relationship with Peregrine Pearson following the 2023 breakdown of her marriage to Joe Jonas, is too focused on work.



# Bhumi’s global footprint

**Mumbai:** In 2025, Bhumi Pednekkar’s journey extended well beyond the realm of cinema, marking a significant shift in how the actor has positioned herself on the global stage. Bhumi began the year at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, where she participated in multiple discussions around climate action, representation and equitable growth. Addressing global leaders, she stated, “I aim to use my influence for positive change.”

Notably, Bhumi is the only Indian actress to be part of the WEF’s Young Global Leaders community — a cohort that has previously included figures such as Mark Zuckerberg, Sam Alt-

man, Leonardo DiCaprio, Emmanuel Macron, Justin Trudeau and Angela Merkel.

Further strengthening her commitment to informed leadership, Bhumi completed an executive programme at Harvard Kennedy School focused on leadership and global policy. On Earth Day, Bhumi reiterated the need for sustained action, saying, “Our planet is at a critical juncture, and time is not on our side,” adding, “The goal isn’t perfection, it’s awareness, consistency, and the courage to act.”

She later carried these experiences to the Milken Institute Summit in Singapore, highlighting India’s climate vulnerability and disaster response needs.

At the summit, Bhumi also underlined her identity with clarity and stated, “I wear my nationality like a badge of honour. Being Indian is my first identity. Yes, my bio says actress but it also says climate advocate. That part of my work is just as important.”

AGENCIES

## NATYA MAHOTSAV-2026 CONCLUDES



Members of Cultural and Theatre Academy, Sunabeda, performed Odia play *Sidhanta* at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Tuesday, on the third and last evening of the drama festival organised by Kalinga Natya Sangha, Odisha. The play was written and directed by Narendra Kumar Mishra.

## Tiger’s aerophobia

**Mumbai:** Tiger Shroff may look fearless on screen, but in real life, he has a big fear. The actor has revealed that he is scared of flying. He said this fear started after a very rough flight a few years ago. Since then, even the thought of boarding a plane makes him anxious. He shared those days before travelling, his heart starts racing and his mind keeps playing scary

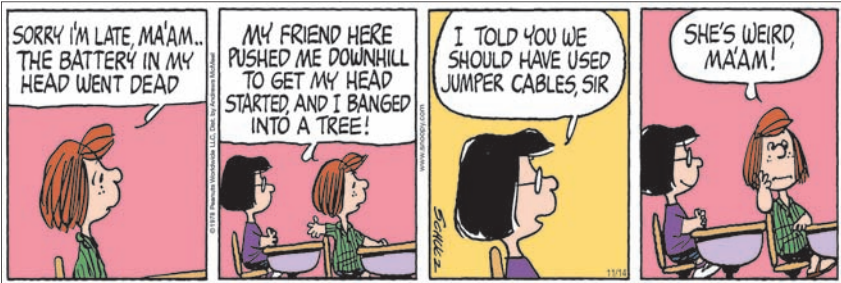
thoughts. Tiger said in an interview, “Recently I have developed this fear of flying. I was on a very turbulent flight a couple of years back, and since then I have developed aerophobia.”

What surprises people the most is how calm Tiger is when it comes to dangerous stunts. Talking to The Hollywood Reporter, he said he can jump off a building without any fear. For him, stunts feel natural and simple. Tiger explained, “What’s weird is that you can ask me to do the most difficult stunt ask me to jump off the roof of Grand Hyatt into the swimming pool. I can do that without thinking.” He added that flying scares him more than any stunt ever could.

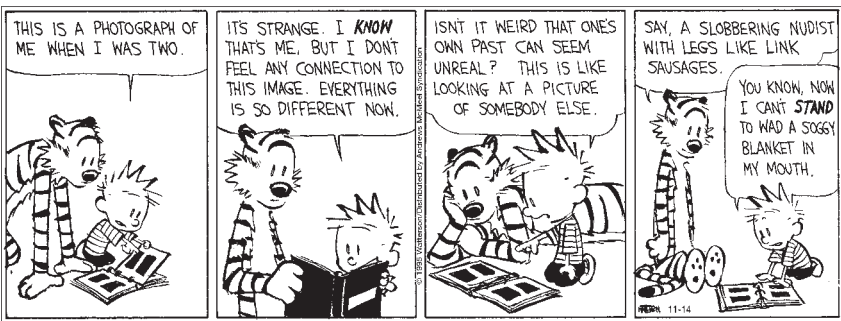
AGENCIES



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

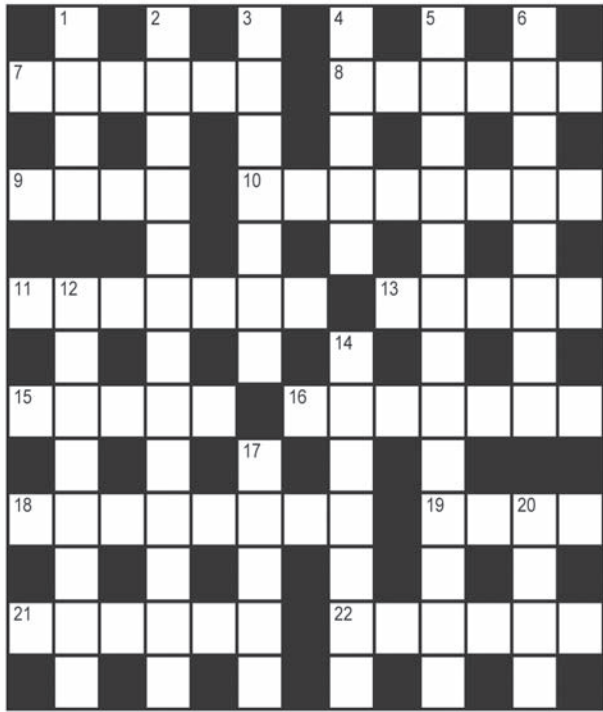


## BREVITY



## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



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- |                   |                                |                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Across</b>     | 19 Jumpy                       | 3 Type of cloud            |
| 7 Bedroom item    | 21 Distinctive flag            | 4 Keen                     |
| 8 Voucher         | 22 Once used to whiten laundry | 5 Automatic firearm (10,3) |
| 9 Leg hinge joint |                                | 6 Some highways (4-4)      |
| 10 Prematurely    | <b>Down</b>                    | 12 Automobile              |
| 11 Disrespectful  | 1 Destroy                      | 14 Sugar pill              |
| 13 Orange yellow  | 2 Window covering (8,5)        | 17 Set                     |
| 15 Pricked        |                                | 20 Male person             |
| 16 Braided        |                                |                            |
| 18 Fertile        |                                |                            |

## 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.

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

## SOLUTIONS

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

## CROSSWORD

## SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## ESMA INVOKED AS DOCS CONTINUE STIR

Under the order, strikes in the form of cessation of work by doctors, nursing officers, pharmacists, paramedics, technicians and Class III and IV employees, including contractual staff, engaged in government hospitals and dispensaries have been banned for six months with effect from Tuesday

Doctors in government hospitals and health centres have been boycotting OPD services since December 26

The agitation, under the banner of the Odisha Medical Service Association (OMSA), has been ongoing over a 10-point charter of demands

OPD boycott.

The government invoked ESMA after the OMSA rejected an appeal by Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling to resume duties, with an assurance that the demands would be considered sympathetically. The government has also constituted a high-level committee to examine the issues raised by the doctors.

The OMSA, however, rejected the government's appeal and committee proposal, insisting on a written assurance for the fulfilment of their demands.

According to the organisation, the state has a little over 6,000 government doctors against a sanctioned strength of 15,776, leaving more than 50 per cent of posts vacant.

"This is putting additional pressure on the existing doctors," the OMSA said.

Their other demands include parity in pay with Central government employees, proportional restructuring of cadres across all grades, additional financial incentives for super-specialists, specialists and diploma medical administrators, post-mortem allowance, and performance-based incentives.

with effect from Tuesday, an official notification said.

Doctors in government hospitals and health centres have been boycotting OPD services since December 26, initially for one hour a day, which was extended to two hours from 9am to 11am starting January 5. Emergency services, inpatient care and surgeries, however, have continued uninterrupted.

The agitation, under the banner of the Odisha Medical Service Association (OMSA), has been ongoing over a 10-point charter of demands, including filling up of vacant posts. The doctors had earlier protested by wearing black badges before resorting to the

THE GOVERNMENT INVOKED ESMA AFTER THE OMSA REJECTED AN APPEAL BY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE MINISTER MUKESH MAHALING TO RESUME DUTIES, WITH AN ASSURANCE THAT THE DEMANDS WOULD BE CONSIDERED SYMPATHETICALLY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** The state government Tuesday invoked Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), 1988, prohibiting strikes by doctors and other healthcare staffers, as agitating doctors carried on with their boycott of outpatient department (OPD) services across state-run health facilities.

Under the order, strikes in the form of cessation of work by doctors, nursing officers, pharmacists, paramedics, technicians and Class III and IV employees, including contractual staff, engaged in government hospitals and dispensaries have been banned for six months

## Forester caught taking ₹10K bribe

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Vigilance sleuths Tuesday arrested a forester in Bolangir district while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a local farmer.

The accused, Ashok Kumar Nayak, posted as forester in Gumuni section under Muribahal range, was caught red-handed demanding and accepting the illegal gratification to grant



permission for transporting wooden logs.

According to the Vigilance department, the farmer had recently felled one

teak and one sal tree on his private land. When he approached Nayak for transportation permission, the forester imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 for cutting the trees without prior approval, as required under government rules. The farmer, unaware of the mandatory permission requirement, agreed to pay the fine. However, Nayak allegedly demanded an additional Rs 10,000 as bribe to process the transportation permit. He also threatened the farmer with legal action if the bribe was not paid.

Harassed by the demands, the farmer lodged a complaint with the Odisha Vigilance.

Following this, a Vigilance team laid a trap and nabbed Nayak while he was accepting the bribe along with the Rs 2,000 fine from the complainant. The entire amount has been recovered and seized.

Simultaneous searches were conducted at two locations linked to Nayak to ascertain whether he has accumulated assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

## Hockey India League: Tickets for Bhubaneswar leg go on sale

**NEW DELHI:** With the Hockey India League 2025-2026 set to return to Bhubaneswar, the birthplace of hockey, January 17, tickets sale went live Tuesday at 11:00am IST. Hockey India has also announced that tickets will be free for fans eager to watch the matches live. The League will hold its grand finale January 26. Hockey India League (HIL) Governing Committee chairperson Dilip Tirkey said, "As the Hockey India League returns to the hockey hub of India in Bhubaneswar, there is certainly a lot of excitement among hockey fans in the region to come watch their favourite stars live in action. To encourage more fans to come to the stadium and enjoy the thrilling matches, Hockey India has made the tickets free of cost. I believe this will encourage more fans from across Odisha to come to Bhubaneswar and watch some exciting hockey."

## SHOW IN CITY

Artistes enact a play at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



**REVIEW MEET:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reviews various programmes of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. H&FW Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Chief Secretary Anu Garg, department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathy S and Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Saswata Mishra are seen

OP PHOTO

## Traffic violations: IG tells SPs to adopt zero tolerance approach

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** In a strong push to institutionalise road safety and significantly reduce preventable road fatalities, Inspector General of Police (Central Range) Satyajit Naik has directed the Superintendents of Police (SPs) of all districts under his range to launch special enforcement drive against traffic violations and adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach against the violators.

The initiative, aligned with the ongoing National Road Safe-

ty Month, will focus primarily on high-occupancy passenger vehicles operating across the Central Range. With a sharp rise in commuter movement during the pilgrimage and picnic season, the drive will particularly target Ama Bus services, private stage carriers, and picnic buses travelling to Puri and other major locations.

"Our objective is to move beyond data collection to active, life-saving action. By coordinating with RTOs and adopting evidence-based planning, we aim to realise the 'Viksit

Odisha 2036' vision of making Odisha's roads the safest in the country," the IG stated.

The enforcement teams will rigorously check vehicle permits, fitness certificates, and insurance documents to ensure that only roadworthy vehicles remain in operation.

Authorities will also verify valid driving license and conduct on-the-spot checks to detect driver fatigue, intoxication, or health-related risks, the IG said. In addition, teams will also monitor registered passenger capacity and speed

limits, using interceptors and speed-detection technology to curb overspeeding.

Compliance with seatbelt usage and availability of mandatory safety equipment, including fire extinguishers and first-aid kits, will also be strictly enforced.

Naik said the drive would be backed by the Odisha Integrated Road Safety Dashboard, enabling police to use location intelligence and real-time data to focus on identified black spots and high-risk corridors for timely intervention.

## 6TH NATIONAL CHILIKA BIRD FESTIVAL INAUGURATED

## Migratory bird arrival reflects conducive climate: Parida

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** The annual arrival of migratory birds along Odisha's coastline is a clear indicator of the state's favourable climate and healthy ecosystem, Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Pravatī Parida said at the inauguration of 6th National Chilika Bird Festival at Lok Seva Bhawan here Tuesday.

Attending the festival, which is being organised by Tourism and Forest, Environment and Climate Change departments, as chief guest, Parida said, "The annual arrival of migratory birds along Odisha's coastline is a clear indicator of the state's favourable climate and healthy



ecosystem."

Emphasising the importance of protected and reserved forests, Parida noted that conservation of natural resources forms the foundation of sustainable and responsible tourism.

She also stressed the need for close monitoring of the arrival, movement and habitats

of migratory birds, along with strengthened conservation efforts to safeguard Chilika's rich biodiversity.

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia, who attended the event as guest of honour, reaffirmed that environmental conservation remains a top pri-

ority for the state government. He said Chilika lake, with its natural beauty and vibrant birdlife, is not only an ecological treasure but also a vital source of livelihood for local communities. The festival, he added, would further enhance Chilika's national and global prominence.

Tourism department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Balwant Singh highlighted key initiatives of the department and outlined the immense potential of Chilika lake as a premier eco-tourism destination.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Suresh Pant underlined Chilika's critical role in strengthening Odisha's wildlife

heritage and sustaining local livelihoods.

Several publications were released on the occasion, including a pocket guide based on observations of nearly 150 million birds, a magazine on the life of flamingos, and a booklet on bird conservation in Odisha.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the State Wildlife Organization, Bhubaneswar, under the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department, and the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM). The MoU aims to support the development, planning and marketing of eco-tourism products in the state.

## Woman journo among 2 dead in Puri road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Two women, including a journalist, were killed after a bus hit their scooter from the rear near Mangalpur Square under Pipli police limits in Puri Tuesday.

According to sources, the two were moving towards Puri in the morning when their scooter reportedly slipped on sand scattered on the road, causing them to fall. A speeding private bus coming from the rear hit them.

