

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

You will be the focus of everyone's attention today – for your visual appeal or for your abilities. Ganesha suggests that you should make the best of the opportunity and recharge yourself. You can accomplish quite a lot with the energy you gain.

TAURUS

This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesha urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities.

GEMINI

You will be in the mood to spend the day doing the things that you really love. You will consider helping people in need and will be in a generous mood. Your charitable bent of mind will bring you elevated social status and improved self-esteem, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Today, you will be trying new things in your style of work. You may come across as mad, but there will be a method in your madness. Your new strategy and innovative ideas will give a new lease of life to the projects you are working on. However, you need to take a break from work in the evening and go home to your loved ones to recharge your batteries, advises Ganesha.

LEO

Today, you will be trying new things in your style of work. You may come across as mad, but there will be a method in your madness. Your new strategy and innovative ideas will give a new lease of life to the projects you are working on.

VIRGO

Logic as well as emotions will hold sway in your relationships today. Emotionally you will feel a little confused and will swing between your feelings and what is actually expected of you. However, finally you will pay more heed to your inner voice rather than depending on the views of others.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that today will be a day where you will want to look good and feel good too. You will be able to attract people with your speech and your impressive personality today at social gatherings. Your social stature will also rise today.

SCORPIO

Your stars indicate splurging of money today. And this time, you do it for your near and dear ones. After all, what is money without friends and family? You may even go out of your way to make them happy by entertaining them with outings and celebrations.

SAGITTARIUS

You feel like going back to carefree, childhood days. You even practice that by taking an impromptu pleasure trip, in the outskirts of the city. And bumping into an old pal, reliving your past is like an icing on the cake. As Ganesha says, golden moments are best undescribed and you too, by the end of the day, are speechless for this wonderful day!

CAPRICORN

Normally, others, especially colleagues get jealous of one's success, but yours is a different case. They will not only motivate you, but also guide you while you take up new projects and assignments. Not everyone is blessed with such cooperative colleagues, says Ganesha. Those of you who wish to change their current job, better wait for a while as times are not favouring you, today.

AQUARIUS

God helps those who help themselves. You have experienced this plenty of times as your efforts have been paid off. While your colleagues at work may pass negative comments at your work, your boss will not have any complains with you.

PISCES

You will come up trumps against your competition today. This will make you enthusiastic about your future prospects. You shy away from the spotlight usually, but today you will find yourself thrust into the role of a leader, as you take on new assignments. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesha.

ELLE FANNING REVEALS HER GOALS FOR 2026

Elle Fanning revealed that she wants 2026 to be different from the past year by focusing on staying more present. Speaking at the Palm Springs International Film Festival Film Awards, the actress shared that while being a big dreamer is positive, she often overthinks the future and is now consciously trying to live in the moment

CROFT, MANHEIM TO STAR IN TANGLED

Walt Disney Pictures has found its Rapunzel and Flynn Rider in actors Teagan Croft and Milo Manheim, who will lead the live-action adaptation of the 2010 animated movie *Tangled*. Directed by Michael Gracey, the film will have big musical elements, according to the entertainment news outlet *The Hollywood Reporter*



Kriti beams with joy

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon couldn't hide her joy as she witnessed her younger sister Nupur Sanon marry singer Stebin Ben in a dreamy Christian ceremony in Udaipur. Playing the role of a bridesmaid, Kriti looked visibly elated, celebrating the union with warmth, laughter and infectious cheer. In one of the shared pictures, Kriti was seen in a light green gown, posing with fellow bridesmaids, flashing a bright smile and a playful peace sign, capturing her excitement.

The actress also took to Instagram Stories to reshare the newlyweds' wedding post and poured her heart out in a touching message. "My heart is full! Love, happiness, blessings. #StebinNupur," she wrote, reflecting the emotions of the entire Sanon family. Her reaction won hearts online, with fans praising her close bond with Nupur.

Ahead of the wedding, Kriti was equally involved in the pre-wedding festivities. During the sangeet ceremony, set against a lavish pink backdrop, she lit up the stage with energetic dance performances alongside family and friends. A particularly emotional moment saw Kriti dance with her mother to *Dil Tu Jaan Tu* for the couple. Later, she also shared a fun performance with her Arjun Patiala co-star Varun Sharma, making the celebrations even more memorable.



Tara's ideal life partner

Mumbai: Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya have reportedly parted ways, just days after their viral appearance at AP Dhillon's Mumbai concert grabbed widespread attention online. Amid reports of their alleged breakup, an old interview of Tara has resurfaced in which she spoke candidly about what she looks for in a life partner. At the time of the interview, Tara was only rumoured to be dating Veer, with the duo making their relationship official later.

During a podcast appearance, Tara was asked whether she would consider marrying a foreigner. Responding honestly, she said she is "very desi" at heart and values desipana, simplicity and comfort. She explained that cultural familiarity, family values and a certain laid-back Indian way of life matter deeply to her, whether in food, relationships or daily living.

Tara also emphasised self-awareness as a non-negotiable trait in a partner. She said it is important for a person to know who they are, what they stand for, and what their core beliefs are, adding that self-worth and a strong sense of self help everything else fall into place.

According to reports, Tara and Veer began dating in 2025 and were spotted together on multiple occasions. They later walked the ramp together as showstoppers and made their relationship official during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. Neither has commented on the breakup rumours so far.



Parineeti talks about handling postpartum

Mumbai: Parineeti Chopra has opened up about life after embracing motherhood, sharing that she has completed two months postpartum and is gradually finding her balance. In a recent video on her YouTube channel, the actress spoke candidly about prioritising calmness, mindfulness and mental health during this new phase. She believes that a positive mindset directly impacts physical well-being, saying that when the mind stays positive, the body naturally follows.

Parineeti also addressed daily habits

that affect mental peace, pointing out that starting the day by scrolling on the phone can be harmful. She feels it makes the mind numb and disrupts the entire day. Instead, she consciously avoids her phone after waking up and spends quiet time listening to music, sitting in nature or simply enjoying stillness, which helps her remain calm and centered.

Chanting plays an important role in her morning routine. She shared that she begins her day by chanting the *Hanuman Chalisa* or *Namami Shamisham*, as it helps set a peaceful

tone. According to her, starting the day well allows one to better control reactions to both positive and negative situations.

Parineeti said her perspective has evolved with age. She now believes mindset is everything and has learned to prioritise her health, fitness and mental well-being.



Sangeetha on social media toxicity

Bangalore: Actor Sangeetha Bhat has opened up about stepping away from social media, calling it increasingly toxic and emotionally exhausting. She shared that the constant urge to document moments instead of actually living them began to feel overwhelming. According to her, every experience came with the impulse to post it online, turning daily life into an endless cycle of scrolling, from the moment one wakes up to just before going to sleep. Admitting that the habit started affecting her mentally, Sangeetha said she eventually decided to deactivate her account. While her muscle memory still

reaches for Instagram, she now feels lighter and more at peace after disconnecting. Beyond personal burn-out, Sangeetha also addressed the pressure within the film industry, where an actor's social media following is often seen as a measure of their worth. She strongly disagrees with this mindset, saying that genuine talent and meaningful work eventually find their audience. According to her, people remember actors for the impact of their films and the work they leave behind, not for their follower count.

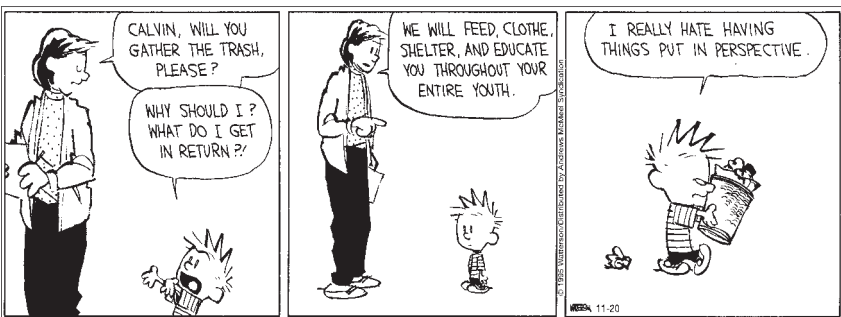
She also pointed out that even millions of followers do not guarantee box office success. Audiences watch films because they are engaging and worth consuming. While she acknowledges social media's importance for influencers and brands, Sangeetha firmly believes that for actors, talent, skill and experience should always come first.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