While Sheela Pattnaik, the female journalist associated with a private news channel, died on the spot, the other woman, who sustained critical injuries, was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

People from various walks



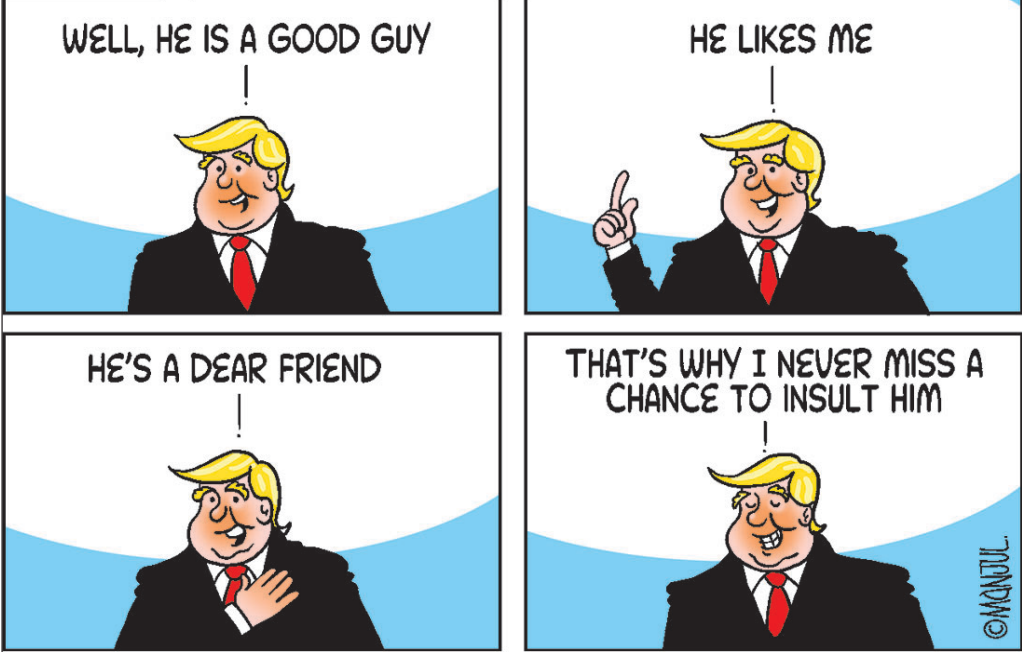
of life, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, expressed grief over the mishap.

"This is an irreplaceable loss for the world of journalism. I'm

praying for the eternal peace of her soul at the feet of Lord Shri Jagannath. I convey my deepest condolences to the bereaved family members. Om Shanti," Majhi said in a post on X.

Taking to X, Patnaik said, "The untimely demise of young journalist Sheela Pattnaik is heartbreaking. In this hour of deep grief, I convey my condolences to the bereaved family members while praying for the eternal peace of her departed soul."

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Sisir Saras to showcase rural craft, culture from Jan 10

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Artisans and producers from Odisha and 20 other states will come together at Sisir Saras 2026, a grand rural fair being organised by Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) under the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) department at IDCO Exhibition Ground here, from January 10 to 18.

The annual fair aims to provide a direct marketing platform for rural producers, artisans, and women self-help groups (SHGs), while promot-

ing handicrafts, handloom products, and rural enterprises from across the country.

PR&DW Minister Rabi Narayan Naik said the venue would be transformed into a 'Mini India Market', featuring 375 stalls, including 35 for food. Sisir Saras 2026 is a perfect opportunity to promote the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' and take a strong step towards building an 'Atmanirbhar Odisha', the minister said.

The fair will showcase Odisha's handicraft and heritage, including handloom textiles from Bargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Subarnapur, lac

The venue would be transformed into a 'Mini India Market', featuring 375 stalls, including 35 for food

The fair will showcase Odisha's handicraft and heritage like handloom textiles from Bargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Subarnapur, paper mache from Keonjhar, golden grass crafts from Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur and black rice from Koraput

The mega event will also feature Kalamkari from Andhra Pradesh, Kosa silk from Chhattisgarh, Tussar silk from Jharkhand and woollen garments from Jammu and Kashmir

**Sisir Saras 2026 is a perfect opportunity to promote the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' and take a strong step towards building an 'Atmanirbhar Odisha'**

RABI NARAYAN NAIK | PR&DW MINISTER

products from Balasore, paper mache from Keonjhar, wood-

craft from Kandhamal and Kalahandi, golden grass crafts

from Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur, terracotta from Bolangir, lemongrass and black rice from Koraput, and millet-based products from Sundargarh.

The fair will also feature Kalamkari from Andhra Pradesh, Kosa silk from Chhattisgarh, Tussar silk from Jharkhand, Chikankari from Uttar Pradesh, woollen garments from Jammu and Kashmir, Phulkari from Punjab, block prints from Madhya Pradesh, and artificial jewellery from Karnataka.

Six workshops and training programmes would be organised during the fair, involving

around 850 members of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and SHGs, the minister said.

Cultural programmes will be a major attraction at the festival, with performances by renowned artistes. A special musical night in memory of popular Odia singer Humane Sagar will also be organised.

Kite and drone shows, along with fashion shows, will further add to the festive atmosphere. Special emphasis will be placed on maintaining a clean and plastic-free environment throughout the fair, the minister added.



# IT firms to operate from Baramunda bus terminal



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** The Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bus Terminal (BSABT) at Baramunda is set to emerge as a major transport and business hub, with IT companies likely to commence operations from the facility soon, officials said.

The move is expected to enhance the terminal's profile and expand its role beyond a conventional transit point. Housing and Urban Development Minister and Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Chairman Krushna Chandra Mahapatra made the announcement Tuesday while addressing a special function at BSABT to hand over shop keys to beneficiaries.

The event was attended by BDA Vice Chairman Chanchal Rana, the local corporator and senior officials of the authority.

In his address, Minister Mahapatra emphasised that the inclusion of IT companies at BSABT would enhance the terminal's significance, boosting its business potential and

**The BDA has decided to allocate space on two floors of the state-of-the-art terminal for IT companies, integrating transport, technology and services under one roof**

**The initiative is expected to boost daily footfall, benefiting IT firms as well as small vendors operating within the terminal**

footfall. He also highlighted the recent announcement by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi regarding the establishment of a global visa application center at the terminal, which will further cement its status as a multifaceted hub. "The integration of IT firms will inject new energy into the terminal, creating a vibrant atmosphere and offering small vendors the opportunity to thrive," he said.

The BDA has decided to allocate space across two floors of the state-of-the-art terminal for IT companies, creating a unique blend of transportation, technology, and services

all under one roof. This move is expected to draw a surge in daily footfall, benefiting not just the IT companies, but also the small vendors operating within the terminal.

Rana also spoke about the positive impact of the new businesses on the local vendors. "Previously, many vendors had to set up their stalls outside the terminal. Now, they have been provided with air-conditioned shops, ensuring a more dignified and profitable livelihood," he said.

The BDA's initiative follows the successful allotment of 112 shops at BSABT in September, conducted through a lottery system. The shops, available on a monthly rental basis, are equipped with modern amenities, including uninterrupted power supply, water connections, and 24/7 security. The allotment process was carried out after a detailed survey by the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC), and the previous manager of the old Baramunda bus terminal.

The new terminal, spread over 11 acres, is the largest of its-kind in Odisha, handling over 1,500 buses and serving nearly 20,000 passengers daily. As one of the state's most critical transport hubs, BSABT is set to become an even more essential centre for commerce, technology, and travel.

With the dual integration of IT companies and improved vendor spaces, BSABT looks to foster a dynamic and thriving business ecosystem that will benefit both the local economy and travelers alike.

# Excise seizes 282L illicit liquor; 5 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** The Bhubaneswar Excise department, during a special drive, seized 282 litres of illicit distilled liquor (IDL) and five litres of country-made liquor in separate operations Tuesday and arrested five persons from the Mancheswar Line Sahi, Jaripatna, Nilachakra Nagar and IDCO slum areas here.

The identities of the arrested persons are yet to be

ascertained by the Excise Department. According to excise sources, the department received reliable inputs about illegal liquor trade in the City, following which special teams were formed to conduct raids at various locations to dismantle the supply chain of illicit liquor.

During the raids, the excise teams seized 282 litres of illicit distilled liquor (IDL) and five litres of country-made liquor. They also confiscated two two-wheelers used for



smuggling the contraband. "Acting on reliable tip-

offs, we nabbed the culprits. Through the special drive, we are targeting major locations and smugglers involved in the illegal liquor trade. The accused have been arrested and forwarded to court," said Bhubaneswar Excise DSP Raj Sekhar Swain.

It may be noted that January 3, the Excise department arrested three youths, including a law graduate, for allegedly smuggling drugs to high-profile professionals and students in the City.

# ‘Cong used Gandhi’s name in MGNREGA for political gain’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday alleged that the Opposition Congress used Mahatma Gandhi's name in the MGNREGA for political gains rather than to realise his vision of rural self-employment.

The CM's statement came ahead of the Congress's proposed nationwide 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram', a 45-day agitational plan beginning January 10.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state headquarters here, Majhi said the Narendra Modi government has enacted the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 with the objective of building a developed India by 2047. "The name of the Act itself reflects the goal of a developed India. Our aim is to actually fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's vision of rural self-employment, not merely use his name for political benefit," the chief minister said.



Rejecting the Congress charge that the Centre was attempting to erase Mahatma Gandhi's name, Majhi said opposition parties were indulging in propaganda by branding the BJP as anti-farmer and anti-poor.

"This law has extensive provisions for the welfare of farmers and workers. It was the UPA government that used Gandhi's name for political gain," he alleged. Claiming that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) had failed to achieve its objectives, Majhi said the scheme lacked accountability, resulting in large-scale corruption.

# Three held with 22g brown sugar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Khadagiri Police arrested three persons, including a woman and seized 22 grams of brown sugar during a raid near Ramamani Petrol Pump at Baramunda in the early hours of Tuesday.

Acting on credible intelligence, police registered a case and launched an investigation. The information suggested that one woman identified as Rina Jena (42) and two men identified as (Deepak Sahoo and Balaram Sahoo) were waiting near the petrol pump to sell brown sugar.

A special police team conducted a raid at the spot. On noticing the police, the suspects attempted to flee but were chased and apprehended.

During personal search, police recovered brown sugar from their possession and also seized cash from Rina Jena. On weighing, 12 grams of brown sugar was recovered from Rina, 5 grams from Deepak and 5 grams from Balaram. A motorcycle used in the crime was also seized.

During preliminary investigation it was revealed that Rina was involved in three previous NDPS cases, Balaram has five previous criminal cases, while Deepak was involved in two earlier criminal cases.

As prima facie evidence under Section 21(b) of the NDPS Act was established, all three accused were arrested and produced before the court. Further investigation into the case is underway.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Manjulata Goswami, D/o. Gyanendra Goswami, Vill./Post: Asurali, P.S.: Dhusuri, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha do hereby declare by this affidavit No. 3594, dated 01.05.2009 that now onwards I shall be known as Manini Goswami for all purposes.

# OCAC launches tech training camps



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC), the technical directorate of the Electronics and Information Technology department Tuesday launched 'Emerging Technologies Training Camps' for secondary and higher secondary school students across the state in presence of Electronics and Information Technology Minister Mukesh Mahaling and School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond.

The state-level inauguration

was held at the ICONIC Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV), Andharua. In the first phase, the programme will be implemented in 100 government secondary and higher secondary schools, benefitting nearly 12,000 students. The initiative will be expanded in subsequent phases to cover all government schools, OAVs, government colleges and universities.

The training camps will offer hands-on exposure in AI, Internet of Things (IoT), Robotics and cyber security awareness. The programme is sponsored by OCAC and implemented by

Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) to ensure effective on-ground delivery.

Addressing the gathering, Mahaling said, "Emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Robotics and Cyber Security are shaping the future workforce. Early exposure will empower students with innovation-driven skills essential for nation-building."

Joining as guest of honour, Gond encouraged students to adopt technology for building meaningful careers, while E&IT department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev urged them to gain deeper understanding of advanced technologies to contribute to the future economy.

OCAC CEO Pradeep Kumar Raut motivated students to become job creators by leveraging emerging technologies. Live demonstrations of AI, IoT, Robotics and Cyber Security applications were presented by OKCL Managing Director Manoranjan Puthal.

# 108 Ambulance Service reaches 1.5cr in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Termed as a backbone of Odisha's emergency healthcare system, the 108 Ambulance Service has achieved a milestone of providing free and timely medical assistance to more than 1.5 crore people across the state since its launch in 2013.

Being operational for over 12 years, the service has significantly transformed emergency response in Odisha by ensuring rapid medical transportation, professional pre-hospital care, and reliable access to healthcare facilities—even in the most remote and hard-to-reach regions.

Highlighting the achievement, EMRI Green Health Services state head Sabyasachi Biswal said the service began with 280 ambulances and has since expanded into a robust fleet of 1,366 ambulances, now covering all 30 districts of Odisha. The expansion reflects the state's sustained commitment to strengthening emergency healthcare services for every citizen.

A key pillar of the 108 Ambulance Service is its 24x7



integrated call centre in the Capital city. The centre promptly receives emergency calls, accurately locates patients, and dispatches the nearest available ambulance, ensuring swift response during critical situations.

In 2025 alone, the service benefited 15,74,177 people, including 11,85,031 emergency patients and 3,88,622 pregnant women and infants. Additionally, the service extended emergency support to nearly one lakh road accident victims, playing a crucial role in saving lives and reducing response-time delays.

To ensure uninterrupted operations, the ambulance

operating agency EMRI Green Health Services places strong emphasis on vehicle readiness and reliability. Six in-house workshops staffed with skilled mechanics operate across the state for quick maintenance and repairs. Furthermore, 62 backup ambulances are strategically deployed to immediately replace any vehicle taken off-road, ensuring emergency services remain unaffected.

Addressing the challenges of riverine and cut-off areas, six 108 boat ambulances have been deployed in Malkangiri, Kendrapada, Kalahandi, and Koraput districts, extending lifesaving services to com-

munities with limited road connectivity.

Odisha has also witnessed the extraordinary dedication of ambulance drivers, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and helpers, who consistently go beyond their call of duty—donating blood during emergencies, returning lost valuables, and navigating treacherous terrain to reach patients. Their acts of compassion during floods, cyclones, and the Covid-19 pandemic have earned widespread public appreciation.

With strategically positioned ambulances, trained medical personnel, and a strong monitoring system, the 108 Ambulance Service ensures that every citizen—urban or rural—receives emergency care completely free of cost. From the first distress call to pre-hospital treatment and safe hospital transfer, the service remains accessible to all.

Having touched over 1.5 crore lives, the 108 Ambulance Service stands today as a symbol of trust, reliability, and compassion, continuing its mission to save lives and strengthen emergency healthcare delivery across Odisha.

# KIIT ranks 5th in India for foreign student intake

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** Odisha is steadily becoming a preferred destination for international students seeking higher education, with the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) playing a key role in this growth.

A recent NITI Aayog report on the internationalisation of higher education in India highlighted a consistent rise in the number of foreign students enrolling in universities and higher education institutions across the state.

Notably, during the 2021-22 academic year, Odisha recorded the highest inflow of international students for higher studies in the country.

The report highlights that Odisha is now among India's top 10 states for attracting international students. In the eastern region, Odisha ranks

first, while KIIT stands fifth nationally among private universities for foreign student enrollment.