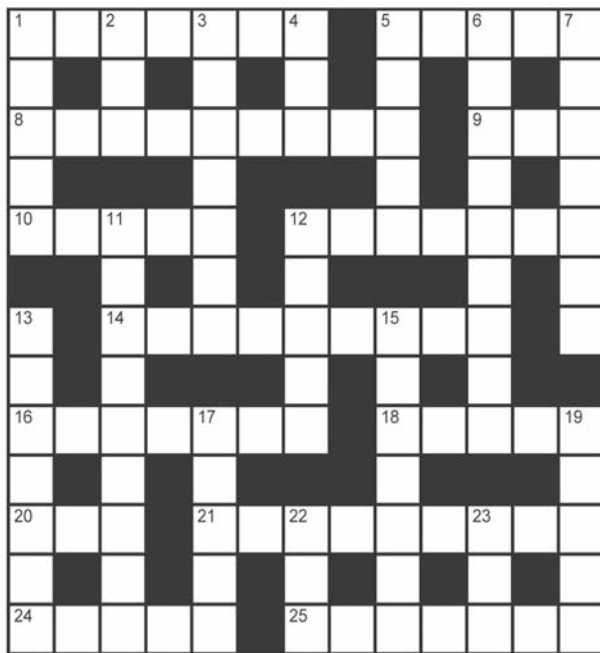


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

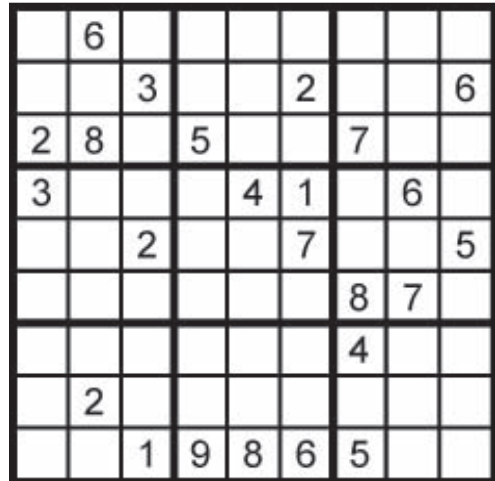
- Building custodian
- Passover feast
- Self-control
- Fluid container
- Anesthetic type
- Advice to a sad sack (5,2)
- Bramble bush
- Island south of Martinique (2,5)
- Analyze syntactically
- Caviar
- Shower starter?
- Divans
- Really bad

Down

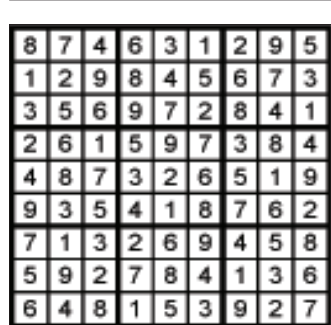
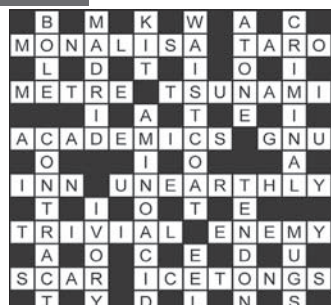
- Precious stone
- Zero
- Hits the booze
- Like sushi
- Twilled fabric
- Warship
- Chef's stash
- Snorkeling locale (5,4)
- Hooded snake
- Soaks up
- In a quick manner
- Woes for toes
- Supporter of the arts?
- Cretan peak
- Physics unit

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Cyber fraud gang busted; 12 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: In a major breakthrough, police busted a well-organised interstate cyber fraud gang and arrested 12 members involved in cheating people across the country, officials said Sunday.

Acting on credible intelligence, police conducted a raid at a house located at Tankapani Road under Badagada police limits, where the gang had been operating secretly for the last few months.

The gang, infamously known as the “Katrisarai Gang of Bihar”, was running multiple cyber fraud rackets using fake identities, pre-activated SIM cards and mule bank accounts. Police seized a large cache of electronic devices and documents, including 30 keypad phones, 30 Android smartphones, two laptops, registers



containing victims’ details, fake letters issued in the names of Meesho and Naaptol, scratch cards, SIM cards, postal stamps and vehicles including a black SUV and a two-wheeler.

Out of all the arrested accused, Bijay Kumar, Pintu Kumar, Sanjay Kumar Ray, Gunjan Kumar, Manish Kumar and Arjun Raj belong to Bihar, while Ajay Raj, Santhoo V, Ajit M, and Sarath Sasi are the residents of Kerala. Debashish Tripathy, Pankaj Kumar and the house owner are residents of Odisha. Police said all accused were residing at the

Tankapani Road house at the time of the raid.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Debasish, Pankaj, Arjun and Bijay were the masterminds. Pankaj procured customer databases of e-commerce platforms like Naaptol and Meesho through agents in Bihar and arranged mule bank accounts for online money transfers.

The gang cheated victims through three main methods—gift voucher scams, fake loan offers and Kerala lottery frauds. Victims were lured through letters, Facebook advertisements

House burglar with 78 cases arrested in City

Bhubaneswar: Dhauli police arrested a notorious house burglar, Niranjan Swain (49) alias Nanda, who has 78 cases registered against him at various police stations, along with his associate, in connection with a house break-in at Apsana Garden. Police recovered stolen gold and silver articles and burglary tools from their possession. As per the complaint, during the intervening night of January 7 and 8, 2026, the accused broke into the complainant’s house by removing the iron grill of a bedroom window while she and her children were asleep and fled with valuables. The stolen items included Rs 20,000 cash, gold and silver ornaments, silver coins and ATM cards. During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage and arrested Nanda along with Munmuna Pradhan (26).

and WhatsApp messages and were asked to pay registration fees, taxes or processing charges via UPI.

Sand spillage grave threat to road safety: Transport Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Days after two women, including a journalist, were killed on National Highway-316 when their two-wheeler skidded on sand spilled on the road, Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena expressed serious concern over frequent accidents caused by sand, soil and construction debris strewn across road surfaces in various parts of the state.

Calling the situation a serious threat to public safety, the Minister has directed authorities to take immediate corrective steps to prevent further mishaps and loss of lives.

Following the Minister’s directive, the State Transport Authority (STA) has issued a detailed advisory to all



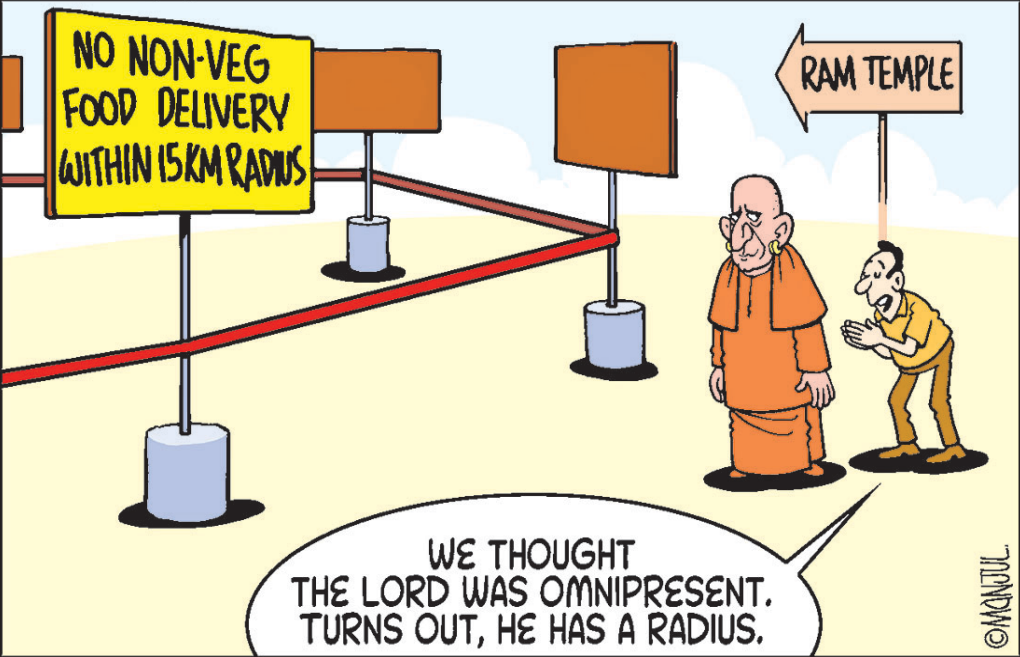
road-owning and road-maintaining agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Works department, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Notified Area Councils (NACs).

In the communication, Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur stressed that ensuring clean, hazard-free and traffic-worthy roads is a statutory responsibility of the concerned agencies. The

letter noted that loose sand and construction debris severely reduce tyre grip, significantly increasing the risk of skidding and fatal accidents, particularly for two-wheeler riders. While enforcement agencies continue to act against the unsafe transportation of construction materials, the STA underlined that accident prevention also hinges on the prompt removal of spillages from road surfaces by agencies entrusted with road maintenance.

The advisory also highlighted Section 198A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which fixes accountability for failure to comply with prescribed standards of road design, construction and maintenance, warning that any lapse in ensuring safe road conditions could invite legal action.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



UNSAFE, POTHOLED DWARASHUNI GHAT

PIL against toll collection at Jharpokharia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 11: Toll collection at the Jharpokharia Toll Plaza on National Highway-49 in Mayurbhanj district was challenged through a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition at the Orissa High Court citing the dangerous and unsafe condition of an adjoining stretch of the highway.

The petition was filed by a lawyer, Advocate Akash Sharma, who sought court directions against what he described as unlawful toll collection on a highway stretch that remains incomplete and unsafe, particularly at the Dwarasuni Ghat section. Sharma argued that road users are being compelled to pay a toll despite the absence of a functional and safe roadway. The petition also relied on accident data to highlight the consequences of the road’s condition. It claims that over 500 accidents and 100 deaths have been recorded on the stretch in recent years, with ambulances, school buses and commercial vehicles facing serious risks.

“The Dwarasuni Ghat stretch is neither safe nor motorable.

The highway is damaged, hazardous, unrepared, full of potholes, craters, obstructed by ongoing construction, and admittedly incomplete. Therefore, the continued levy of toll/user fee at Jharpokharia Plaza amounts to unlawful exaction,” the petition stated.

The petitioner alleged that public transport services have been disrupted due to the poor condition of the road. It claimed that several operators have either suspended or drastically reduced services, isolating nearby villages and affecting livelihoods.

“The road has been described as a ‘death trap’ and ‘collapsed highway’, with frequent media coverage highlighting the urgent need for restoration,” the petition added. Sharma alleged that despite admitting that the road was incomplete, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has continued toll collection by treating the stretch as finished, while ignoring the unsafe and unfinished ghat section within the toll plaza’s coverage zone. The plea argued that users cannot be segregated from the unsafe sec-

tion while accessing the tolled corridor. The petitioner further argued that charging tolls under such conditions is arbitrary and unfair. “The imposition of financial burden upon citizens who are compelled to risk their lives on a dilapidated highway is manifestly arbitrary and shocks the conscience,” said the petition. Sharma further contended that safe travel is a core part of the right to life under Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution, and that forcing people to pay tolls on an unsafe road infringes their right to life and dignity. The PIL also challenged the very nature of the toll as a ‘user fee’, arguing that collecting tolls without providing the promised road facilities defeats the basic quid pro quo required to justify such a charge.

“Toll is not a tax; it is a user fee. In absence of a motorable road, the legal basis for levying the fee collapses entirely,” said the petition. On the basis of these allegations, the petition requested the Court to suspend toll collection or reduce the toll fee levied at the Jharpokharia Toll Plaza until the highway is fully completed.

AAIB begins probe into aircraft crash-landing near Rourkela

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: A three-member team of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) Sunday started its probe into the crash-landing of a small aircraft near Rourkela, a senior official said.

At least six people were injured when a nine-seater aircraft of India One made an emergency crash landing near Rourkela in Odisha Saturday afternoon.

The AAIB team has already undertaken the aerial view of the aircraft crash-landing incident in Rourkela, said Commerce and Transport department principal secretary Usha Padhee.

“They have taken pictures of the crash landing site from the air by using a chopper provided by the state government. Later, they will also inspect the place where the aircraft made a crash-landing,” Padhee said.

The state government has made all arrangements for the smooth conduct of the investigation, she said, adding that the probe is being done as per the guidelines and SOP of the DGCA.

As per reports, IndiaOne Air Cessna Grand C208B aircraft had crash-landed near Rourkela in Odisha Saturday with



six persons, including two pilots and four passengers on board. The aircraft departed Bhubaneswar in the afternoon, and the crew declared a ‘Mayday’ to Rourkela ATC and

made a forced landing at 1:20 pm in an open area near Kansor, the DGCA said.

Meanwhile, Odisha’s Directorate of Aviation, in a statement, said that the health condition of all six people, including two women and two pilots injured in the crash landing of an aircraft in Rourkela, was “safe and stable”.

As per the latest health bulletin, all passengers are safe and stable. One passenger remains under close and continuous medical observation.

Padhee, who reached Rourkela Sunday morning along with the AAIB team and two specialist doctors from Bhubaneswar, said a dedicated team of doctors is currently conducting medical evaluations, and all patients remain under strict medical observation.

The directorate said that the Odisha government has extended all the required support for ensuring the highest standards of safety, prompt medical care to the affected individuals and investigation by AAIB.

Beware of fake e-challans; know how to be safe

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: As people get busy arranging their vehicle documents after the state government declared deadline for PUC and other documents verification, the cyber fraudsters seem to have found opportunity with many reported cases of fake E-challan, which compromised their data and also resulted in loss of money.

Cyber security expert and cyber police, while talking to Orissa Post have shared their views and tips to avoid such frauds.

It is pertinent to mention here that several people have recently reported receiving .apk files disguised as fake e-challan messages on their mobile phones inviting the users to open the file to view their challan details. Clicking on that link or downloading the .apk file, either gets their Whatsapp hacked or all their data on the phone gets compromised. Besides, the unsuspecting users fall



prey to the trap by paying the fine amount directly to them.

To identify such threats, cyber expert Prashant Sahu stressed on to not click on any apk files sent from known or unknown users. “The government never sends .apk file to view the challan. In case of any web link, people must check if it contains ‘gov.in’ in its address for authenticity,” Sahu said.

“When people click on such kind of links, the fraudsters get

access to their personal data. Later, they use the victim’s data to hack others, which creates a chain like system as the hackers manage to compile a huge amount of data.” Sahu said.

He informed that to avoid being hacked, if people receive such suspicious messages or files with .apk extensions from known persons, they should call that person to verify the legitimacy of the file. Everyone, should avoid clicking any unknown link or .apk files to

avoid being hacked, Sahu added.

“If you have clicked on any fraud link, put your phone on flight mode. Then go to the apps section of your phone and delete any suspicious application immediately. Format your device after retrieving backup files. Later, notify the cyber police. This way we can limit the access of hackers on our device. Send an e-mail to ‘support@whatsapp.com’ if your whatsapp account is hacked to avoid any further threat,” said Sahu.

Cyber police have also stressed that if people are receiving challan notifications, they should carefully look at the link as it will be easy to identify a fake link. Beside, the government never sends any apk file as e-challan. In case of any confusion, people should visit ‘mParivahan’ website or application to know about their challan details. “Awareness and calmness can help people not fall victim to cyber fraudsters,” informed the cyber police.

DSPL-472



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Har Pal Apke Saath

Right to higher education can't be curtailed lightly: Delhi HC

The court was hearing a writ petition filed by a medical student who secured a seat at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir, challenging cancellation of his MBBS admission amid alleged irregularities linked to the NEET-UG 2024 examination

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 11: The Delhi High Court has observed that the right to pursue higher or professional education, though not explicitly listed as a fundamental right under the Constitution, imposes an affirmative obligation on governments and cannot be curtailed lightly.

Allowing a writ petition filed by a medical student whose MBBS admission was cancelled amid alleged irregularities linked to the NEET-UG 2024 examination, a single-judge Bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh observed that the government is duty-bound to protect a student's right to continue professional education in the absence of valid, genuine and compelling reasons.



“The right to pursue higher or professional education, even though not explicitly spelt out as a fundamental right in Part III of the Constitution of India, is an affirmative obligation on the part of the State to ensure this right and the same cannot be permitted to be curtailed lightly,” the Delhi High Court said.

The petitioner secured admission to the MBBS course at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir, after obtaining an All India Rank of 28,106 in NEET-UG 2024. However, his admission was subsequently cancelled after the NTA withdrew his result based on information shared by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In the order, Justice Singh

observed that the petitioner had secured admission to the MBBS course on the basis of merit through an open entrance examination and that cancellation of such admission would inevitably disrupt his academic progress.

The judgment further took note of the submission made on behalf of the CBI that the petitioner was not arrayed as an accused in the chargesheet filed in connection with the alleged NEET-UG 2024 irregularities, but was cited only as a witness.

In such circumstances, Justice Singh held that there could be no prima facie finding of the petitioner's involvement in any malpractice warranting the extreme step of terminating his admission.

Allowing the petition, the Delhi High Court directed the authorities to permit the petitioner to continue attending his MBBS classes in accordance with the prescribed curriculum.

Five-day KRPs training on Balvatika concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Regional Institute of Education (RIE), NCERT here, in collaboration with State Institute of Education (SIE), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has successfully concluded a five-day capacity-building programme for Key Resource Persons (KRPs) on the implementation of ‘Balvatika’ in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The programme was held at SIE, Sri Vijaya Puram.