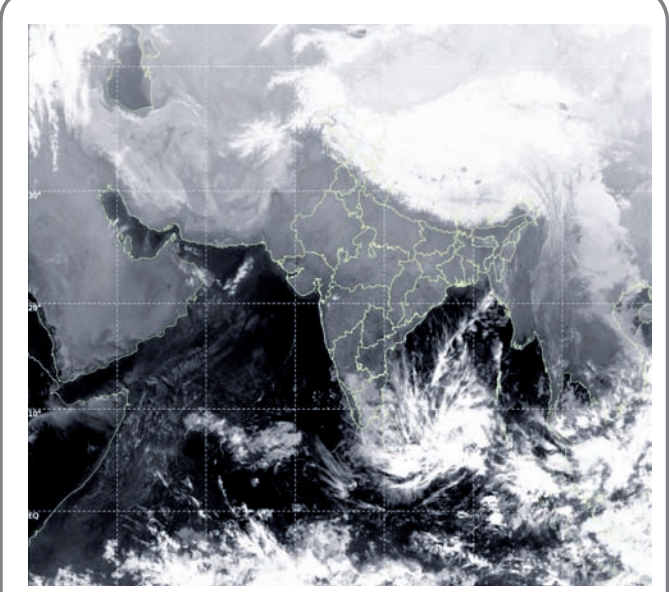
Despite the presence of major metropolitan cities such as Kolkata and Hyderabad, Odisha has surpassed West Bengal, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh in attracting foreign students.

This achievement has largely been possible due to KIIT, which alone hosts nearly 2,000 international students across various academic programmes.

Importantly, the NITI Aayog report notes that out of 2,362 foreign students studying in eastern India, nearly 2,000 are enrolled at KIIT.

Students from over 70 countries are currently pursuing education at the university. So far, about 5,000 international students have graduated from KIIT, while close to 2,000 are presently studying there.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	90.25 ▼ 0.15	SENSEX	85063.34 ▼ 376.28	GOLD	₹138,792 ▲ ₹672
EURO	105.82 ▲ 0.07	NIFTY	26178.70 ▼ 71.60	SILVER	₹254,847 ▲ ₹8692



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	23.8°	22.2°	Moderate fog
Min Temp	12.9°	10.0°	
Humidity	76%	86%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	





## Man dies after hearing of mother’s death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jeyapore, Jan 6:** In a tragic incident, a man died of a suspected heart attack shortly after learning about his mother's death, leaving a neighborhood in shock as two funeral biers were carried out of the same house Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as S. Sahibani (80), and her son, S. Ravi Kumar, residents of Parichha Sahi in Jey-pore town.

According to family members, Sahibani had been bed-ridden for a long time after suffering a paralytic stroke. Ravi, who was deeply devoted to his mother, took care of all her daily needs. Tuesday, after completing her routine care, he went out to inspect his agricultural land. When he returned, he found his mother dead.

Unable to cope with the shock, Ravi collapsed a short while later and died of a heart attack, family members said.

Relatives said Ravi remained unmarried to care for his ailing mother. His sister, S Sukanti, who also lives with them, is also unmarried due to mental health issues. After the death of Sahibani’s husband, the household mostly survived on pension money and income from their land.

Local residents gathered at the house as the bodies of the mother and son were taken out one after the other for last rites. The final rituals were performed with help from the neighbours.

## 47,215 in Koraput may lose ration benefits over pending e-KYC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nandapur, Jan 6:** As many as 47,215 ration card beneficiaries in Koraput district have reportedly failed to complete the mandatory Aadhaar-based e-KYC process, raising concerns that their names could be struck off from the ration cards depriving them of subsidised rice under food security schemes.

According to official reports, Koraput district has 3,66,667 ration cards covering 11,18,265 beneficiaries across 14 blocks and four urban local bodies. These beneficiaries receive rice under the National Food Security Act and state food security schemes. However, despite repeated appeals, e-KYC of 47,215 beneficiaries is still pending.

Officials warned that failure to complete e-KYC could lead to

deletion of names from ration cards, resulting in the loss of government-supplied rice. The state government has extended the deadline for e-KYC completion till February, urging all beneficiaries to comply within the stipulated time.

The district supply department has instructed block- and district-level officials to intensify awareness efforts to ensure full coverage.

In Nandapur block alone, 3,467 beneficiaries are yet to complete e-KYC out of a total of 83,786 beneficiaries listed under 28,603 ration cards across 23 gram panchayats, according to the block supply inspector's office. Panchayat-wise pending cases include Nandapur Sadar (156), Bilaput (155), Malibelgaon (128), Hikimpur (177), Badel (96), Kulabir (128), Khurji (105),

## Salaries of 5 teachers halted after fire injures 4 students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** The Odisha government Tuesday halted the salaries of five teachers and issued show-cause notices to other staff members in connection with the incident,” he said.

While three of the injured students are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Rayagada, one critically injured student has been shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The school headmaster had lodged a complaint at Muniguda police station Monday. Police have recorded statements of the injured students, officials said.

According to preliminary findings, the incident occurred when a classmate of the injured students allegedly threw colour thinner, an inflammable substance, onto a fire that had been lit by the students on the school building's balcony.

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## Ghost village Podampetta awaits submergence in sea

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Ganjam, Jan 6:** Podampetta, an old village off the coast of Bay of Bengal under Kantiagada panchayat in Ganjam district, is now completely deserted, after decades of sea erosion forced residents to relocate.

Once home to over 500 fishers' families, the village relied on the sea for its livelihood. Rising tides and occasional storms over the years prompted the district administration to start resettlement measures in 2004 under the Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP).

Initially, 110 families were shifted to Dumunagiri in Ramagarh panchayat near Saheb Canal. In 2013, another 102 families were relocated to the ODRP colony. A final group of over 300 families was moved in 2018 to a site near Mayurpada village, close to the same canal.

Today, Podampetta is largely empty, with only a few structures still visible. According



to locals, several houses in the upper section of the former village have been swallowed by the sea. Despite the exodus, the small temple dedicated to the presiding deity at the village's edge continues to be maintained, with an unmarried local woman conducting daily worship.

Fishermen in the area said the sea remains rough at times, making it impossible to access the temple during high

## Jaundice outbreak affects 25 children in Mayurbhanj



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Morada, Jan 6:** Panic gripped Morada block of Mayurbhanj district following a reported outbreak of jaundice, with more than 25 children said to be affected in Khuruntia village under Palasamunduli panchayat.

According to sources, at least seven students of the government upper primary school in the village have contracted the disease. Headmaster Jayant Kumar Pal confirmed that the affected children are students of the school.

Villagers have alleged that contaminated piped drinking water is the primary cause of the outbreak. As per reports, drinking water is supplied to the village through pipelines connected to the Basudha drinking water project tank. However, slabs covering the pipeline chambers have been left open, allowing road dust, garbage and other waste to mix with the water. Leakage has also been reported at several pipeline connection points, raising concerns over water contamination.

Following the directions of Morada BDO Anakar Nayak, BEO Bijay Kumar Panigrahi and block welfare officer Parbati Hansda visited Khuruntia school at around 11am Monday to assess the situation.

When contacted, Kisantandi community health centre medical officer Hambira Murmu said several children have recovered, while those currently affected are undergoing treatment at home with prescribed medicines. She added that a medical team led by Dr Alfa Mishra, along with a pharmacist, visited the village Tuesday to review the situation and spread awareness among residents.

Meanwhile, junior engineer of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Sasmita Pati, said a team has been deployed to disinfect the water tank by adding bleaching powder and to carry out repair work on the damaged pipelines.

Authorities have assured that steps are being taken to prevent further spread of the disease and to ensure safe drinking water supply in the village.

## Croc census begins at Ghodahada dam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Digapahandi, Jan 6:** A crocodile census began Tuesday at Ghodahada Dam under the Berhampur Forest Division of the state Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department. The dam is witnessing a rise in crocodile population since 2022.

The three-day exercise is being conducted in the dam near Khamari gaon panchayat of Digapahandi block in Ganjam district.

As per the reports, the forest department has formed 25 teams for the census. More than 25 forest personnel have been deployed under the leadership of Digapahandi Ranger Santosh Bisoyi Ratna. For the exercise, the dam area has been divided into 10 segments, and 16 water bodies have been identified.

According to previous counts by the department, the crocodile population at the dam stood at 76 in 2022. The number rose to 81 in 2023, increased to 84 in 2024, and reached 87 during the 2025 census.

A training camp for the census teams was held Monday at the eco-retreat complex near the dam. Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer Sunny Khokhar presided over the program. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Sasmita Biswal and Ganjam College botany department faculty member Mahendra Sethi served as trainers and briefed staff on census procedures.

## Woman held with 103 gm brown sugar

**Balasore:** Sahadevkhunta police Tuesday arrested a woman drug peddler and seized 103 grammes of brown sugar during a raid at Arad Bazaar Masjid Lane in Balasore town. The accused has been identified as Suramatun Bibi (28), a resident of the Masjid Lane area. Police also seized '9,500 in cash from her possession. Police said the accused was allegedly selling brown sugar to customers near her residence. Acting on prior information, a special team led by sub-inspector Alok Kumar Jena conducted the raid following the direction of IIC Biranchi Sahu. A case (8/26) has been registered in this connection, and the accused was produced in court. Police are continuing further investigation to ascertain the source and network involved in the contraband trade.

### APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENT OVER CHAKRADHARPUR DIVISION

No. : Comm1.82/STBA/CKP Divn/11 NSG-6/2026, Dated : 05.01.2026

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open tenders on "SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM" in prescribed tender forms from eligible candidates for the undermentioned work. Individual Tender form along with individual Earnest Money and Cost of Tender form against respective station plus supporting document is to be submitted separately for each stations. One applicant can be appointed as STBA at one station only. Without Earnest Money and Cost of Tender form the application shall not be entertained and shall be summarily rejected. **Description of Contract :** Appointment of Station Ticket Booking Agent (STBA) at **11 (Eleven) 'NSG-6' category stations** over Chakradharpur Division for a period of **03 (Three) years**. The stations are : Dhutra, Dhuruadihi, Kendposi, Posoita, Singhpokharia, Sonua, Bhalulata, Deojhar, Murga Mahadev Road, Bondamunda and Kalunga. **Departmental Value :** Out of the applicants fulfilling the eligibility conditions, the candidate(s) who opts for the least commission (on the Slab 3) will be selected as STBA. The commission payable shall be as follows :- **Slabs; Monthly Sales Turnover in Rs.; Monthly Commission percentage payable on sales turnover: Slab - 1 :** 1 – 20,000; 25% (Subject to minimum of ₹ 2,500/-). **Slab - 2;** 20,001 – 1,00,000; 15%. **Slab - 3 ;** >1,00,000; (4% in case of NSG-6 Category stations) or the rate quoted, whichever is lower. **The applicant who quotes sub-zero commission in Slab 3, his/her application shall be summarily rejected.** The commission will be calculated on monthly basis. The rate of commission for a particular month will be calculated on the basis of cumulative sales turnover upto that month. **E.M.D. : ₹ 2,000/-.** **Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 1,000/- plus GST @ 18% = ₹ 180/-.** **Total = ₹ 1,180/- (Total Rupees one thousand one hundred eighty) only.** **Date and Time of Dropping of Tender:** 06.02.2026 from 10.00 hrs. to 13.00 hrs. **Date and Time of Opening of tender :** 06.02.2026 at 15.30 hrs. Tender Notice & Tender documents may be downloaded from website: **www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in upto 18.00 hrs. of 05.02.2026.** In case the office is closed due to unprecedented reason, the tender will be dropped on the next working day between 10.00 hrs. to 13.00 hrs. and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. respectively. Tender form is not transferable. Railway reserves its right to either cancel the tender or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Details of eligibility criteria can be seen in the Tender form/Website. (PR-1031) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Chakradharpur**

**South Eastern Railway**  
We serve with a smile

## 2 arrested for peddling brown sugar

**Berhampur:** Ganjam excise and intelligence department jointly nabbed two drug peddlers from Berhampur railway station Tuesday. The accused were identified as Naresh Dalai and Rakesh Swain of Kabisuryanagar block. They were allegedly carrying about 156 grams of brown sugar from Bhadrak by a train, said intelligence department DSP Sritikanta Rout. Both Naresh and Rakesh were travelling from Bhadrak with brown sugar to allegedly sell it in Kabisuryanagar. After reaching Berhampur, they tried to flee on a motorcycle (OD32L4250) parked near Berhampur railway station. Acting on a tip-off from the excise department, a police team led by DSP Sritikanta Rout intercepted the duo while on the way to Kabisuryanagar, informed Rout. Notably, the duo admitted that they had smuggled illicit materials on several instances previously. The intelligence department officials said that the seized materials along with the motorcycle amounted to approximately ₹18 lakhs. The peddlers have been forwarded to the court and further investigation is underway, informed Rout.

## Vivekananda Pathak Manch celebrates 21st foundation day



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Hatadihi/Baula, Jan 6:** Vivekananda Pathak Manch, Nuarampas, under Keonjhar's Hatadihi block, celebrated its 21st foundation day Sunday at Japidas Government High School, Badarampas.

Around 400 students from nearly 40 schools of the Hatadihi block participated in various competitions, including best reader, Odia language proficiency, impromptu Odia poetry writing, songs, comedy and satire, and a quiz contest. Retired lecturer Santosh Pattnaik, lecturer Raghudipti Nayak, teachers Baman Charan Pradhan, Rabi Narayan Pattnaik, Abhimanyu Sahu, and Litun Kumar Bal served as the panel of judges. Lecturers Sushil Shubhadip and Shubhashree Tanima Nayak conducted the quiz competition, while social worker Dharendra Khatua anchored the program. On the occasion, teacher Raghunath Khatua was felicitated by the forum. Block Education Officer Rajib Dalai of the Hatadihi education circle, teachers Akshaya Jena, Narayan Lenka, Binod Panda, Hasyamayi Raj, Deepti Devadarshini Sutar, and Prof. Gopal Krishna Pradhan, among others, attended the programme. Retired senior teacher Rabindra Nayak proposed the vote of thanks.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

BOI

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 7008973027

AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLE

Sl. No.	Branch Name / Contact No.	Name of the Borrower	Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	KHANDAGIRI / 9178286377	Mr. Brahmananda Pujari	HYUNDAI, VENUE 1.0 TURBO GDI DCT SX+ (PERSONAL VEHICLE) Regd. No.: OD-02-BV-3920, Date of Purchase: 26.11.2021	₹5,52,000/- / ₹55,200/- / ₹10,000/-

Date of Auction: 10.02.2026 from 11.00 AM, Auction Venue: Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar

**Parking Yard Address: Bank of India, Officer's Quarter, Toshali Apartment, Neela Block, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar -751007**

**Terms and Conditions:** Interested bidders can inspect the vehicle with prior appointment of the Concerned Authority at the parking yard as mentioned above. The bidders are informed to be present at the venue positively. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount within one day after bid is successful and the balance amount within 7 days failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership and statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any has to be borne by the successful purchaser. Vehicle will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS" basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. There will be bidding in the auction and the highest bidder will be declared as successful bidder. For further information regarding Inspection & Details of the Vehicle Contact: Mr. Prasant Kumar Mahapatro, Mob.: 7008973027.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 07.01.2026

Zonal Manager, Bank of India

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS

Adv. No. C-DOTD/HR/REC/2026/01/01

Date: 07 January 2026

VACANCY NOTICE

NOTICE FOR THE VACANCY OF THE FOLLOWING POSTS AT C-DOT

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up the below mentioned posts at C-DOT

Sl.	Name of Post	Mode	Pay Level as per 7 CPC	No. of Vacancy	Interested & Eligible Candidates may apply and submit their applications in offline mode only
1.	Deputy General Manager-Strategic Planning & Coordination, Defence Project Implementation	On Deputation Basis	Level 13	01	Interested & Eligible Candidates may apply and submit their applications in offline mode only
2.	Scientist-B/C/D	On Direct Recruitment	Level 10/11/12	10	Interested & Eligible Candidates may apply and submit their applications in online mode only

For detailed information including the Job description and application process, please visit the 'Careers' section of the C-DOT website: [https://www.cdott.in/cdotweb/web/careers.php?lang=en#current\\_openings](https://www.cdott.in/cdotweb/web/careers.php?lang=en#current_openings). Last date of application is 30 days from the date of publication in Employment News (English). All Government candidates are to route their application through proper channel as per details given in the website.

Sd./- Head - P&HR and Legal cbc 06268/12/0005/2526

भारत सरकार

कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय

व्हाट्सएप क्रॉसचेक केन्द्र (सी-पेस), आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल, प्लॉट P-6, 7, 8, से-5, आई.एम.टी. मनेसर, गुडगांव, हरियाणा - 122050

Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE), IICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P- 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050

Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Public Notice

Form No. STK - 6

PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

**Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1674**

**Date: 31/12/2025**

**Reference:** In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (7) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AB9139138	U72502OR2017PTC027283	ARYABHATTA ROBOTICS PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.


**Irkan Tirkey, Deputy Registrar**  
**Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**

CBC 07123/11/0573/2526



The great are strongest when they stand alone, A God-given might of being is their force.

SRI AUROBINDO



## New Axis Powers

Appeasement or tacit approval of invasion and capture of foreign land helped the rise of Adolf Hitler and the formation of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis that wreaked havoc on the world before and during World War II. History appears to be repeating itself as US President Donald Trump’s illegal action of seizing Venezuela’s President and his wife and brazenly declaring the US “takes control” of the country is not being effectively resisted and condemned by either European countries, the United Nations or even Russia and China. Only pious platitudes are being mouthed against the US without any tangible, deterrent action to check the egregious aggrandizement and violation of international laws. The way Russia and China – the two countries that could have taken a lead in stopping Trump in his tracks – have raised only verbal protest and without any back up concrete actions it suggests a possible new Washington-Moscow-Beijing axis is being formed to usurp foreign land and resources and divide the booty among themselves. Russia has illegally captured and occupied vast tracts of agriculturally rich Ukraine, while China is eagerly waiting to take over Taiwan by force at any opportune time it thinks fit.

Significantly, the pre-Trump US arrangements to stop Russia and China from their land grab designs such as NATO membership proposal to Ukraine and QUAD bloc of USA, Australia, Japan and India to counter China have been thrown into virtual limbo since Trump occupied the White House for the second time. On the other hand, Trump has cosied up to Putin and Xi. In the past few months he has asserted that he had talks with Putin following which he hardened the US position against Ukraine and has since been trying to force Ukraine to agree to Russia’s plan of permanently occupying a sizable part of the country. There is reason to suspect Trump and Putin had clinched a secret deal to let Russia illegally annex Ukraine’s territory, while the US would grab land in Venezuela and other South and Central American countries. Xi must have been privy to the plan so that he would have his share in Taiwan and India and no nation will be in a position to protest.

What happened in the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council on 5 January convened in the wake of the brazen attack on Venezuela by the US is nothing but expressions of impotent rage by some and equivocation by others. As if to placate Trump, many member states agreed with the US that Venezuela’s President - Nicolas Maduro - had been an illegitimate and repressive leader. They forgot that it does not give the US or any other country the authority to decide who would rule the Venezuelans. Some of the countries did admit the US military action was a breach of international law and the UN Charter. Among US allies, France was by far the most outspoken. The deputy ambassador of France to the UN, Jay Dharmadhikari, said Maduro’s taking by the US runs “counter to the principle of peaceful dispute resolution and the principle of the non-use of force.”

He told the Council the proliferation of violations of the Charter of the UN and the violations of international law by states vested with responsibility as permanent members of the Security Council strikes at the very foundation of the international order and the principle of respect for independence and territorial integrity of states. Similarly, the deputy UN ambassador for Denmark, Sandra Jensen Landi said the developments constitute a dangerous precedent. The French and Danish criticism now places them alongside Spain whose Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez showed courage to say his government would not recognise an intervention that violates international law and pushes the region toward a horizon of uncertainty and belligerence. In contrast, both the UK and Greece did not condemn the US military operation at all.

What the diplomats from Russia and China said could best be termed as inanities. Russia’s ambassador, Vassili Nebenzia, accused the US of “international banditry” and “neo-colonialism and imperialism.” China’s Chargé d’Affaires, Sun Lei, said Beijing was “deeply shocked and strongly condemned” the “unilateral, illegal and bullying acts of the US.”

The UN Secretary General looked pathetic when he said he was deeply concerned that rules of international law have not been respected during the US action. His assertion that the power of the law must prevail is rather an admission that the UN is a toothless organization that has no power to rein in a superpower such as the USA.

Trump continues to threaten that he proposes to follow a similar strategy in the case of several other South American countries along with India, while predicting Cuba would fall on its own. He seems to be going ahead with his agenda of establishing a new world order controlled by autocrats in which the only principle that works is – might is right.

It is India which now seems to have fallen into a trap that seems to be encircling it from all sides. Indian diplomacy and political leadership is bound to face even harder challenges in the near future.

WISDOM CORNER

There is no charm equal to tenderness of heart.

JANE AUSTEN

If you expect nothing from anybody, you're never disappointed.

SYLVIA PLATH

Find ecstasy in life; the mere sense of living is joy enough.

EMILY DICKINSON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1610:

Galileo Galilei discovers the Galilean Moons. The Italian astronomer spotted the four largest moons of Jupiter that day: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

1891:

Zora Neale Hurston, an American folklorist and writer associated with the Harlem Renaissance who celebrated black culture of the rural South, was born.

1968:

Uncrewed US space probe Surveyor 7 was launched and, a few days later, made a soft landing on the Moon.

1979:

Vietnamese forces took control of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, ousting the Khmer Rouge and its leader, Pol Pot.

1989:

Akihito is sworn in as Emperor of Japan. His accession to the throne followed the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito, on the same day.

LOL

THE DENTIST



"Well, I was on the course yesterday when the fellow on the ninth hole hooked a shot," he said. "The ball most have been going 200 mph when it hit me in the stomach. That," he added, "was the first time in two years my teeth didn't hurt."

FOCUS TECHNOLOGY

ENERGY & THE AI RACE



As the scale of the AI industry and its reliance on computing power grows, the bottleneck will move from chips to electricity

Moreover, China has matched its carefully planned industrial policy with equally strong local execution. To offset the higher cost of using domestic chips, for example, local governments offer electricity subsidies for data centers under their jurisdiction. If these facilities are powered by domestic chips, they can cut their power bill by as much as 50%.

The US effort is rather unimpressive by comparison. According to the Financial Times, “China installed 429 GW of new power generation capacity in 2024, more than six times the net capacity added in the US during that time.” Even as America’s locally planned grids face enormous around-the-clock demand from data centers, US industrial policy is failing to give electricity the attention it deserves.

For example, OpenAI and its partners are planning to build data centers that will require ten GW of capacity, which is on the order of New York City’s summer peak load electricity usage. But, while data centers can be built in a couple of years, researchers at the Deloitte Research Center for Energy & Industrials point out that completing the transmission infrastructure needed to move energy takes almost a decade.

Such time frames are woefully misaligned with the blistering pace of private capital expenditure. A Bloomberg analysis of tens of thousands of pricing nodes already shows signs of distress in US energy markets. Wholesale electricity in some US regions near large data-center hubs is up to 267% more expensive than it was five years ago. To keep its projected data-center build-out on track, the US will need a structural overhaul of its energy policy, its grids, and their interconnections.

Nor is the race down to just the US and China. The bottleneck that could set America back might represent an opportunity for Europe, which is running out of time to claim its own seat at the AI table. Europe’s energy infrastructure is a potential strategic asset in the sense that Hirschman identified. Among the European Union’s core strengths are clean energy hardware and know-how. More than one-fifth of all clean and sustainable technologies worldwide are developed in the EU. The bloc also has deep engineering capacity in grid equipment and storage, and its electricity system is among the most interconnected in the world. Europe’s energy policy explicitly cites grids as a strategic asset for autonomy and security, and European factories making strategic net-zero technologies are to meet “at least 40% of [the EU’s] annual deployment needs by 2030.”

That said, European decarbonization has run into its own share of obstacles. With high energy costs threatening to hinder growth, energy generation and grid capacity must be ramped up. The European Network of Transmission Systems Operators for Electricity has advanced a useful proposal. But while the planning is carried out at the European level, the execution remains locally bound. As a result, the average grid project takes more than ten years to complete, half of which is spent on permitting. According to the European Parliamentary Research Service, current projected grid investments are a mere 10-15% of what’s required, and more than 500 GW of offshore projects in the EU – capacity still waiting for grid connection assessment – is stuck in the queue.

The next leg of the race will be about energy. By fostering domestic chip production and consumption while improving electricity infrastructure, China’s strategy addresses every dimension that matters. Meanwhile, the US is failing to look ahead, complacent in its current position as the designer of first-in-class chips and AI foundation models. And though Europe is uniquely positioned to make AI’s energy demand cleaner and more secure, it may lack the institutions needed to accelerate progress. For Europe to be a challenger, it, too, must direct its energies toward energy.

*The writer, a teaching assistant at Bocconi University, is the founder and editor of MOPS, a newsletter on macro-finance, technology, and policy.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### IN JEST THIS

## Waiting for ‘Biryani from the Sky’



Melvin Durai

IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR TO ME THAT I SHOULD STILL BE WAITING FOR FOOD DELIVERY BY DRONE WHEN SOME PRISONERS ARE ALREADY ENJOYING THIS SERVICE

It has been more than a decade since companies started testing food delivery by drone, and yet I am still waiting for my first drone-delivered bucket of biryani. If you’re wondering why I used the word “bucket,” it’s because a restaurant near my home, Hyderabad House, sells biryani by the bucket. It doesn’t come in an actual bucket, but the quantity is enough to fill a bucket — or my stomach for a week. If you have never enjoyed a bucket of biryani, you really need to put it on your bucket list.

Hyderabad House is about two kilometers from my house, and I’ve often driven there to pick up biryani. But it would be really great if a drone could bring a bucket to my house. Unfortunately, the proprietors of the restaurant do not offer drone delivery, nor do they have any plans to do so, despite my offers to start a crowdfunding campaign to buy them a drone.

Perhaps you are asking yourself, “Why does he need biryani by drone? Why doesn’t he just use a delivery service?” Well, as I noted in a column a few years ago, various companies, as well as media outlets, have been teasing me with the whole concept of delivery by drone. “It’s coming soon,” they’ve been trumpeting, and I’ve been patiently waiting to experience it firsthand.

It has been more than eight years since Francesco’s Pizzeria made India’s first food delivery by drone in Mumbai, sending a pizza to a customer 1.5 km from the restaurant. The restaurant’s chief executive was confident that such deliveries would be routine in a few years. Since then, other companies have tested food delivery by drone, but as far as I know, none has made it routine.

It doesn’t seem fair to me that I should still be waiting for food delivery by drone when some prisoners are already enjoying this service.

As the Associated Press reported, three weeks before Christmas, guards at a prison in the US state of South Carolina found a drone-dropped package of food (raw steak, crab legs and Old Bay seasoning), marijuana and cigarettes in the prison yard.

“I’m guessing the inmates who were expecting the package are crabby,” said prison spokeswoman Chrysti Shain, launching her stand-up comedy career.

According to the report, prison authorities also seized the drone that made the delivery, but have not yet seized the owner of the drone.

I don’t think this is an isolated incident. Prisoners are getting food deliveries by drone — and I’m not. What’s even more concerning is that prisoners are getting deliveries of raw food. Do they have a secret kitchen? Perhaps they bribe a guard with marijuana and cigarettes to get access to

the prison kitchen.

If criminals can find a way to get crab legs by drone, why is it so hard for me to get biryani by drone?

Apparently, food companies have been unable to overcome the technical and safety challenges of getting a drone to deliver food to an individual home. And yet drones are being used in many other ways, including warfare. A military drone can drop a bomb with great precision on my house, but somehow no one is able to drop a bucket of biryani.

Drones are also being used to deliver medicine in many parts of the world. In India, a World Economic Forum initiative has made thousands of deliveries of medicine by drone to remote and mountainous regions. This important initiative, called “Medicine from the Sky,” has helped keep many people healthy.

I’m still waiting, however, for the important initiative called “Biryani from the Sky.”

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarrh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Civic failure

Sir, Indore, the jewel of Swachh Bharat, and which was voted as the “cleanest city” for eight consecutive years, has now grappled with a tragedy of at least nine deaths due to contamination in drinking water supply, a problem so basic and so preventable. The incident clearly exposes the dangerous gap between surface-level awards and crumbling public health infrastructure. A city which is hailed for its spotlessness for years is at a crossroads all at once, as beneath the streets, corroded pipes bled sewage into drinking water lines. This is not just a civic failure; it is a profound betrayal of trust and a glaring indictment of a model of urban governance that prizes spectacle over substance, and awards over accountability. Indore’s drinking water tragedy is a wake-up call for every urban area in India. It reminds us strikingly that the right to clean water is the most fundamental right of all, from which all others flow. Should a city chase shiny awards or should it have a robust infrastructure where a child does not die from a glass of water?

Road safety

Sir, “Road safety is life safety” -- nothing can be more true. Road safety is not just about speed restriction, curbing drunken driving and ensuring maintenance of regulations. There are other facets to it hinging on overall supervision. It includes broader aspects like proper audits, state-of-the-art training and upkeep of technology. Fanning awareness and engaging citizens about crucial road rules are equally important. All these are the aims and objectives of the “National Road Safety Month” in January, in vogue since 2021. Road design and accident audits, driver training and licensing methods are particularly focused upon. Additionally, it aims to drive home the criticality of emergency services on roads apart from distinct identification of dark spots that cause mishaps. The United Nations (UN) hopes that by 2030, global road fatalities are reduced by half.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI







of the day

quote

Delhi's pollution is a serious issue and they should not evade discussion. Even now, they have an opportunity to apologise to the people of Delhi for failing for eleven years

MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Leaders of BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP sit together in Mumbai, while a drama goes on of separate contests

ASADUDDIN OWAISSI | AIMIM LEADER

It brings transformative reforms to MGNREGA by extending guaranteed employment to 125 days in comparison to the 100 days employment, prioritising durable rural infrastructure, and strengthening gram panchayat-led planning with clear accountability

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

4, including minor, held with heroin

**Chandigarh:** In a major crackdown on cross-border smuggling, Punjab Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Tuesday apprehended four people, including a key operative and a minor, with nearly 20 kg of heroin in Amritsar, officials said. Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said preliminary investigation reveals that the key operative is linked to Pakistan-based handlers and was coordinating the delivery and distribution of drug consignments across the region.

Three devotees killed in road crash

**Ujjain:** A jeep ferrying devotees from Telangana to the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district collided with a trailer truck amid dense fog Tuesday morning, leaving three dead and four others injured, a police official said. The accident took place near Chandesra village on a bypass road in the district at around 5 am, said Nagjhiri police station in-charge Kamal Nigwal. The jeep was packed with devotees from Telangana who were going to Ujjain for darshan of Lord Mahakal (Lord Shiva) when it crashed into the trailer truck loaded with metal items, he said.