The training aimed to strengthen professional capacity of KRPs to ensure effective and quality implementation of Balvatika, focusing on the holistic development of children in their foundational years. A total of 40 KRPs participated in the programme.



The intensive programme featured a blend of expert-led lectures, interactive discussions and hands-on sessions covering key areas such as the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) 2022, Balvatika norms and guidelines, socio-emotional development of children, pedagogy of language in multilingual classrooms, early identification of children with disabilities and inclusive classroom practices. Sessions were also conducted on learning assessment, the holistic progress card, play-based learning environments, language and numeracy activities, ‘Jaadui Pitara’ and ‘e-Jaadui Pitara’, and strengthening partnerships with families and communities, including smooth home-to-school transition. The valedictory session was graced by RIE Bhubaneswar principal Manasi Goswami, who joined virtually. Highlighting the pivotal role of KRPs, she underlined their responsibility in translating the vision of NEP 2020 into classroom practice.

Safety concerns mount as 2nd e-bus fire incident hits City within 24hrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Panic gripped Chandrasekharapur area Sunday afternoon after smoke began billowing from an electric bus near a depot, marking second such safety scare for the City's public transport fleet within 24 hours.

At approximately 3:30pm Sunday, an e-bus belonging to Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) fleet returned to the Chandrasekharapur e-bus depot for intermediate charging after completing its daily route. Shortly after being plugged in, depot staff noticed thick smoke emanating from the vehicle's battery compartment.

Depot workers immediately deployed on-site fire extinguishers to contain the situation, while alerting emergency services. Two fire brigade teams



from the 112 service arrived shortly after, working alongside CRUT staff to douse the smoke. Fortunately, officials confirmed that the bus did not sustain significant structural damage, and no injuries were reported. This incident follows a severe fire which occurred early Saturday morning near Kalinga Studio Square, in which the bus was completely gutted down by flames. Nearly 26 passengers narrowly escaped the incident.

Back-to-back malfunctions have sparked significant concerns

regarding the maintenance and safety protocols of the rapidly expanding electric bus fleet.

In response to the recurring battery issues, a high-level technical committee has been formed to investigate the ‘unusual incidents’. The committee includes experts from TPCODL (power distribution), State Transport department, members from manufacturing company and CRUT technical officers. “The committee will conduct a thorough examination to identify the exact cause, whether an electrical short-circuits issue or overheating during charging, and will submit a detailed report soon,” a CRUT official stated.

State Transport Commissioner has also requested local Motor Vehicle Inspectors (MVI) to conduct fitness checks on the remaining fleet to ensure passenger safety remains uncompromised.

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY TODAY

Statewide collective rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: With an aim to unite students from all corners of the state in a display of patriotism and national pride, a collective rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’ will be organised across all educational institutions in the state, including govt schools, colleges and universities, coordinated by Odia Language, Literature and Culture, School and Mass Education, and Higher Education departments on the occasion of National Youth Day January 12.

In addition to the song, students will also take ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Swadeshi Sankalp’ pledge, emphasising self-reliance and support for indigenous industries. The departments have issued letters to all relevant authorities for smooth conduct of the state-wide event.

The initiative is result of months of preparation, including a state-wide ‘Vande Mataram Training Programme’ in five zones—Jeypore Zone (Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, and Nuapada), Berhampur Zone (Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Boudh, and Nayagarh), Balasore Zone (Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, and Jajpur), Sambalpur Zone (Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Bargarh, Bolangir, and Subarnapur), and Bhubaneswar Zone (Khurda, Cuttack, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal, and Angul).

Centurion University hosts INNOVA 2026



Experts deliberate on trends shaping future of business, technology & society

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Centurion University's School of Management successfully hosted two-day international conference on Innovation, Business and Digital Transformation (INNOVA 2026) here recently. The international academic event brought together academicians, researchers, industry leaders, policymakers, and practitioners from India and abroad to deliberate on emerging trends shaping the future of business, technology, and society.

The conference witnessed wide participation, with 96 research papers contributed by academicians and industry professionals. The deliberations were structured across six major themes and twelve parallel technical tracks, covering domains such as digital transformation, artificial intelligence, industry 4.0 and 5.0, finance and economics, sustainability, governance, entrepreneurship, human resource management, and innovation ecosystems, along with two dedicated online presentation

sessions, ensuring inclusive participation.

The inaugural session featured eminent dignitaries and thought leaders, including international and national experts from academia and industry. A key highlight was the plenary session on the theme ‘Industry and Academia – Playing as a Role Model to Transform, Nurture, and Sustain Inclusive Growth and Start-ups’. The panel discussion brought together senior industry leaders, entrepreneurs, global HR professionals, and academic leaders, who emphasised the critical role of industry-academia collaboration, innovation-led entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth models in nation building.

Across both days, the conference hosted multiple parallel technical sessions, where scholars presented research on AI-driven business models, digital marketing, fintech, ESG, banking reforms, consumer behaviour, leadership, workforce transformation, blockchain applications, sustainability practices, and SDG-linked innovations. Special emphasis was placed on emerging technologies, ethical AI, digital inclusion, and sustainable development, reflecting the conference's interdisciplinary character.

Union govt pursuing anti-youth policies: AIYF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Union government is pursuing anti-youth policies by systematically denying employment opportunities to youth, interfering in functioning of educational institutions and the consistent rise in atrocities against Dalits, tribals and minorities, alleged All India Youth Federation (AIYF) state president Satyaranjan Mohanty during the outfits state council meeting here Sunday.

Mohanty also claimed that the government has failed to fulfil election promises made to unemployed youth, undermining democratic accountability.

Addressing the gathering, AIYF all India president Roshan Kumar spoke on the national



political situation, criticising the BJP-led government for what he described as divisive policies influenced by RSS ideology. He alleged the Union government of misusing constitutional bodies and manipulating electoral processes. Kumar claimed that special and intensive voter list revisions were

being used to exclude eligible voters in an attempt to retain political power.

The national president also condemned recent actions by the United States against Venezuela, describing it as an attack on the sovereignty of a democratic nation. Expressing solidarity with the Venezuelan

people, he reiterated the Indian youth movement's support for global struggles against imperialism.

Communist Party of India (CPI) Odisha state secretary Prashant Kumar Mishra congratulated the newly elected state council members and urged youth organisations to continue their struggle in order to protect democracy, Constitution, federal structure, and the rights of unemployed youth.

Later in the afternoon, AIYF held a protest at Master Canteen here, raising voice against environment pollution. Participants condemned government's ‘anti-people, anti-youth and anti-environment’ policies and demanded immediate measures to protect livelihoods and the environment.

Odisha's coastal ecosystem must be prioritised: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Experts and environmentalists have called for urgent and sustained efforts to safeguard Odisha's coastline, warning that unchecked development and climate change are placing immense stress on the region's fragile coastal ecosystems.

Experts expressed their concerns during a workshop on ‘Odisha Coast: Problems and Mitigation Measures’, organised by the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) at its conference hall here Sunday.

Odisha, with a 574.71-km-long coastline along the Bay of Bengal, stretches across six districts—Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam—and encompasses diverse landforms including coastal plains and portions of the Eastern Ghats. The coast is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, hosting two Ramsar wetland sites—Bhitarkanika mangrove for-



ests and Chilika lagoon—and supporting rich marine and terrestrial life such as olive ridley sea turtles, Irrawaddy dolphins, horseshoe crabs, diverse fish and shellfish species, and numerous resident and migratory birds.

Speakers noted that Odisha's coastline also plays a crucial role in the state's economy, with operational ports at Paradeep, Dhamara and Gopalpur, and more port projects in the pipeline, alongside tourism and fisheries. However, rapid industrialisation, population pressure and climate change impacts—such

as sea-level rise, frequent cyclones, storm surges and coastal erosion—are posing serious threats to both ecosystems and coastal communities.

Presiding over the workshop, OES working president Jayakrushna Panigrahi stressed the importance of preserving the natural character of coastal ecosystems to ensure the continued flow of ecosystem goods and services. He underscored that conservation must go hand in hand with development.

Central University of Odisha, Koraput former VC (I/c) Sarat Kumar Palita joined as

the chief speaker and presented a comprehensive overview of Odisha's coastal scenario. He emphasised the strict implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms to protect ecologically sensitive areas, safeguard livelihoods, and reduce human-induced degradation. Palita also highlighted the need for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies to address climate change impacts.

OES president Sundar Narayana Patro called for maintaining a delicate balance between developmental activities and environmental

conservation along the coast.