Woman naxal surrenders

**Dhantari (Chhattisgarh):** A 37-year-old Naxalite, involved in multiple encounters against security forces and carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on her head, surrendered in Dhantari district Tuesday, police said. Bhumika alias Somari was an active member of the Nagri Area Committee and served as 'commander' of the Gobra Local Organisation Squad (LOS) of Maoists, said Dhantari Superintendent of Police SP Suraj Singh Parihar.

Ankita case: U'khand govt ready for probe

**Dehradun:** Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Tuesday said the Uttarakhand government is prepared for any investigation into the Ankita Bhandari murder case, adding that a final decision would be taken only after consulting her parents and following their wishes. Opposition parties have been holding protests, demanding a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the matter.

Everybody talks about problems but solutions matter

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

DELHI HC PROTECTS 'FRIENDS', 'STRANGER THINGS' FROM PIRACY

The Delhi High Court has restrained several websites from illegally broadcasting popular films and shows like “Friends”, “Stranger Things”, “Squid Game” and “Wonder Woman”, and ordered that they be blocked



NIA takes over probe of twin blasts in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Imphal, Jan 6:** The investigation into the twin blasts in Manipur's Bishnupur district was handed over to the NIA, officials said Tuesday.

Two persons were injured in the consecutive explosions that rocked Ngaukon in the Phougakchao police station area Monday morning, they said.

The first blast, suspected to have been caused by an improvised explosive device (IED), occurred around 5.45 am at an abandoned house. The second one occurred nearly 200 metres away around 8.45 am, when locals gathered after getting news of the earlier blast.

“The case has been forwarded to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further investigation,” a statement issued by the state police said.

“Combining and search operations are being carried out

in the adjoining areas, and security has been strengthened to prevent any further escalation of violence. Investigation and operational efforts are underway to identify and apprehend those responsible for the blasts,” it said.

The incident further escalated tensions in the restive state, where over 260 people have been killed and thousands left homeless in the ethnic clashes that broke out in May 2023

The house, where the first explosion happened, has remained abandoned since ethnic violence broke out, with its owner and his family currently living at a relief camp.

Several organisations, including the Indigenous People Organisation and the All Manipur Students' Union, called for a 24-hour shutdown across the state, starting 12 am Wednesday, to protest the blast.



People pose for a photograph with a foreign tourist at Kovalam International Beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

PTI PHOTO

GROK OBSCENE AI CONTENT

Govt gives X deadline till Jan 7 to submit report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** The government has given X additional time till January 7 to submit a detailed Action Taken Report after it issued a stern warning to the Elon Musk-led social media platform over indecent and sexually-explicit content being generated through misuse of AI-based services like ‘Grok’ and other tools.

The grant of extension came after X sought additional time from the IT Ministry, sources told PTI. On Sunday, X’s ‘Safety’ handle said it will take action against illegal content on its platform, including Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), by removing it, permanently suspending accounts, and working with local governments and law enforcement as necessary.

“Anyone using or prompting Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content,” it had said, reiterating Musk’s stance on illegal content.

Government sources said X had sought more time, and now it has been asked to submit its report by January 7. The Centre Friday upheld X and directed it to immediately remove all vulgar, obscene and unlawful content, especially generated by Grok (X’s built-in artificial intelligence interface) or face action under the law. The minis-



try had also asked the US-based social media firm to submit a detailed action taken report (ATR) within 72 hours of the directive (effectively by January 5).

The IT Ministry, in its January 2 missive, said that Grok AI, developed by X and integrated on the platform, is being misused by users to create fake accounts to host, generate, publish or share obscene images or videos of women in a derogatory or vulgar manner. “Importantly, this is not limited to creation of fake accounts but also targets women who host or publish their images or videos, through prompts, image manipulation and synthetic outputs,” the ministry said, asserting that such conduct reflects a serious failure of platform-level safeguards and enforcement mechanisms, and amounts to gross misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in violation of stipulated laws. The ministry said the regulatory provisions under the IT Act and rules were being flouted by the platform, particularly in relation to obscene, indecent, vulgar, pornographic, paedophilic, or otherwise unlawful or harmful content.

JNU PROTEST

Controversial slogans against PM, HM

*The University ordered an internal inquiry, as the BJP leaders, including Union and Delhi ministers, expressed anger over the incident, alleging that the slogans reflected the “Urban Naxal mindset that is supported by Rahul Gandhi and the Congress”*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** A protest at JNU sparked a controversy as objectionable slogans targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were allegedly raised over the denial of bail by the Supreme Court to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case, prompting the university administration to seek an FIR in the matter.

A letter written by the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration to the Delhi Police claimed that certain students raised “highly objectionable, provocative and inflammatory” slogans at an event Monday that were in direct contempt of the Supreme Court and reflect a “wilful disrespect for constitutional institutions and established norms of civil and democratic discourse”.



The University also ordered an internal inquiry, as the BJP leaders, including Union and Delhi ministers, expressed anger over the incident, alleging that the slogans reflected the “Urban Naxal mindset that is supported by Rahul Gandhi and the Congress”.

The event – “A Night of Resistance with Guerrilla Dhaba” -- was organised at Sabarmati Dhaba to mark the anniversary of the January 5, 2020, violence in which a group of masked persons had entered the campus and unleashed mayhem by attacking students and teachers.

A purported video of the Monday protest showed students allegedly raising slogans against the prime minister and Union home minister after the Supreme Court refused to grant bail to Khalid, a former JNU student leader, and Imam in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case. The University has named several students, including current Jawaharlal Nehru Univer-

sity Students' Union (JNUSU) president Aditi Mishra, and said they were identified during the programme and claimed that the slogans were “deliberate”, “repeated” and had the “potential to seriously disrupt public order, campus harmony and security”.

Mishra told PTI that every year, students hold a protest to condemn the violence that occurred on the campus January 5, 2020. “All of the slogans raised in the protest were ideological and do not attack anyone personally. They were not directed towards anyone,” she claimed.

According to the letter addressed to the SHO of Vasant Kunj (North), the University's Security Department said the programme was organised around 10 pm by students linked to the JNUSU. The gathering initially appeared limited to commemorating the January 5, 2020, incident, with around 30 to 35 students present.

The letter said that the nature of the event changed following a judicial verdict on the bail pleas of Khalid and Imam, after which some participants allegedly raised slogans, which the University termed “inflammatory and objectionable”.

The administration claimed the slogans amounted to contempt of the Supreme Court and violated the JNU Code of Conduct.

Noting that the raising of such slogans is “wholly inconsistent with democratic dissent and violates the JNU Code of Conduct”, the statement said such slogans have the “potential to seriously disturb public order, campus harmony and the safety and security environment of the university and the nation”. Senior officials, on the condition of anonymity, told PTI that the JNU administration held a meeting Tuesday and will take corrective action against the students found guilty. “JNU administration is setting up an internal inquiry on the matter. If students are found guilty of violating any rules or regulations, we will take disciplinary action against the students,” an official said.

Delhi ministers Kapil Mishra, Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Ashish Sood criticised the raising of controversial slogans at the JNU and accused the opposition parties of providing patronage to those involved in such activities.

CBI summons Vijay in Karur stampede case

**New Delhi:** The CBI has issued a notice to TVK president Vijay to appear for questioning January 12 at the agency headquarters here in connection with the Karur stampede case, officials said. The CBI has questioned several office bearers of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in connection with the case, they said. The agency has now decided to call Vijay in connection with the case, following which it may take a call on filing a charge sheet in the matter, they said.

Sonia admitted to hosp; condition stable

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here after she suffered respiratory discomfort, sources said Tuesday. At present, she is doing fine, and her condition is “absolutely stable”, they said. The veteran Congress leader has been kept under observation by a chest physician. It is a routine admission, but she has this problem of chronic cough, and she keeps coming for check-ups, especially with this pollution in the city, a hospital source told PTI, adding that she was admitted Monday evening. Gandhi turned 79 in December 2025.

Delhi Assembly adjourned twice

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Assembly was adjourned twice on the second day of the Winter Session Tuesday, with the ruling BJP MLAs seeking an apology from the AAP members for “spreading lies” that directions were issued for the counting of stray dogs by government school teachers. Speaker Vijender Gupta had a hard time controlling the protesting legislators before adjourning the House for 30 minutes, soon after the sitting started around 11 am. After the House reconvened, the ruling party MLAs again raised slogans against the AAP members, including their national convener Arvind Kejriwal, seeking an apology. Gupta tried to bring the House under order as the opposition members too raised their voice in protest, before adjourning the House till 1 pm.

Caught red-handed: Thief stuck in exhaust fan window

**The homeowner, returning from a trip, spotted the trapped intruder in the glare of his scooter's headlight and alerted the police, who had to extricate the man before taking him into custody**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kota (Rajasthan), Jan 6:** A burglary attempt turned into a narrow squeeze for a thief in Kota's Pratap Nagar during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday after he became wedged in an exhaust fan window while trying to break into a house.

The homeowner, returning from a trip, spotted the trapped intruder in the glare of his scooter's headlight and alerted the police, who had to extricate the man before tak-



ing him into custody. According to the homeowner, Subhash Kumar Rawat, he and

his wife had gone to visit the Khatu Shyam temple in Sikar district on Saturday, and re-

turned late on Sunday night. As his wife unlocked the main gate and they were moving their scooter inside, Rawat noticed a man half-stuck in the window. He immediately raised an alarm and called the police.

Upon receiving information, a police team reached the spot and assisted in releasing the thief from the window frame. A video of the incident went viral, showing the thief trapped in the exhaust fan window and police personnel struggling to pull him out safely.

Officials said the accused

has been identified as Pawan, a resident of Digod village in Kota. His companion, however, managed to escape. Borekheda SHO Anil Tailor said Pawan was arrested on Monday evening following interrogation and produced before a court Tuesday.

During the search, police recovered car keys from the accused and seized a four-wheeler. The vehicle had a police sticker and white curtains, the SHO said. Efforts are underway to trace the other accused in the matter, he added.



of the day

quote

Whatever is happening in Bangladesh, is a cause of concern for us. Torture on Hindus are increasing day by day. The situation is worrying and we may see its effect in Assam too

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

If Janardhana Reddy or Sriramulu (the BJP leader) had any objection to the banner, they could have contacted the municipal commissioner, police officers, MLAs or other leaders and said the banner should be removed. It would have been taken down

D K SHIVAKUMAR | KARNATAKA DY CM

I have not done politics to break any record; it is only a coincidence. I did not know how many years and days Devaraj Urs served as CM. Today because of the blessings of the people, I have got an opportunity to equal Devaraj Urs's record. Tomorrow it will be broken

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

POST

OF THE DAY

If you earn ₹30 lakh, you pay ~₹5.7 lakh tax  
₹24.3 lakh left  
Now you buy a car worth ₹20 lakh, you pay ~₹5.6 lakh as GST & cess  
₹4.3 lakh left  
Now you spend ₹1 lakh on fuel in a year, you pay ₹55,000 as tax  
You pay tax on things that are already taxed, using money that has already been taxed.

@NalinisKitchen

SHORT TAKES

Parl panel examines impact of US tariffs

**New Delhi:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce is assessing the impact of enhanced tariffs by the United States on the entry of various Indian products and seeks to understand the challenges faced by various sectors. It also seeks to assess the various measures taken by financial institutions, central and state governments to mitigate the adverse effects of US tariffs. The committee members are currently on a study visit to Visakhapatnam, Chennai and Coimbatore from January 6-8 to evaluate India-US trade relations. The committee is chaired by Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen.

5-yr-old falls into open drain, dies

**Gandhinagar:** A five-year-old boy died after falling into an open gutter while playing near GIFT City here Tuesday evening, police said. The incident occurred at around 5.10 pm in Labour Colony, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Shafiq Ahmad. Several construction projects are underway in the area and labourers working there live in nearby settlements. Harsh Rajkumar Ram, whose parents hail from Jharkhand, fell and drowned in the open drain, around 10 feet deep, while playing with his friends, the official said.

BJP MLA's son held in hit-and-run case

**Raipur:** Balwant Singh (33), son of BJP MLA and former Union minister Renuka Singh, was arrested in a hit-and-run case Tuesday after the car driven by him allegedly rammed a motorcycle, police said Tuesday. He was later released on a bail bond, said an official.



There is no threat to our alliance with the DMK. We will discuss with them in a dignified manner to get the number of seats we require

K SELVAPERUTHAGAI | TNCC PRESIDENT

DELHI RECORDS 1ST COLD DAY OF YEAR

The winter tightened its hold across North India Tuesday with snowfall in hilly states and lowering temperatures across northern India, including the national capital which recorded its first cold day of the year



DEEPAM ROW

HC upholds order allowing lighting of lamp on hilltop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Jan 6:** The Madras High Court's Madurai bench Tuesday upheld a single judge's order allowing the lighting of a lamp on the Thirupparankundram hill here, and slammed the DMK government, saying the apprehension about law and order due to this religious practice is nothing but an "imaginary ghost" created by them for the sake of their convenience.

The bench, comprising Justices G Jayachandran and K K Ramakrishnan, also made it clear that the spot on which the stone pillar (Deepathoon) is located belongs to the Sri Subramania Swamy Temple and that the Waqf Board, as of date, has no locus in this matter.

"It is ridiculous and hard to believe the fear of the mighty State that by allowing representatives of the Devasthanam to light the lamp at the stone pillar near the top of the hill located within its territory of Devasthanam land, on a particular day in a year, will cause disturbance to public peace."

"Of course, it may happen only if such a disturbance is



The court verdict triggered strong reactions from the Tamil Nadu government, which indicated moving the Supreme Court in appeal against the order

While the BJP welcomed the court order, and described the DMK, Congress, and the Opposition 'INDI alliance' as "anti-Hindu" and "anti-Sanatan"

sponsored by the State itself. We pray no State should stoop to that level to achieve their political agenda," the bench said.

The case arose from a writ petition of one Rama Ravikumar and others seeking directions to light the sacred Deepam at the ancient stone pillar on Thirupparankundram hill during the annual Karthigai Deepam festival in November-December. On December 1, 2025, Justice G R Swaminathan allowed the petition and ordered that the ceremonial lamp be lit on the

festival day.

However, the State, joined by the temple management and the Hazarath Sultan Sikkandar Badhusha Avuliya Dargah at Thirupparankundram, filed appeals. The state raised concerns over public order, claiming that lighting the lamp at the hilltop, which lies close to the dargah, could foment communal tensions.

"We find that the apprehension expressed by the District Administration regarding the probability of disturbance to

Teen detained for sharing info with Pak handlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Jan 6:** A 15-year-old boy from Pathankot has been detained for allegedly sharing sensitive information with handlers in Pakistan, police said Tuesday. The teen belongs to Bari Brahmana area in Jammu and Kashmir close to Pathankot.

Police received intelligence inputs that the boy was in contact with and providing information concerning the country's security to Pakistan military officers, ISI and frontal organisations running terror modules in that country, said Pathankot Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Daljinder Singh Dhillon.

Punjab Police detained him Monday and his questioning is underway, the SSP told reporters in Pathankot. His mobile phone contains contact numbers of anti-national elements and terrorists based in Pakistan with the intent to spread unrest in India, officials said.

Sensitive information, photos, videos, and espionage-related material concerning Indian Army locations were stored in his phone and he was reportedly roaming in Punjab's Madhopur area after coming from Jammu and Kashmir.

Accordingly, a case under various sections of the Official Secrets Act was registered.

The SSP said the boy visited many social media platforms



and fell into the trap of Pakistani agencies. He had been in touch with them for the past one year.

Pakistani agents created a clone of the boy's mobile phone, Dhillon said, adding that the tech savvy juvenile had video-graphed important locations and taken information.

The SSP said there was a possibility that Pakistani agencies and handlers took the information live while the teen was recording videos of strategic places as his phone had been compromised.

He is also alleged to have been in touch with gangsters running a terror module, Dhillon said.

"Had we not apprehended him, in future he could have carried out any kind of activity," he said.

UP SIR draft voter list out: 12.55cr voters retained, 2.89cr removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow/New Delhi, Jan 6:** The draft electoral roll for Uttar Pradesh published Tuesday after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) excludes 2.89 crore voters but retains 12.55 crore, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa.

The 2.89 crore voters, or 18.70 per cent, of the 15.44 crore listed earlier could not be included in the draft list due to deaths, permanent migration or multiple registrations, he said at a press conference. The final electoral list will be published March 6, Rinwa added.

The Opposition parties in UP have criticised the draft electoral roll after the SIR exercise. Talking to PTI Videos, UP Congress president Ajay Rai said the time allotted for the SIR exercise was short.

"This is a completely hasty decision. The way the SIR process was started by giving only one month in a large state like Uttar Pradesh is unreasonable." "They gave one month even to a small state like Kerala. Uttar Pradesh should have been given at least five to six months, as was done earlier in 2002-03... Had it been done that way, the booth level officers (BLOs) would not have been under such pressure and suicides could have been avoided."

Samajwadi Party president



WB: Two men die; families cite stress over SIR hearings

**KOLKATA:** Two men in West Bengal died Tuesday, with families alleging that stress over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls contributed to their deaths. Malin Roy (55) from Boro Haldibari in Cooch Behar, suffered a stroke and died at Jalpaiguri Super Speciality Hospital, his family members said, adding that the deceased had been anxious since his SIR hearing December 31, after his name was found missing from the 2002 electoral list.

Akhilesh Yadav warned the Election Commission about the draft roll in Mainpuri, the Lok Sabha constituency of his wife Dimple Yadav. In a post on X, the Kannauj MP and former UP chief minister said, "Before the anger of the voters turns into agitation, the Election Commission should correct the voter list by taking cognisance of the

Shami summoned

**Kolkata:** Cricketer Mohammed Shami was asked to appear for the SIR verification hearing in Kolkata, officials said Tuesday. Shami was called for the hearing along with his brother Mohammed Kaif at a school in Jadavpur on Monday, but the cricketer could not appear as he is currently in Rajkot, representing Bengal in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, they said. He requested the Election Commission for new dates, and accordingly, his hearing has been rescheduled between January 9 and 11, they added. The pacer is a voter of Kolkata Municipal Corporation's ward 93, which is a part of the Rashbehari constituency.

Patanjali celebrates 32nd foundation day



AGENCIES

**Haridwar, Jan 6:** Haridwar witnessed vibrant gathering as Patanjali Yogpeeth celebrated its 32nd Foundation Day. The event brought together saints, scholars, students, yoga practitioners, senior leaders of Patanjali movement.

At heart of the celebrations were Swami Ramdev, Founder President of Patanjali Yogpeeth, and Acharya Balkrishna, its General Secretary. Both leaders used the occasion to reflect on Patanjali's journey.

Addressing the gathering, Swami Ramdev described Patanjali as one of the world's most sacred institutions working for humanity. He said Patanjali's spirit is deeply connected with Sanatan values, which he believes are universal and timeless.

He urged students studying in Patanjali's gurukuls, universities, and educational institutions to feel proud of India's ancient wisdom. According to him, yoga, Ayurveda, Indian education, and a disciplined lifestyle can awaken limitless knowledge, devotion, inner strength.

One of the day's most powerful messages centered on education and India's place on the global stage. Swami Ramdev stated that once Patanjali's gurukul system, universities, and the Indian Education Board reach full maturity, India's global image will be profoundly transformed.

Acharya Balkrishna said Patanjali faced resistance, criticism, and attempts to slow it down. However, he noted that for every obstacle, there were many more forces that supported the mission. Students from Patanjali's educational institutions showcased impressive performances during event. Their presentations included yoga demonstrations, mallakhamb, wrestling, martial arts, boxing, judo, karate. The performances reflected physical discipline, confidence, and the integration of traditional and modern sports. Several service-oriented individuals were also given organisational responsibilities.



A vendor sells 'kangris' on a cold winter day at a market, in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO



guided by ethics and open to the world.

Elaborating on Kerala's historic spice trade, Michael Tharakan, former vice-chancellor of Kannur University, said the inter-portal trade convention of the 1920s between the British, the Madras Government and the Travancore and

Kochi governments established Kochi as the major port on the coast, emerging as a centre of colonial trade.

Pius Malekandathil, former professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said that when trade in European markets stagnated due to feudalisation, pepper and other spices from

Malabar reached Europe and North Africa through Arab trading networks.

He said pepper from Kerala was among the key commodities traded at Mediterranean and Atlantic ports as early as the 8th century.

Commenting on plantation labour politics, Chhaya Goswami, Head and Associate Professor at Somaia Vidyavihar University, said financial instruments such as hundis (bills of exchange) and kinship-based credit networks enabled Indian capitalists to navigate and circumvent British restrictions on slavery.

She said these mechanisms ensured economic continuity even as formal abolition policies came into force. Participating online, Fahad Bishara of the Doha Institute, Qatar, said mobility was one of the defining features of Indian Ocean history, with enduring connections forged through commerce and trade.



of the day

quote

The decree... marks the start of an important period for democracy in which citizens will again decide on the future direction of our country

NATASA PIRC-MUSAR | PRESIDENT, SLOVENIA

I am deeply concerned about the possible intensification of instability in the country, the potential impact on the region, and the precedent it may set for how relations between and among states are conducted

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

As Secretary (of State Marco) Rubio has said, there is no war against Venezuela or its people. We are not occupying a country

MIKE WALTZ | US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

SHORT TAKES

Hungarian director Bela Tarr dies at 70

**Budapest:** The celebrated Hungarian filmmaker Bela Tarr, director of such works as “Satantango” and “The Turin Horse” and the recipient of numerous awards for his long and often darkly comic films, has died at 70. During a career spanning decades, Tarr wrote and directed nine feature films, starting with his debut, “Family Nest,” in 1979 and ending in 2011 with “The Turin Horse,” which won the Silver Bear Jury Grand Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival that year. Tarr frequently collaborated with Hungarian author Laszlo Krasznahorkai, who last year won the Nobel Prize in literature. Tarr’s films, some of which were adaptations of Krasznahorkai’s novels (“Satantango” and “Werckmeister Harmonies”), have been awarded prizes at festivals around Europe and Asia, and he received honorary professorships at universities in China.

UK bans entry of Islamic preacher

**London:** Britain has banned the entry of an Islamic preacher over his defence of the extremist Hamas network in the wake of the October 7, 2023, attack in Israel, UK media reports claimed this week. According to ‘The Daily Telegraph’, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood revoked the travel authorisation of Dr Shadee Elmasry, a scholar from the US, days before he had been due to arrive for a series of talks in the UK. Elmasry was scheduled for talks organised by the Muslim charity Global Relief Trust (GRT) in Birmingham, Bolton and London from this weekend. While the UK Home Office declined to comment on individual cases, a spokesperson said there was no place in the UK for foreign nationals who “spread hate or push extremist ideas”.

Flash floods in Indonesia kill 16

**Manado (Indonesia):** Flash floods triggered by torrential rain killed at least 16 people in Indonesia’s North Sulawesi province, officials said Tuesday. Days of monsoon rain burst riverbanks early Monday, triggering fast-moving torrents of water mixed with mud, rocks and debris that swept away people and submerged villages in Siau Tagulandang Biaro District, said Abdul Muhari, a spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Agency. Emergency rescue personnel supported by police and the military deployed to four devastated villages on Siau, a tiny island about 130 kilometers (80 miles) off the northern tip of Sulawesi, Indonesia’s fourth-largest island.

Venezuela’s Machado vows to return

REUTERS

**Washington, Jan 6:** Venezuela’s main Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has vowed to return home quickly, praising US President Donald Trump for toppling her enemy Nicolas Maduro and declaring her movement ready to win a free election.

Trump appears, however, to hope for now to work with interim President Delcy Rodriguez and other senior officials from Maduro’s government, disappointing the opposition and contributing to nervousness around Venezuela.

“I’m planning to go back to Venezuela as soon as possible,” said Machado, 58, an industrial engineer and mother of three who escaped from Venezuela in disguise in October to receive t, which she dedicated to Trump. “We believe that this transition should move forward,” she told Fox News in an interview. “We won an election (in 2024) by a landslide under fraudulent conditions. In free and fair elections, we will win over 90% of the votes.”

Trump, however, has said the US needs to help address Venezuela’s problems before an election, calling a 30-day timeline unrealistic. “We have to fix the country first. You can’t have an election. There’s no way the people could even vote,” Trump told NBC.

SOCIALIST PARTY LOYALISTS STILL CONTROL VENEZUELA

In the interview late Monday, her first since Maduro was captured by the US, Machado did not give her location or any more details on repatriating



◀◀ Machado says Opposition ready to win election

◀◀ Trump administration aims to work with Maduro ally

◀◀ Toppled Maduro in New York jail on drug charges

◀◀ World worries about precedent set by US attack

to Venezuela, where Socialist Party loyalists remain in power and she is under investigation for accusations of inciting the military.

To the dismay of the large diaspora - one in five Venezuelans left during an economic implosion - Trump has said Machado lacks support. The opposition, some international observers and many US allies say the Opposition was cheated of victory in the 2024 election, from which Machado was banned and an ally stood instead.

PRaise and thanks for TRUMP

Machado, who has galvanised an often fractured and demoralized Opposition in the last few years, said she would give Trump the Nobel Prize personally.

“January 3rd will go down in history as the day justice defeated a tyranny,” she said of Saturday’s raid.

She thanked Trump for “his courageous vision, the historical actions he has taken against this narco-terrorist regime”.

With the world’s largest oil reserves and the US as its main ally, Venezuela would become the energy hub of the Americas, restore rule of law, open markets and bring exiles home, Machado said.

Trump has, however, been told by the CIA that Rodriguez and other senior officials from

Around us, a distorted economy tries to profit from everything. After this year, will we be better able to recognise a pilgrim in the visitor, a seeker in the stranger, a neighbour in the foreigner?

POPE LEO | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

SLOVENIA GOES TO POLLS

Slovenia will hold parliamentary elections March 22 after President Natasa Pirc-Musar signed a decree Tuesday calling for a poll in the NATO and European Union member state, in what will likely be a closely-contested race



Curfew lifted in Nepal’s Birgunj



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kathmandu, Jan 6:** Nepal authorities Tuesday lifted a curfew in Birgunj, bordering India, following an improvement in the situation after a recent communal violence, with a consensus reached at an all-party meeting.

The curfew was imposed Monday and was later extended till 6:00 pm local time Tuesday after protests over a video with alleged religious content on social media turned violent in Birgunj town of Parsa district.

However, the Parsa District Administration Office lifted the curfew from 3:30 pm after a consensus was reached at an all-party meeting, involving representatives of political parties and different communities, to halt demonstrations and restore normalcy, officials said.

A group of protesters on Sunday burnt tyres and vandalised a local police post in Birgunj, while demonstrating against

the vandalism of a mosque in Dhanusha district Saturday.

Police said the mosque was vandalised by a group of youths in reaction to allegedly anti-Hindu messages circulated on social media by two Muslim youths, who were later taken into custody.

Parsa Chief District Officer Bhola Dahal said the curfew was withdrawn after an understanding was reached not to hold demonstrations or protests in Birgunj over incidents that occurred elsewhere.

“We have decided to lift the curfew as consensus reached between the two communities has improved the situation and the state of law and order is stabilising,” he said, adding that daily life in Birgunj was gradually returning to normal.

As part of the agreement, the meeting decided that any group planning a demonstration in future must first submit a written request to the CDO and proceed with the programme only after receiving permission.

China bans exports to Japan of dual-use goods

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, Jan 6:** China Tuesday banned exports of dual-use goods that can serve military purposes to Japan, a move that comes at time of heightened tensions between the two countries over Taiwan, a self-ruled island Beijing claims as its sovereign territory.

The Chinese commerce ministry said in a statement that exports of such items, which can serve both civilian and military purposes, to Japanese military users and all other end-users that could help enhance Japanese military power are prohibited.

Any individual or organisation that violates the rule by transferring or providing these made-in-China products to Japanese groups and people would face legal consequences, regardless of where they are from, it said.

The notice did not identify

or describe specific items, but some exports — particularly in the technology sector such as drones and navigation systems — could be adapted for military use. There was no immediate reaction from Japan.

Relations between Japan and China worsened late last year after Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said its military could get involved if China were to take action against Taiwan.

In December, Japan said Chinese military aircraft locked radar on its fighter jets even though there was a safe distance between them. Tokyo is barrelling forward with efforts to significantly boost its military capabilities to stand up to China’s growing threats by doubling annual arms spending.

Last week, China launched large-scale military drills around Taiwan for two days to warn against what it calls separatist and external forces.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dhaka/New Delhi, Jan 6:** Student leader Sharif Osman Hadi was killed due to “political vengeance” at the behest of the Awami League, Bangladesh police said Tuesday as it pressed formal charges against 17 people in connection with the murder.

“Through public rallies and social media, Hadi had strongly criticised the past activities of the now-banned Awami League and Chhatra League. Hadi’s outspoken remarks angered leaders and activists of Chhatra League and its affiliated groups,” Md Shafiqul Islam, Additional Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police’s (DMP) Detective Branch, was quoted as saying by news portal tbsnews.net.

The Chhatra League is the student wing of deposed prime

minister Sheikh Hasina’s Awami League party.

“Considering the political identities of the accused and the victim’s previous political statements, the investigation has revealed that Hadi was shot dead due to political vengeance,” Islam told a press briefing in Dhaka, after submitting the chargesheet in the Hadi murder case to the court.

The chargesheet was filed against 17 people, including prime suspect Faisal Karim Masud, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported, quoting Islam.

He said 12 of the 17 charge-sheeted accused have been arrested so far, while five remain at large.

Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Hadi, 32, rose to national prominence during the July-August 2024 mass protests that led to the fall of the Hasina-led government, was shot in



the head December 12 during an election campaign in Dhaka.

He was also a parliamentary candidate for the upcoming February 12 elections. Hadi was airlifted to Singapore for treatment but died December 18.

Islam said the alleged shooter, Masud, was directly involved with the Chhatra League.

Another accused, Taizul Islam Chowdhury Bappi, who

allegedly helped Masud and Alamgir Sheikh, another prime suspect, flee after the killing, was the president of Pallabi Thana Chhatra League and an Awami League-nominated ward councillor, he said.

Hadi was murdered on the instructions of Bappi, Islam said.

Home Affairs Adviser Jahan-gir Alam Chowdhury had told reporters Monday, after a meeting of the Advisory Council on law and order at the Secretariat that the final chargesheet in the Hadi murder case would be submitted January 7.

However, police filed the chargesheet a day earlier amid protests in Dhaka by Inqilab Moncho, which has been demanding justice for the killing.