Earlier, OES Secretary Manoranjan Mishra welcomed the participants and announced that the deliberations and expert contributions from the workshop would be compiled and published as a book volume. OES vice-president Lala A K Singh introduced the guests, while joint secretary Surabhi Jain proposed vote of thanks.

Several experts and academicians, including Arun Kumar Rath, Subhranshu Bhusan Ray, Anil Kumar Mohapatra, Anjan Kumar Prusty, Amarendra Narayan Mishra, Sudhakar Kar, Muntaz Khan, Binod Choudhury and Bijay Ketan Patnaik actively participated in the discussions.

The workshop witnessed the presence of numerous OES members, scientists and nature enthusiasts, reflecting growing concern and collective resolve to protect Odisha's coastline for future generations.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	27.7°	26.2°	Dry weather
Min Temp	15.7°	14.4°	
Humidity	47%	69%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

12 injured as BJP, BJD clash over road project



POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi/Baula, Jan 11: Tension flared in Inchol village under Hatadihi block in Keonjhar district after workers of the ruling BJP and the opposition BJD clashed Sunday over a road construction project.

The violence erupted over the ongoing construction of a road from Bhutapada Chhak to Parmanandapur village. Workers from both parties allegedly engaged in a heated argument that escalated into a physical confrontation. More than 12 people from both sides were injured in the clash, police said.

Two of the injured persons are critical while more than 10 others suffered minor wounds. With tension running high in the village, police forces were deployed to maintain law and order and prevent further unrest.

According to sources, funds amounting to ₹9 lakh had been sanctioned for the road project. The approved estimate includes improvement of the road by laying murrum and metal. The BJP workers claimed responsibility for the road construction work. However, BJD workers allegedly opposed the project Sunday, resulting in an altercation.

The verbal dispute soon turned violent, leading to attacks and counterattacks from both sides. Police personnel from Nandipada, Soso, Anandapur and Ghasipura intervened after receiving information about the clash and brought the situation under control.

An investigation is underway to ascertain the circumstances that led to the violence, officials said, adding that further action will be taken based

on the findings.

Anandapur MLA Abhimanyu Sethi claimed the responsibility for the road work had been given to BJD workers. He alleged that BJP workers created unrest, leaving four to five members of his party injured.

However, BJP MLA candidate Alok Sethi claimed that the road work had been assigned to BJP workers. He alleged that BJD workers, acting at the MLA's behest, attacked BJP supporters, injuring at least 10 persons.

DSP Prasant Behera said discussions had been held with members of both the parties. He added that detailed information about the injured persons was yet to be received. Action would be taken after it is clarified who was officially assigned the road work by the block administration.

Block Development Officer Ranjan Parida said the road work responsibility had been given to Harekrushna Swain of Inchol panchayat.

Police Inspector Dharmendra Shanti said the situation was being closely monitored and no formal complaint had been lodged so far.

Hatadihi block MP's representative Harmohan Sashini alleged that the Anandapur MLA was instigating clashes and unrest for political gain.



SPREADING THE WISDOM: Buddhist monks at the second Dharmaguru Padmasambhava conference held at the famous Buddhist shrine of Udayagiri in Jajpur district, Sunday. Delegates from 17 countries attended the event organised by Light of Buddhaddharma Foundation in collaboration with state Culture and Tourism department which will be held for six days

OP PHOTO

Block chairperson accused of abusing BDO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Jan 11: Hatadihi Block Chairperson Savitri Sethi has been accused of verbally abusing the Block Development Officer (BDO).

Sources said, tension gripped the Hatadihi block office in Keonjhar district two days ago following allegations that a junior engineer had attempted to attack Anandapur BJD MLA Abhimanyu Sethi with an arrow. However, no evidence has so far emerged to support the claim.

According to officials, the allegation triggered a ruckus inside the block premises, where the MLA, accompanied by party workers, staged a protest and expressed anger at the BDO. The veracity of the allegation



is now under question, as neither documentary nor material evidence has been found.

BDO Ranjan Parida said the allegation made by the MLA was baseless. "There is no truth in the accusation. No evidence has been produced to substantiate the claim," Parida said, adding that the engineer concerned has also denied the allegation.

Parida further alleged that Savitri Sethi, the block chairperson and wife of the MLA, entered his office chamber and verbally abused him, pointing her finger and using deroga-

tory language. He termed the behaviour "condemnable, unfortunate and unacceptable," and said the MLA was present during the incident.

The BDO said he has informed the District Collector about the matter. The Collector has assured that he will visit the block office to inquire into the incident.

Responding to the issue, MLA Abhimanyu Sethi said he had come to know about the alleged incident from party workers.

Evidence of the incident is available with the employees concerned. BJP state executive member and Anandapur BJP MLA candidate Alok Sethi, along with MP's representative Sunil Nayak, alleged that the BJD MLA, having failed in at-

tempts to misappropriate government funds through party workers and facing a gradual weakening of the party's position, has orchestrated such drama to harass government officials.

They said the misbehaviour with the BDO is unacceptable, especially as the MLA's wife holds the post of block chairperson. The administration must immediately initiate action against the block chairperson and other persons involved, they demanded.

Meanwhile, a video purportedly showing the block chairperson misbehaving with the BDO has gone viral on social media. However, block chairperson Sabitri Sethi has denied the allegations of misbehaviour.

Crocodile count at Ghodahada dam rises to 95

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Jan 11: The annual crocodile census has concluded at Ghodahada dam in Digapahandi block of Ganjam district, with forest officials recording a total of 95 mugger crocodiles this year, officials said.

The census was conducted under the supervision of Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sunny Khokhar in the Ghodahada dam area under Khamari gram panchayat. According to officials, the count shows an increase from last year, when 87 crocodiles were recorded in the dam and adjoining water bodies.

The Forest department deployed 25 teams for the exercise. More than 25 forest personnel participated in the operation under the leadership of Digapahandi Range officer-in-charge Santosh Bishoyi Ratna.

Officials said the census covered 10 segments of the Ghodahada dam along with 16 nearby ponds. Of the total crocodiles identified, 63 were found in the dam, while the remaining 32 were recorded in the surrounding ponds.

Forest officials attributed the increase in numbers to improved protection measures and favourable habitat conditions in the area. They said regular monitoring would continue to ensure the safety of both the reptiles and local residents.

The crocodile census is conducted annually to assess population trends and plan conservation strategies in the region.

26 held as police raid gambling den

₹9.24 lakh, 12 motorcycles and car seized



POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Jan 11: Acting on a tip-off, police busted a major gambling den operating in a forest near Janghama village under Digapahandi police limits of Ganjam district and arrested 26 persons, officials said Sunday.

The raid was carried out Saturday evening by a special squad led by Assistant Sub-Inspector Manoj Singh on the direction of Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M, police said.

When the team reached the spot, several gamblers allegedly attacked the police personnel and attempted to assault some constables with intent to kill. On being informed, Chikiti SD-PO Biswamitra Harpal and Digapahandi IIC-cum-DSP Prasant Kumar Patra rushed to the site with additional force and brought the situation under control.

Cash worth ₹9.24 lakh, 32 mobile phones, 12 motorcycles, a car and 18 packets of playing cards were seized from the spot. Some gamblers managed to flee

into the forest under the cover of darkness.

Injured police personnel were given first aid at the Digapahandi Community Health Centre.

Based on a complaint filed by ASI Manoj Singh, a case (12/26) was registered at Digapahandi police station. Investigating officer SI Raj Kishore Patra arrested the accused hailing from various villages like Digapahandi, K. Nuagaon, Badagada, Bhanjanagar, Jagannath Prasad, Golanthara, Sheragada and Jarada police limits in the district, as well as from Puri district. They were produced before a court Sunday afternoon.

After their bail pleas were rejected, all 26 accused were remanded to Digapahandi Sub-Jail.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the gambling den had been operating for a long time and was allegedly run by professional criminals from villages under Digapahandi and K Nuagaon police jurisdictions, police said.

3 burglars held; cash, valuables of ₹35L seized

Berhampur: Police have arrested three burglars involved in five theft cases and recovered looted properties over Rs 35 lakh from them in Ganjam district, police said Sunday. The accused persons have been identified as Chintu Sethi, 28, the prime accused, Deepak Kumar Pattanaik, 33, and Akash Kumar Behera, 32, of Berhampur. The accused persons have allegedly been involved in two theft cases registered in Berhampur town police station and three cases in Nimakhadi police station, the police said. The said Rs 8.50 lakh cash, gold ornaments weighing 182.16 gram, 296 gram silver, and a scooter, totalling worth over Rs 35 lakh, were seized from the possession of the accused persons, said Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M. During interrogation, the accused have confessed to the crime. Investigation has revealed that the trio had jointly committed burglary, targeted the locked house and committed theft by breaking open the lock of the house, the police said. According to the police, the burglars used to roam around the city and the nearby localities during late-night hours and identify locked houses. Later, they break open the locks to commit theft of gold, silver, cash, and other valuables. After examining CCTV footage, the police arrested the three persons Saturday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Jan 11: A 35-year-old man was killed and three persons were injured in separate road accidents in Ganjam district Sunday.