“The charge sheet was submitted as the allegations against the accused were proven during the investigation,” Islam said.

European leaders rally behind Greenland

REUTERS

**Copenhagen, Jan 6:** Leaders from major European powers rallied behind Greenland Tuesday, saying the Arctic island belongs to its people, following a renewed threat by US President Donald Trump to take over the Danish territory.

Trump has in recent days repeated that he wants to gain control of Greenland, an idea first voiced in 2019 during his first presidency, arguing it is vital for the US military, and that Denmark has not done enough to protect it.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller Monday dismissed concerns about Danish sovereignty.

“You can talk all you want about international niceties and everything else,” Miller told CNN. “But we live in a world, in the real world, that is governed by strength, that is governed by force, that is governed by power.”

A US military operation over the weekend that seized the leader of Venezuela has rekindled concerns that Greenland



might face a similar scenario. Greenland has repeatedly said it does not want to be part of the United States.

“Greenland belongs to its people. It is for Denmark and Greenland, and them only, to decide on matters concerning Denmark and Greenland,” said a joint statement issued by the leaders of France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Denmark.

The leaders said security in the Arctic must be achieved collectively with NATO allies, including the United States.

“NATO has made clear that the Arctic region is a priority and European Allies are step-

ping up,” the statement said. “We and many other Allies have increased our presence, activities, and investments, to keep the Arctic safe and to deter adversaries.”

The Netherlands also fully supports the joint statement, Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof said on X.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk told reporters in Warsaw, “No member should attack or threaten another member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Otherwise, NATO would lose its meaning if conflict or mutual conflicts occurred within the alliance.”

◀◀ European leaders affirm Greenland’s autonomy amid US interest

◀◀ ‘Greenland belongs to its people’, says joint statement

◀◀ NATO allies emphasise Arctic security cooperation

◀◀ Trump’s special envoy eyes Greenland independence, trade

◀◀ White House chief of staff dismisses diplomatic ‘niceties’

GREENLAND PM WANTS ‘RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE’

Greenland’s Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen welcomed the European leaders’ pledge of solidarity and renewed his call to the US for a “respectful dialogue”.

“The dialogue must take place with respect for the fact that Greenland’s status is rooted in international law and the principle of territorial integrity,” he said on Facebook.

To fend off US criticism over Greenland’s defence ca-

pabilities, Denmark last year pledged 42 billion Danish crowns (\$6.58 billion) to boost its military presence in the Arctic.

US Special Envoy Jeff Landry, asked about the Europeans’ joint statement, told CNBC Tuesday, “Security should be a major concern for the United States.”

Asked whether security should be handled in conjunction with NATO, he said, “I think we should ask the Greenlanders.”

Trump named Landry, the Republican governor of Louisiana, as his special envoy to Greenland last month, asking him to “lead the charge” for the island.

Landry said Tuesday that Trump was offering Greenland economic opportunities but he did not think the president would take it by force.

“I think that the president supports an independent Greenland with economic ties and trade opportunities for the United States,” Landry said, adding that the US had more to offer than Europe.

Rights groups say at least 25 dead in Iran protests

REUTERS

**Dubai, Jan 6:** At least 25 people have been killed in Iran during the first nine days of protests that started in the bazaar of Tehran over the plunging value of the currency and soaring inflation, according to rights groups.

The authorities have acknowledged the economic hardships but accused networks linked to foreign powers of stoking the protests. Iran’s police chief vowed to “deal with the last of these rioters”.

The shopkeepers’ protest continued Tuesday in the bazaar, with about 150 people focusing on economic demands, Iran’s Fars news agency reported.

The protests have spread to some cities in western and southern Iran but do not match the scale of unrest that swept the nation in 2022-23 over the death of Mahsa Amini, who died in the custody of morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic’s strict dress code.



of the day

quote

India is one of Dell Technologies' most strategic and high-growth markets globally, driven by its scale, young demographic profile, and accelerating digital adoption. We do not just view it as a growth opportunity but as a long-standing focus market

RAJ KUMAR RISHI | VP & GM, DELL TECHNOLOGIES

We are studying the impact of commodity inflation and forex issues, and based on that, we will take a call whether to take a price hike or avoid it

RAJESH JEJURIKAR | MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Rationalising the inverted duty structure for EVs will strengthen domestic manufacturing and competitiveness, and will further accelerate India's transition to sustainable mobility

PIYUSH ARORA | SKODA AUTO VOLKSWAGEN INDIA MD & CEO

SHORT TAKES

RBI for capping banks' dividend

**Mumbai:** The RBI Tuesday proposed norms for dividends by banks by capping the payout to shareholders at 75 per cent of their net profit. The Reserve Bank defines 'dividend' as an amount payable on equity shares and includes interim dividend, but excludes dividend on Perpetual Non-Cumulative Preference Shares (PNCPs). The RBI has issued draft Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Declaration of Dividend and Remittance of Profits) Directions, 2026, proposing a new methodology for computing the maximum eligible dividend payout. The Board of Directors should consider long-term growth plans and capital position while considering a proposal for the declaration of dividends or remittance of profit. Also, banks must have a positive adjusted profit after tax (PAT) for the period for which the dividend is proposed. A foreign bank operating in India in the branch mode should have positive PAT for the period for which the profits are to be remitted to the head office.

5% volume growth in FMCG: Report

**New Delhi:** The FMCG sector is witnessing a strong pick-up, helped by robust macroeconomic indicators, and a 5 per cent volume growth is expected in the 'first few months' of this year, a Worldpanel report said. According to the December FMCG Pulse report from Worldpanel by Numerator, India's GDP expectations have been revised upwards, inflation is low, and food inflation is negative, and many manufacturers are passing on these benefits to shoppers. Moreover, the banking sector regulator, the RBI's consumer confidence index, also indicates that consumer confidence is returning. "With the macro-economic indicators being strong and FMCG also seeing an uptick correspondingly, we expect the coming quarters to strongly build on the momentum. A 5 per cent FMCG volume growth from a household perspective is possible within the first few months of the next year (2026)," the report from Worldpanel by Numerator, said. Worldpanel by Numerator provides currency-grade consumer data representing nearly 6 billion consumers in 65+ markets, offering brands a multi-dimensional view of how people think, how they shop, and how they consume, so they can set bold strategies and drive sustainable business impact.

Sensex tanks 376.28 points on renewed US tariff hike threats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 6:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the second consecutive day Tuesday, tracking intense selling pressure in market heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank amid geopolitical tensions and renewed concerns about potential US tariff hikes.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 376.28 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 85,063.34. During the day, it tanked 539.52 points, or 0.63 per cent, to 84,900.10.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 71.60 points, or 0.27 per cent, to end at 26,178.70.

"Domestic equities experienced a correction led by large-cap stocks, with selling in heavyweights like Reliance Industries and HDFC. The market reaction was influenced by uncertainties surrounding the Venezuela-US crisis and Russian oil imports, coupled with anticipations regarding the upcoming Q3 results," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Trent tumbled 8.62 per cent after the Tata group's retail firm's revenue growth in the December quarter failed to cheer investors.

Reliance Industries cracked 4.42 per cent, while ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, InterGlobe Aviation, and HDFC Bank were



also among the laggards.

On the other hand, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Hindustan Unilever, and State Bank of India were among the gainers.

"Indian equity markets declined for a second consecutive session, with the Nifty ending nearly 0.3 per cent lower amid profit-booking in heavyweight stocks and renewed geopolitical concerns. Sentiment was weighed down by resurfacing trade worries after comments from the US President on potential tariff hikes on India linked to Russian oil purchases. Stock-specific pressure added to the weakness, as Reliance Industries fell over 4 per cent, its steepest intra-day decline in more than eight months, while Trent declined 9 per cent, following its weak Q3 business update," Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal

Financial Services Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent, and midcap dipped 0.24 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, energy tanked 1.71 per cent, oil & gas (1.22 per cent), services (1.07 per cent), capital goods (0.63 per cent), realty (0.28 per cent) and power (0.23 per cent).

BSE Healthcare jumped 1.38 per cent, BSE PSU bank (0.52 per cent), consumer durables (0.43 per cent), IT (0.37 per cent) and BSE Focused IT (0.35 per cent).

"Market sentiment remained cautious amid mixed global cues and lingering concerns around geopolitical developments and global trade dynamics. Profit booking in recent outperformers, particularly in select large-cap stocks, continued to weigh on overall momentum," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Gold surges ₹1,100 to ₹1,41,500 per 10g on firm global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** Rising for the fourth straight day, the gold price Tuesday jumped by ₹1,100 to ₹1,41,500 per 10 grams, tracking firm global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

On Monday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at ₹1,40,400 per 10 grams.

Gold prices in the national capital increased by ₹1,100 to ₹1,41,500 per 10 grams, the All India Sarafa Association said.

"Gold extended its gains on Tuesday, supported by a softer US dollar and dovish comments from Federal Reserve officials, which reinforced market expectations for potential interest-rate cuts in the coming months," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Silver prices also witnessed robust buying in the bullion market. The white metal continued its rally for the third consecutive day by surging ₹7,000 to ₹2,51,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) from the previous close of ₹2,44,000 per kg.

In the international market, spot gold went up by USD 11.45, or 0.26 per cent, to USD 4,460.49 per ounce. "Spot gold is trading with a gain at around USD 4,460 per ounce, driven by the geopolitical risk escalation as the US captured and removed the Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro," Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Services sector activity moderates in Dec: PMI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** India's services sector growth moderated in December, as the rates of expansion in incoming new work and output eased to the slowest in 11 months, and companies refrained from recruiting additional staff, a monthly survey said Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HS-BC India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell from 59.8 in November to 58.0 in December, indicating the slowest rate of expansion since January.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. Firms remained upbeat towards growth prospects, but overall sentiment fell to its lowest level in nearly three-and-a-half years, the survey said. "While India's service sector continued to perform well in December, the retreat in several survey indicators as 2025 ended may suggest a moderation in growth heading into the new year," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

In terms of external demand, monitored companies noted another improvement, with gains from Asia, North America, the Middle East and the UK. New export orders rose at a marked pace.

On the price front, there were benign increases in input costs and output charges, according to the survey.



"What bodes well for the outlook is the benign inflation environment. If services firms continue to see only mild increases in their expenses, they should be better positioned to compete and limit price hikes, thereby boosting sales and creating more jobs," Lima said. Meanwhile, Indian services companies were confident of a rise in business activity in 2026, but the overall level of positive sentiment fell for the third straight month to its lowest in close to three-and-a-half years amid heightened market uncertainty and concerns around exchange rate movements.

"Companies did express some anxiety about market uncertainty and exchange rate movements. While recent rupee weakness may have driven import costs higher, it likely made exports more competitive. Notably, against the wider trend of slowing growth, services exports rose to a greater extent in December," Lima added.

Meanwhile, private sector output growth receded to an 11-month low in December.

The HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index fell from 59.7 in November to 57.8 in December, the weakest since January 2025, amid slowdowns at both manufacturers and service providers.

PSBs DRIVING RISE IN MSME LOANS: REPORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 6:** Lending by public sector banks has helped nearly double the share of loans to micro, small and medium enterprises during January to October 2025, a report said Tuesday. There are signs of stress in small-ticket, unsecured micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) loans within the overall MSME credit, according to a report by Crisil Intelligence.

"The share of incremental credit towards MSME loans increased to 32.5 per cent in the current period (year to October) from 17.7 per cent in the year-ago period," the report said, adding the proportion of MSMEs in outstanding credit increased by 1.74 per cent.

"There were some signs of stress in small-ticket size unsecured business loans," it said, maintaining that the asset quality of the MSMEs portfolio remained "satisfactory". The jump in MSMEs was attributed to disbursements from public sector banks (PSBs), it said, adding that they are sticking to the much safer secured credit and

the higher lending is also driven by changes in definitions.

However, the Crisil report also echoed findings in the Reserve Bank's financial stability report, which noted that PSBs have significant exposures to subprime MSME borrowers. The Crisil report said 12.6 per cent of bank credit is exposed to US tariffs, with over 43 per cent of that exposure contributed by the textiles sector alone. Share of retail secured credit also grew during the same period, the report said, adding that this grew to 31.3 per cent of the incremental credit from 24.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

This included housing loans at around 50% of the incremental retail credit and gold loans accounting for more than a third, it said. In line with the regulatory expectations, share of unsecured retail personal loans in incremental credit decreased to 9.7% in October 2025, compared with 11 per cent in the previous year, it said, adding that retail unsecured loan growth slowed to 9.8% on-year in October 2025 from 11.7 per cent in October 2024.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** Retail sales of vehicles across categories in India in 2025 grew by 7.71 per cent at 2,81,61,228 units as compared to 2,61,45,445 in 2024, with GST 2.0 helping overcome a subdued start to the year, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations said Tuesday.

Passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales stood at 44,75,309 units in 2025 as against 40,79,532 units in 2024, a growth of 9.7 per cent, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said in a statement.

Similarly, two-wheeler (2W) sales also grew by 7.24 per cent at 2,02,95,650 units last year as compared to 1,89,24,815 units in 2024.

In 2025, three-wheeler retail sales were at 13,09,953 units as compared to 12,21,886 units in 2024, up 7.21 per cent.

Commercial vehicles (CV) retail also witnessed a growth of 6.71 per cent at 10,09,654 units in 2025 as against 9,46,190 units in 2024.



Commenting on the performance, FADA President CS Vigneshwar said 2025 was a tale of two halves -- January to August remained subdued despite supportive macro cues such as direct-tax relief in the Union Budget and RBI's cumulative rate easing through 2025.

During this phase, customers stayed value-conscious and financier approvals remained selective in pockets, resulting in uneven conversions across markets.

"The turning point came from

India imported €144bn worth of Russian oil since Ukraine war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** India imported about 144 billion euros' worth of crude oil from Russia since the start of the Ukraine war, a European think tank said Tuesday, estimating the Kremlin's cumulative earnings from global oil sales since February 2022 at around 1 trillion euros.

India has been the second-largest buyer of Russian oil behind China, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

China bought Euro 210.3 billion worth of Russian oil since the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022, and another Euro 42.7 billion worth of coal and Euro 40.6 billion worth of gas. China's total buy from the beginning of the war until January 3, 2026, was Euro 293.7 billion.

India, on the other hand, bought Euro 162.5 billion worth of fossil fuels - Euro 143.88 billion worth of oil and Euro 18.1 billion worth of coal - from Russia, CREA said.

The European Union spent Euro 218.1 billion on buying Russian fossil fuels - Euro 106.3



billion in oil, Euro 3.5 billion on coal and Euro 108.2 billion on gas.

"As of January 2026, Russia has earned 1 trillion euros and counting from global fossil fuel sales since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, revenue that continues to fund displacement, destruction, and death in Ukraine," CREA said.

In response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, G7 countries (the US, the UK, Canada, Japan, Italy, France and Germany) and the EU have imposed sanctions and export controls against Russia.

However, these restrictions do not derive from any UN Security Council resolution and several countries, including China, India, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Israel and Saudi Arabia, do not support unilateral sanctions against Russia. Turkey, a NATO Member State, and Serbia, an EU candidate country, have also refused to implement sanctions.

Russian oil has continued to flow into the EU, mainly to Hungary and Slovakia, CREA said, adding that sanctioning countries also continue to boost Russian revenues by allowing products refined from Russian

crude to continue entering their shores.