In the first incident, D Rohit Dora of Bajapalli village under Basudevpur panchayat was killed after being hit by a passenger bus on the main road near the Gokarnapur Shanishchar Temple in Digapahandi block Sunday morning. The incident triggered tension in the area.

Rohit was riding a moped from his village towards Gokarnapur around 7am Sunday. A speeding Bhubaneswar-bound passenger bus "Beenapani" from B. Turubudi village allegedly rammed his moped from behind and fled. Rohit died on the spot, officials said.

After news spread, a large number of villagers and relatives reached the site and stopped the bus, leading to a brief standoff amid heightened tension. Digapahandi police rushed to the spot, brought the situation under control, seized the body and sent it to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur for post-mortem.

Police also seized the bus and

the moped, and launched an investigation. The bus driver is absconding, officials said.

In the second incident, three persons including the driver aboard a traveller van were injured after the vehicle rammed into a stationary truck early Sunday near Palukhala village on the main road at the Taptapani Ghat along the Ganjam-Gajapati border. They were en route from Bhubaneswar via Digapahandi to the Taptapani hot springs and a Buddhist monastery at Jirang in Gajapati district.

The vehicle, carrying about 25 passengers, collided with a iron rod-laden truck that had been parked on the roadside due to a technical snag. The driver and two passengers sustained injuries.

Local residents rushed the injured to the Digapahandi Community Health Centre, where they were treated and later discharged.

Dense fog in the area reportedly reduced visibility, and preliminary investigation suggests driver's negligence led to the crash. On receiving information, a team from Patapur police station's Podamari outpost reached the spot, seized both vehicles and launched an investigation.

Picnicker drowns in Sana River



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, Jan 11: A picnic outing turned tragic Sunday when a man drowned while bathing in Sana River near Nungurutal under Gunupur police limits in Rayagada district, police said.

The deceased was identified as Jagannath Mishra, 35, of Gunupur town.

According to police, seven youths from the town had gone to the riverside for a picnic Sunday morning. While bathing, Mishra reportedly slipped into the deep waters and drowned. Two of his friends jumped in to rescue him, but all three were caught in the current.

Members of another group picnicking nearby rushed to the spot and managed to pull the three out of the river. Mishra was found in critical condition and was taken to Gunupur sub-divisional hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police said Mishra was the son of Prafulla Kumar Mishra, a well-known cement trader in the area. Gunupur police reached the spot and began an investigation.

Pucca road eludes Dumuriguda village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Jan 11: Tall claims of the government's rural focus falls flat when it comes to the road connectivity to Dumuriguda village under Gadiguda gram panchayat in Koraput Sadar block in the district, according to a report.

Villagers alleged that despite repeated memorandums to the district administration and local elected representatives, no concrete steps have been taken by the Rural Development (RD) department to connect the village with an all-weather road.

The reports said Dumuriguda does not have a pucca road, nor even a metal or morrum



road. The kutcha road which was constructed several years ago is in a decrepit condition due to lack of maintenance. It has now deteriorated to such an extent that even pedestrians find it difficult to use, let alone vehicles.

Residents have accused the RD department of carelessness

and neglect, stating that the absence of a road has severely affected their daily lives. Access to healthcare, education, markets, and emergency services remains a major challenge.

During monsoon, the situation worsens as the muddy path becomes almost impassable, effectively isolating the

village from the outside world. "This is not just about a road, it is about our right to basic infrastructure," said villagers, adding that development claims made on paper do not reflect ground realities. They questioned how government schemes meant for rural connectivity have bypassed their village for decades.

The situation in Dumuriguda raises serious questions about the effectiveness of rural development planning and monitoring. Villagers have demanded immediate intervention from the district administration and warned that continued neglect may force them to resort to protests.

Demand for double-engine aircraft raised at Jeypore

NARENDRA RAUT, OP

Koraput, Jan 11: Following the recent crash of an India One aircraft in Rourkela, concerns over air travel safety have increased across Odisha. Advocate Ajit Patra Friday called for the government to introduce double-engine aircraft operations at Jeypore Airport to enhance safety and ensure more reliable air connectivity for the region.

Speaking in Koraput, Patra said the incident has instilled fear among passengers, raising doubts about the continuity of air services. He stressed that the residents of the undivided Koraput district rely heavily on India One flights from Jeypore Airport,



making air travel vital for this remote, tribal-majority region.

Patra argued that operating double-engine aircraft would improve passenger confidence, boost safety standards, and provide greater reliability in the event of technical malfunctions or adverse weather conditions. He urged both state and Central governments to take immediate steps to upgrade air services at Jeypore Airport for the public's safety.

Locals and travellers from Jeypore echoed similar concerns. Residents pointed out that Jeypore Airport serves as the primary air link for southern Odisha, and any disruption in services directly impacts patients, students, and business travellers. They called for stronger aviation infrastructure and the introduction of double-engine aircraft to mitigate future risks and ensure uninterrupted connectivity.



Mother’s blanket of love drapes martyred soldier’s statue

Locals say the mother visits the memorial and cleans the statue almost daily. Each visit follows the same quiet routine: wiping the glass, cleaning the base of the statue, and ensuring the memorial remains neat and dust-free

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Jan 11: A winter blanket draped over the statue of BSF constable Gurnam Singh, who laid down his life fighting terrorists in 2016 at the age of 26, has become a symbol of a mother's eternal love for her child and touched hearts across the country.

The statue, enclosed in a glass frame at Shaheed Gurnam Chowk, stands as a symbol of courage and sacrifice in his hometown in the RS Pura sector of Jammu. But for Gurnam Singh's mother, Jaswant Kour, it is not a monument but her son -- one she continues to care for every day, cradling his photograph in her lap.

Locals say the mother visits its the memorial and cleans

the statue almost daily. Each visit follows the same quiet routine: wiping the glass, cleaning the base of the statue, and ensuring the memorial remains neat and dust-free. Sometime back, she draped a blanket over the statue, as if protecting her son from the cold, the locals said, adding the act drew the attention of passers-by, many of whom were visibly moved.

"There were no speeches or ceremonies - only a mother's instinctive gesture that spoke of love, loss, and remembrance," Sher Singh, a local resident, said.

Images of the statue covered in the blanket shared on social media have evoked emotional messages. Many felt that while the nation honours its fallen



soldiers through official tributes, the devotion highlights

the unseen sacrifices borne by the families of martyrs.

Kulbir Singh, father of the fallen soldier, said a mother's concern for her child never fades, whether he is alive or not.

"A mother remains a mother; sometimes she weeps silently and sometimes she gives up food," he told PTI. He said when winter sets in, they cover his statue with a warm blanket for four months, and then replace it with a lighter one.

Constable Gurnam Singh, a recipient of the President's police medal for gallantry, was fatally shot by terrorists from across the border, two days after he demonstrated exemplary courage and thwarted an infiltration bid by a group of six heavily armed terrorists in Hiranagar Sector of Kathua district.

The 26-year-old Singh shot dead one of the infiltrating terrorists while forcing others to flee back despite the terrorists using Rocket Propelled Grenades and heavy gunfire while attempting to sneak into this side during the intervening night of October 19 and 20, 2016.



A man paraglides during the three-day 'International Camel Festival', in Bikaner, Rajasthan

PTI PHOTO

Bone chilling cold wave lingers in J&K; snowfall eludes Kashmir plains



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jan 11: The intense dry cold wave continued unabated in Jammu and Kashmir Sunday, with night temperatures throughout the Valley remaining several notches below zero.

A feeble winter sun rose in the clear sky as water taps and the road puddles froze completely, while the Dal Lake in Srinagar city froze in parts.

People were seen lighting small fires around the water taps to de-freeze them in the morning.

Srinagar city had minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg ski resort had minus 6.2, and Pahalgam minus 7.6 as a minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 4 degrees Celsius, Katra town 4.4, Batote 3, Banihal 7.1 and Bhaderwah minus 2 as the minimum temperature.

An alarming situation faces Jammu and Kashmir, especially the Valley, as the Meteorological (MeT) Department has forecast cold, dry weather till January 20.

The gap between the maximum and minimum temperature has also narrowed down as Srinagar recorded 10.9 degrees Celsius and Jammu city 15.2 as the maximum temperature on Saturday.

The continued dry spell has raised alarm across the union territory as all the water bodies on which agriculture, horticulture and drinking water needs are based depend on heavy snowfall during the ongoing 40-day long period of harsh winter cold locally called the 'Chillai Kalan'.

This crucial 40-day-long period is already more than half-way through, and the plains of the Valley are yet to witness this season's first snowfall.

Chillai Kalan ends January 30. Snowfall in February and March is of little consequence as it melts quickly and does not help replenish the perennial water reservoirs in the mountains of J&K.

Doctors say chest and heart-related diseases are again on the rise due to cold, dry weather. People with a history of chest and heart-related ailments have been advised extra care by the doctors, and such vulnerable people have been advised not to venture out of their homes in extreme cold wave conditions.

Rajasthan renewables plagued by curtailment

Despite new transmission line, over 4 GW commissioned capacity at risk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Renewable energy developers in Rajasthan continue to face severe power curtailment risks, with more than 4 GW of commissioned capacity seeing near-total shutdown during peak solar hours despite the recent commissioning of the 765 kV Khetri-Narela transmission line.

The issue was reviewed at a stakeholder meeting December 15, 2025 which flagged that renewable projects operating under the Temporary General Network Access (T-GNA) mechanism are facing almost 100 per cent curtailment between 11 am and 2 pm, according to people briefed on the meeting.

Curtailments have intensified since the Khetri-Narela line was operationalised December 12, contrary to expectations that the line would ease congestion.

Grid India informed the meeting that prior to the commissioning of the Khetri-Narela line, around 3.8 GW of renewable capacity was permitted injection during peak solar hours under T-GNA. Following the line's commissioning, connectivity approvals for about 4.8 GW of renewable capacity have been made effective by Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL).

However, around 4 GW of commissioned renewable



Stakeholders warned that without swift corrective measures, continued curtailment in Rajasthan could slow renewable capacity additions, create stressed assets, and pose risks to India's target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030

capacity continues to face peak-hour restrictions, with injection allowed only during non-peak periods in a staggered manner, they said. According to the Sustainable Projects Developers Association (SPDA), Grid India data indicates that the Khetri-Narela line has added only about 600 MW of effective transmission margin.

The association also pointed out that while connectivity has been granted for around 5.2 GW of projects, only about 4.4 GW is operational, with nearly 850 MW of connectivity revoked, suggesting that around 1.5 GW of margin should already be available in the system. The reasons for the current scale of curtailment remain unclear, SPDA said.

Grid India cited multiple technical constraints limiting

renewable evacuation from Rajasthan, including voltage oscillations at renewable energy complexes, low short-circuit ratios at pooling stations, loading constraints on the Bhadla-Bikaner 400 kV corridor, and high loading on the 765 kV Bikaner-Khetri line. Developers warned that sustained curtailment poses a material risk to project viability, debt servicing, and investor confidence, particularly for projects still within their notified connectivity start dates but forced to operate under T-GNA due to delays in associated transmission systems.

Prolonged shutdowns also limit the operation of stabilising equipment such as static VAR generators and harmonic filters, potentially affecting grid stability.

MAKAR SANKRANTI

Kite fighters await Pink City contest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Jan 11: All but disappeared from the city skies, kites still live strong among a cabal of longstanding enthusiasts in Jaipur.

Kite contests, held ahead of Makar Sankranti January 14 in the Pink City, occasion a passion that can only be rivalled by an India-Pak cricket match.

All the same, the lack of support has not deterred the exponents of the niche art -- a flyer's skill of sending a kite to dart and drop, ascend lordly, or remain poised in solemn wobble against the wind. Ashok Vaishnav of the Pink City Kite Club Flying Association explained the rules of the game. He told PTI that kite-flying competitions involve four players in a team -- three active competitors and one extra player. "Like cricket, there are three umpires. Two remain on the pitch, while one stands in the middle of the ground and closely watches the kite duels to make decisions," he said.

Fliers fight their kites from a fixed pitch measuring 15 feet in length and 10 feet in width.

"Before the contest begins, a toss is held. The winner decides whether to fight the kite string from above or below, just as in cricket," Vaishnav said.

According to him, umpires check the size of the kites before the match. Each team has to fight nine 'pech' (string duels), with 15 minutes allotted for each. "If a player's kite is cut, he loses. If neither kite is cut within the time, both players are out," he said. Kite flyer Govind Jangid said Jaipur has around 70-80 kite clubs and hundreds of competi-



Once a source of pride and identity for the state capital, such aerial combats today live on passion alone, with no state patronage, lament the kite club members

tive kite fighters. "A local-level tournament costs around ₹3-4 lakh to organise, while an all-India competition can cost up to ₹10 lakh," he said.

Despite bringing the city laurels, the sport and its players feel neglected, and blame it on cricket, which gets all the limelight, sponsorship, and funds.

No dedicated venue to hold matches also chafes them.

Some kite club members said tournaments were earlier held at the Jal Mahal embankment and later at Mali Ki Kothi on Agra Road. "For several years, we have been requesting the state government to allot a place for competitions, but no one has paid attention ... Associations collect funds on their own to organise tournaments," said a member. The passion for kites runs deep in the city, with many enthusiasts preserving kites for decades, treating them as prized possessions.

ARTISTIC HERITAGE

CM Omar launches 2026 calendar on Kashmir handicrafts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sunday unveiled the Handicrafts and Handloom Department's Calendar for 2026, a visual tribute celebrating the timeless craft traditions of Kashmir.

The calendar beautifully encapsulates the essence of the valley's artistic heritage, highlighting the skill, dedication and commitment of the region's artisans, an official spokesperson said.

"This calendar is an ode to the artisans who weave, carve and colour Kashmir's soul," the chief minister said after launching the calendar here.

He said the artisans' hands carry forward centuries-old traditions, transforming raw material into masterpieces that reflect the spirit, resilience and rich cultural heritage of the valley.

"Our craftsmen are not just creators of art; they are the living ambassadors of Kashmir's timeless legacy," he added.

Advisor to the chief minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir Mussarat Islam, Joint Director Handicrafts Deeba Khalid, and Deputy Director Handicrafts Mirza Shahid Ali were also present on the occasion.

The calendar showcases a range of traditional crafts, including Namda, Kani shawl, Papier mache, wood carving, Sozni embroidery, carpet weaving, Wagguv and copperware, with each frame narrating a story of skills passed down through generations.

From women couriers to drones: Pak rewiring narco-terror pipeline

As a part of its long time strategy, the ISI is inducting more women into its terror playbook as they help evade detection and are better recruiters

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: Investigating agencies are on their toes with the case relating to narcotics increasing in Jammu and Kashmir. Syndicates operating from Pakistan are the main suppliers of drugs into Jammu and Kashmir, officials say.

They have been exploiting some vulnerabilities along the border areas to push drugs into the Union Territory. In recent times, drugs have been smuggled into Punjab and then transported by road to J&K, investigations have found.

The year 2025 saw a major crackdown by the Jammu and Kashmir police. At least 1,000 cases were registered under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The police made around 1,400 arrests during the same year. These included major suppliers and peddlers.

However, a surprising trend was noticed in 2025. The police discovered an increasing

number of women and couples involved in the trade. During the crackdown, the police arrested 35 women in Jammu alone. The police also found that many women were running an all-woman network to evade detection.

The trend of having all-women networks is something that the ISI had planned. It is encouraging the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba to have an all-women network of terrorists. Further, it is also in the process of creating an all-women network of over-ground workers in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence, it comes as no surprise that the ISI wants to replicate the same when it comes to the narcotics network, too, an official said.

When these syndicates realised that the crackdown by the agencies against narco-terror would be severe, they immediately changed their strategy. The creation of an all-women network and using couples to peddle drugs were part of this



renewed strategy, officials say.

In both cases, the detection becomes harder. In the case of couples, they get familial cover, and the detection is slower in such cases. Even in the case of the Faridabad module, the same trend was noticed. Dr Shaheed Saeed, who has been arrested, was key to the formation of the module. She is the one who made frequent trips to Jammu and Kashmir to meet with Maulvi Irfan Ahmed. These meetings are what led to the

setting up of the module. She was the one who was instrumental in taking instructions from Ahmed and radicalising the rest of the members. She got away each time because she avoided detection since she was a doctor and also a woman.

In the Jammu and Kashmir drugs case, it was found that the women found it easy to recruit. The same applies to terror-related cases as well. The youth often tend to listen to women more as they are easi-

ALARMING TREND

- At least 1K cases registered under NDPS Act in 2025
- Police made around 1,400 arrests during the same year
- During the crackdown, 35 women arrested in Jammu alone
- There have been 791 drone incursions along western border

ly convinced. This is something that the ISI has been exploiting and would continue to do so on a larger scale in the coming days.