"The trade flourishes because of Russia's ability to expand markets for its oil, grow its ageing, dangerous shadow fleet, and funnel large volumes of unsanctioned gas to Ukraine's allies in the EU. EU imports consist of one-fifth of this one trillion. Russian gas is the major share of it," it said.

The European Union's imports of Russian fossil fuels have steadily declined since the December 2022 embargo on Russian crude oil and the February 2023 embargo on Russian refined products.

Some countries were provided derogations to import Russian crude via the Druzhba pipeline. As of September 2025, only two EU countries - Hungary and Slovakia - have continued to import Russian oil. Russian gas remains unsanctioned.

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

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

Russia supplied about 35 per cent of all crude oil that India imported, ahead of fresh sanctions the US imposed on two of Russia's leading oil exporters, Rosneft and Lukoil, coming into effect from November 22, 2025.

Russia's share in Indian oil purchases has since dropped to less than 25 per cent and may dip further this month, as the

primary buyer, Reliance Industries, shunned Russian oil.

India's daily purchases of Russian oil from non-sanctioned entities were around Euro 72.92 million at the beginning of January, down from 130.49 million euros in end November and peak of 189.07 million euros in July 2023, according to CREA.

Following the new US sanctions, companies such as Reliance, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd, and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd have halted imports of Russian oil for now.

However, other refiners, such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), continue to buy from non-sanctioned Russian entities. Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, which the EU has already sanctioned, continues to purchase oil from Rosneft and other Russian sellers.

While the European Union has banned the import of fuel made from Russian oil, Australia, Canada, and the US have yet to announce a ban on oil products made from Russian crude.



# ISL set to kick off after long hiatus

India's top football league to commence February 14, all teams to participate after the sport's darkest phase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Tuesday announced that the Indian Super League (ISL), which was on pause due to the lack of a commercial partner, will start February 14, ending a crisis that paralysed Indian football for close to six months.

The ISL, which used to start in September, will feature all 14 clubs, including Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, which were opposed to the financial model suggested by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The second division I-League, which was also on pause for the same reason, will be held "around the same time" with all 11 clubs in participation.

"There was lot of speculation regarding ISL but today government, the football federation and all 14 clubs, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal included, had a meeting and we have decided that the ISL will start on February 14. All clubs will participate," Mandaviya announced in a brief statement flanked by CEOs of ISL clubs.

Also joining him at the long-awaited resolution table was under-fire All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey, who took over the explaining part after the Minister's announcement.

The top-tier ISL will feature 91 matches on home and away basis, the logistics of which are still being worked out.

"That part will be figured out by the clubs in the next

few weeks," Chaubey said. The I-League will be a truncated event with 55 matches.

"A Rs 25 crore central pool has been made for only the conduct of the ISL. 10 percent of this fund will come from AIFF, 30 percent was to come from a commercial partner but since we don't have one right now, the AIFF will pitch in with that contribution," Chaubey said.

"In all, the AIFF will give Rs 14 crore for ISL and about Rs 3.2 crore for I League till we find a commercial partner. The rest of the fund will come through the legacy participating clubs. Hopefully we will find a commercial partner soon," he added.

"In case, we face any difficulty, the government will also step in to assist us," he stated.

Chaubey said a Governing Council Board will be formed to manage the Leagues eventually and it will be "empowered to take all commercial decisions."

The ISL 2025-26 has

been in a limbo after the AIFF's commercial partner FSDL, owned by the Reliance Group, put it on hold in July due to uncertainty over the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between the two parties.

The MRA ended December 8, 2025 as negotiations fell through.

Later, a tender was floated for the selection of a commercial rights partner under the supervision of a Supreme Court-appointed committee, but much to AIFF's embarrassment, there were no takers for it.

"All six leagues of Indian football, including I-League 2, 3 will commence along with the Indian Women's League (top division and second division)," Chaubey said.

The deadlock had left footballers in distress and on Friday leading names such as Sunil Chhetri, along with several foreign recruits of the ISL, called for world governing body FIFA's intervention.

With the 2025-26 ISL season yet to start, senior national team players such as Chhetri, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sandhesh Jhingan voiced concern over the prolonged uncertainty, warning that Indian football would be slipping into a state of "permanent paralysis".

Despite the expected start of the ISL, it is certain that the clubs will not be able to play the mandatory 24 matches in the season -- including top division league and domestic cup -- to be eligible to feature in the AFC Champions League 2. In that regard, the ISL clubs had urged the AIFF to request the Asian Football Confederation for a one-time relaxation in the minimum requirement of 24 matches to play in the ACL 2.

## VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Gujarat dominate Odisha by 233 runs



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore, Jan 6:** Gujarat secured a commanding 233-run victory over Odisha in their Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 encounter at BCCI COE Ground 3 here Tuesday. Odisha won the toss and opted to field first, but Gujarat's batting performance proved too strong.

India all-rounder Axar Patel dished out a commanding show with the bat as Gujarat notched their third win from six matches with a crushing 233-run victory over Odisha.

Axar top-scored with a fluent 73 off 60 balls and then applied the brakes with a miserly bowling of 14 runs from his five overs as Gujarat piled up a daunting 333 for 6 before skittling Odisha out for 100 in 28.1 overs.

Batting first, Gujarat built a formidable total with openers Aarya Desai (54) and Urvil Patel (64) providing a solid platform, while Ahaan Poddar made a composed 64 off 76 balls.

Axar then took charge in the latter half of the innings, striking eight fours and two sixes to accelerate Gujarat past the 300-run mark. Chasing an imposing target of 334, Odisha never found their footing against a disciplined Gujarat bowling attack.

Odisha were reduced to 40/4 inside 10 overs, with Gaja accounting for key batters, including skipper Biplab Samantray, who top-scored with a modest 22.

### Brief Scores:

**Gujarat** 333/6 in 50 overs (Axar Patel 73, Urvil Patel 64, Ahaan Poddar 64, Aarya Desai 54, Saurabh Chauhan 44 not out) beat **Odisha** 100 in 28.1 overs (Biplab Samantray 22; Chintan Gaja 6/31) by 233 runs

## FINAL ASHES TEST

# HEAD, SMITH TON PUT AUSTRALIA IN COMMAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, Jan 6:** Travis Head's third century of the series and Steve Smith's first guided Australia to a 134-run first-innings lead over England by stumps on the third day of the fifth and final Ashes test.

Head resumed Tuesday at 91 and was out for 163 from 166 balls, a masterful innings to follow his match-winning 123 in the second innings of the first test at Perth and his 170 in the second innings of the third test at Adelaide.

Smith was 129 not out at stumps, elevating a relatively disappointing series with the bat. His previous highest score in the series was 61 in the first innings at Adelaide.

The century was Smith's 13th in Ashes tests, the 37th of his career and his fifth at the Sydney Cricket Ground. With it, he moved up to sixth on the all-time list of most test centuries.

At stumps, Australia was 518-7 in reply to England's first innings of 384.

Beau Webster was unbeaten on 42 and had put on 81 runs with Smith for the eighth wicket, expanding Australia's lead.

"It was a really nice day today with a couple of nice partnerships," Smith said. "Hopefully, we can put a little partnership together, get up over a 200 lead and the wicket starts to play a few more tricks. I just love batting here, obviously it's my home deck. I know the ground really well and when I get in here I really like batting here," he added.

Khawaja saluted, while Head and Smith's centuries elicited huge cheers and Head's departure earned a standing ovation, the greatest cheers of the day were reserved for Usman Khawaja when he arrived at the crease



Smith's century was his 13th in Ashes tests, the 37th of his career and his fifth at the Sydney Cricket Ground. With it, he moved up to sixth on the all-time list of most test centuries



in his 88th and final test for Australia. Khawaja will retire at the end of the series.

He made 17 from 49 balls at the ground where he made his test debut 15 years ago, and he departed also to a standing ovation. Khawaja is an Australian fan favorite for his dogged nature and, as a Pakistan-born Muslim, for his courage to discuss issues of race and belonging.

Head became the first Australian opener since Matthew Hayden in 2002-03 to post three centuries in an Ashes series.

The 32-year-old left-hander reached the milestone with the 17th boundary of his innings.

His two previous centuries contributed heavily to Australia retaining the Ashes in 11 days of action. In Sydney, he's helped the home team rebound after England's drought-breaking win last week in the fourth test in Melbourne.

Head became the first Australian opener since Matthew Hayden in 2002-03 to post three centuries in an Ashes series

## NATIONAL SHOOTING

Asab, Anushka bag double trap gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 6:** Veteran Indian shotgun shooter from Uttar Pradesh Mohammed Asab and Rajasthan's Anushka Singh Bhati clinched the men's and women's doubles trap titles respectively on the concluding day of competitions in the National Shooting Championships here Tuesday.

Asab shot 27, 25, 28 and 21 across four rounds to claim the gold with an aggregate of 101.

The women's double trap national title went to Anushka, who topped the field with 77 hits (14, 18, 21, 24). The remaining podium places were decided via shoot-off, with Varsha Varman of Madhya Pradesh (16, 22, 15, 20) claiming the silver medal ahead of Gujarat's Yeshaya Hafiz Contractor who settled for bronze.

# Odisha launches CM Trophy Championship

The multi-sport tournament, which will be conducted across four sporting disciplines, is expected to witness participation from over 32,000 young athletes from across the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 6:** In a major initiative to strengthen the foundation of sports in the state and turn the vision of "Padia to Podium" into reality, the Odisha government will organise the CM Trophy Championship through the Sports and Youth Services (S&YS) department. The championship aims to identify talented athletes from the grassroots level and nurture them for national and international platforms.

The multi-sport tournament will be conducted across four sporting disciplines and is ex-



pected to witness participation from over 32,000 young athletes from across the state. The on-line registration process for aspiring players will remain open from January 7 to 14.

The CM Trophy Championship will provide a strong platform for budding sportspersons at the grassroots level to showcase their talent. The tournament will be organised under the direct supervision of the S&YS department in collaboration with various State Sports Associations (SSAs).

The competition will be held under four categories – Football (Under 15 years), Volleyball (Under 14 years), Kabaddi (Under 16 years) and Kho-Kho (Under 14 years).

Events will be held in both boy and girl categories, promoting gender equality and inclusive participation in sports.

The championship will follow a multi-tier selection process, beginning from the grassroots level and progressing through district, zonal, and state-level competitions. Based on merit, 10

boys' teams and six girls' teams will be formed at the district-level in each discipline.

Officials estimate participation of nearly 500 teams from across Odisha, involving around 32,000 young sportspersons.

The tournament will be conducted in two phases – Phase I (January–February 2026) and Phase II (from May 2026).

The semi-finals and finals are planned to be held in May 2026.

SSAs will be responsible for technical aspects such as player registration, conduct of trials, appointment of technical officials, and match organisation. The S&YS department will oversee the overall planning and management of the championship.

The CM Trophy Championship is being widely viewed as a milestone initiative that will significantly contribute to the development of grassroots sports in Odisha and help create a strong pipeline of future sporting talent for the state and the nation.

## 72ND SENIOR NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL C'SHIP

Odisha continue victorious run



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Varanasi, Jan 6:** Continuing their impressive run at the 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship, the Odisha Men's Volleyball Team registered their second consecutive victory on the second day of the championship here Tuesday, further strengthening their campaign in the prestigious national event being held from January 4 to 11.

In their second league encounter, Odisha delivered another commanding performance, defeating Telangana by 3-1 sets. The Odisha side

dominated the match with strong teamwork, tactical maturity, and consistent attacking play to secure the win with set scores of 25-21, 25-22, 23-25, and 25-18.

Despite a brief resistance from Telangana in the third set, Odisha regrouped quickly and closed the match convincingly in the fourth set.

With two successive wins in the league stage, the Odisha Men's Volleyball Team has firmly established itself as a strong contender in the championship and will aim to carry forward this winning momentum in the days ahead.

# Ex-IOA prez Kalmadi passes away

Suresh Kalmadi, the face of CWG 2010, served as IOA president from 1996 to 2011 making him one of the longest-serving heads of the country's apex Olympic body

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, Jan 6:** Former Indian Olympic Association president and veteran sports administrator Suresh Kalmadi died at a hospital here in the early hours of Tuesday. He was 81.

Kalmadi is survived by his wife, son and daughter-in-law, two married daughters and a son-in-law, as well as grandchildren.

Kalmadi, who had been unwell for some time, died around 3.30 am.

A towering figure in Indian sports administration for more than two decades, Kalmadi served as IOA president from 1996 to 2011, making him one of the longest-serving heads of the country's apex Olympic body.

Born in 1944, Kalmadi began his professional life as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force,



taking part in both the 1965 and 1971 wars, before entering politics and sports administration.

He went on to represent Pune in the Lok Sabha multiple times as a Congress leader and also served as a Union minister, while steadily consolidating his position in Indian and international sports bodies.

As IOA president, Kalmadi had enormous influence during

a period when Indian sport was expanding its global footprint.

He also served as president of the Asian Athletics Association and was a member of the IAAF Council, making him one of India's most powerful sports administrators internationally.

Under his IOA tenure, India achieved a historic breakthrough at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, when shooter Abhinav Bindra won the country's first-ever individual Olympic gold medal. He was also the Chairman of the Organising Committee when Delhi hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010.

Kalmadi was also closely associated with the growth of athletics and sports infrastructure in Pune, and played a key role in initiatives such as the Pune International Marathon, which became a regular fixture on the Indian road-running calendar.

## NATIONAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Greater Noida, Jan 6:** The refereeing at the ongoing National Boxing Championships has come under scrutiny, prompting the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to order a review after Olympian Ashish Chaudhary was disqualified from his opening-round bout.

Competing in the men's lightweight category (80kg), the 2019 Asian Championships silver medalist was disqualified less than two minutes into the contest Monday after it was ruled that he had intentionally clashed heads with Haryana's Rupesh, causing a bleeding.

The referee initially deemed the incident accidental and administered a standing count to Rupesh before calling for medical attention.

However, following con-

# Chaudhary's disqualification triggers refereeing controversy

sultations with the Technical Delegate, the decision was overturned and Ashish was disqualified, triggering protests from the Himachal Pradesh boxer, who lodged an official complaint.

The BFI subsequently initiated a review and stripped the referee involved off his duty for a day.

"We asked the Technical Delegate to look into it and he said since we are investigating the facts of what happened for that particular time we will not give any duty to the referee. The referee has been put back on roster," BFI Executive Director Col Arun Malik told PTI.

"After taking the statements from the referee, the technical delegate made a report which states that the decision was made exactly as per the technical rules and regulation of



World Boxing and it was a fair decision," he added.

Ashish insists the head clash was accidental.

"Whoever is seeing the video is agreeing that it was in the moment I have not purposefully hit him with my head. I was moving out after leaning to hit him and his head made contact. Is this how you treat an Olympian?" Ashish asked.

The Himachal Pradesh Box-

ing Association (HPBA), however, has strongly objected to the ruling.

"We strongly condemn and protest this. If you see the video, the referee has signalled that it was accidental and not intentional," HPBA President and BFI Vice President Rajesh Bhandari said.

The BFI has been live streaming the Nationals but interestingly the video of the bout has been removed from the federation's Youtube page.

The episode has also led to questions within the boxing fraternity over the credentials of the Technical Official involved.

"Narendra Nirwan is not himself a qualified Technical Official. He should not be sitting there in the first place. How is he making these call," said an official on conditions of anonymity.