An official said that in addition to dealing with these all-women modules, it is also important to stop the flow of drugs into the Union Territory from Pakistan. The use of drones has gone up manifold in recent years. There have been 791 drone incursions in 2025 along the western border.

A majority of these were along the Punjab and Rajasthan borders, while just nine were in Jammu and Kashmir.

The India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir has become a fortress. Post Operation Sindoor, the border has become extremely difficult to operate, and this is why the infiltrations have gone down to almost nil. Using drones along the borders with Punjab and Rajasthan allows Pakistan to bypass traditional routes. Once the narcotics land in the country, then a majority of it is transported by road into Jammu and Kashmir.

Intelligence agencies say that this menace is likely to go up this year too. The Pakistanis are desperate for funds to re-fuel their terror networks, and hence, the sale of narcotics will be their mainstay. The agencies are on high alert as there is actionable Intelligence which signals the increase in narcotics smuggling and the mushrooming of more all-women narco modules.

of the day

Quote

Surprisingly, after the assembly SIR, the total number of voters in the state dropped by 2.89 crore to 12.56 crore. On the other hand, after the panchayat SIR, the number of rural voters increased by 40 lakh to 12.69 crore

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

The BJP indulges in the politics of religion and hatred, which we are seeing in full flow again. The BJP has made an attempt to create an impression that Atishi used objectionable words against the guru, which actually she did not

BHAGWANT SINGH MANN | PUNJAB CM

For decades, Himachal Pradesh has been known as the 'fruit bowl' of the country, but as of today, it is charting a new course toward becoming a hub of blue prosperity

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Woman drowns self with two daughters

Bahraich (UP): A 42-year-old woman drowned herself and her two minor daughters in a pond in the Kot Bazaar area here, allegedly over taunts from her in-laws over not bearing a son, police Sunday said. Payagpur Station House Officer Sanjai Singh said the victim, Nisha, had been married to Vishnu, a resident of Kot Bazaar, and the couple had three daughters aged two, seven and 10.

BJP workers protest attack on Suvendu

Kolkata: BJP workers Sunday protested at various places in West Bengal, following the attack on Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari allegedly by Trinamool Congress supporters. The protesters demanded the immediate arrest of those involved, alleging a conspiracy to kill the BJP leader by setting his vehicle on fire. BJP supporters staged demonstrations in Medinipur city and Bankura's Sonamukhi, where they blocked roads and burnt tyres, demanding accountability for what they described as a serious security lapse. Slogans were raised against the state administration, with demands for exemplary punishment for those involved.

Sonia discharged from hospital

New Delhi: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, who was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here nearly a week ago for exacerbation of bronchial asthma due to chest infection, was discharged Sunday, hospital authorities said. She has responded well to treatment with a good recovery, they said. "The veteran Congress leader was discharged from the hospital today at 5 pm, with advice to continue further treatment at her residence," a senior official of the hospital said.

Female home guard attacked on duty

Bangalore: Police Sunday said they arrested a woman for allegedly assaulting a female home guard on traffic duty. The incident occurred near K R Puram Railway Station January 9, and a video of the attack has since gone viral. Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) said in a post on 'X' that the home guard, who was on traffic duty in the Ramamurthy Nagar police station limits, asked the woman not to stand on the road.



Our craftsmen are not just creators of art; they are the living ambassadors of Kashmir's timeless legacy

OMAR ABDULLAH | J&K CM

COUNTDOWN FOR LAUNCH OF PSLV-C62 ROCKET COMMENCES

ISRO Sunday commenced a 22.5-hour countdown for the launch of a PSLV rocket that will place an earth observation satellite along with 14 other co-passenger satellites into orbit, marking the space agency's first launch of the year



Mamkootathil held in rape case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathanamthitta (Kerala), Jan 11: Expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil was arrested in connection with a sexual assault case after being taken into custody from Palakkad in the small hours Sunday, police sources said.

He was shifted to a police camp here in the morning, they added. According to police, a third sexual assault case was recently registered against the Palakkad MLA following a complaint lodged by a native of Kottayam district January 8.

The woman, who is currently in Canada, gave her statement to the police via video conference.

According to sources, the complainant is a married woman who became acquainted with Mamkootathil in 2024 following issues in her marital life.

She told the police that Mamkootathil allegedly raped her at a hotel in April 2024 after promising to marry her.

The remand report filed to a magistrate here Sunday said that Mamkootathil told the woman that he required a private space for discussion and, April 8, 2024, invited her to a hotel room in Thiruvalla, where she "was brutally raped in the afternoon".

When she became pregnant, Mamkootathil allegedly refused to take responsibility and threatened her to undergo an abortion, police said.

The woman also claimed that Mamkootathil took money from her on several occasions.

The report said that Makootathil misused his official position and targeted several house-



The Kerala High Court had earlier granted interim protection from arrest to Mamkootathil in the first case, which relates to allegations of rape and forcing a woman to undergo an abortion

In the second case, a sessions court in Thiruvananthapuram had granted him anticipatory bail

Following the allegations, the Congress expelled Mamkootathil from the party

wives and unmarried women.

The case was registered against Mamkootathil under IPC sections 376(rape) and 506(1) (criminal intimidation).

After registering the case, the police kept Mamkootathil under surveillance, following which a six-member team led by a Deputy SP reached the hotel room where he was staying at around 12.15 am, sources said. He was taken into custody from the hotel at around 12.30 am and shifted to the Pathanamthitta police camp at about 5.30 am.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing two other cases of a similar nature against him, has also been entrusted with the investigation of the latest case, sources said.

SIT head G Poonguzali arrived at the police camp and is interrogating Mamkootathil. After the preliminary interrogation, his arrest was recorded.

Mahayuti unveils Mumbai poll manifesto

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 11: The Mahayuti alliance Sunday unveiled a wide-ranging manifesto for the upcoming civic body elections in Mumbai, promising technology-led governance to make it a "global powerhouse", a 50 per cent concession on fares for women in BEST buses and "freeing" the city from Bangladeshi migrants.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who unveiled the document, said the BJP-Shiv Sena-RPI (A) alliance would combine "Japanese technology" with local administration to tackle chronic civic problems and bring services to citizens' mobile phones.

The manifesto has emphasised the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to curb corruption, speed up clearances and improve service delivery. "Our goal is a corruption-free municipal corporation," Fadnavis said, outlining a "Municipality on your Mobile" initiative and an AI-driven platform to fast-track building approvals and ensure transparency in the real estate sector.

He also pledged AI labs in all municipal schools to equip students with future-ready skills.

Six years after law amended, Centre yet to constitute ACI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: As many as six years after the law was amended, the central government is yet to constitute the Arbitration Council of India (ACI) to regulate and promote institutional arbitration in the country.

Senior Union law ministry officials said it took years for corporates and public sector undertakings to shun ad-hoc arbitration and go far institutional arbitration to settle commercial disputes.

The proposed arbitration council is mandated to regulate institutional arbitration. "But when institutional arbitration has not taken shape in India, who would the arbitration council regulate? Now it has taken shape and within this year, the proposed council will be set up," an official said.

But a former Union law secretary had a contrary view.

"The provision for institutional mechanism by the arbitration council of India was made by amending the Arbitration Act way back in 2019. It has been more than six years now and the proposed council has not yet been constituted. It is adversely affecting making India as a hub of international arbitration," former Union law secretary P K Malhotra told PTI.

In case institutional mechanism is available, it will promote institutional arbitration. If the council is in existence, it will promote institutional arbitration, he said.

Malhotra noted that the ad-



In October last year, the law ministry has floated a draft bill to tweak the arbitration law

He hoped that India will soon emerge as the new hub of international arbitration.

In February last, an expert committee headed by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan had submitted its report on reforms in the arbitration sector to the law ministry.

The panel, which also had representatives of the law ministry as well as domain experts, had recommended an amendment to the Arbitration law to confer on the court the power to set aside or vary the arbitration award.

Industry representatives had dubbed the proposed changes in the law as a setback for arbitration reforms in the country.

In October last year, the law ministry has floated a draft bill to tweak the arbitration law.

But so far, the amendments seem to have taken a back seat.

GAUHATI HC BAR ASSOCIATION'S STIR

Personal interests not grounds for opposing new infra, says CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 11: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant expressed surprise at the opposition by members of the Gauhati High Court Bar Association (GHCBA) to the new Integrated Judicial Court Complex in Assam's Kamrup district, the foundation stone for which he laid Sunday.

He maintained that "personal vested interest should not be valid grounds" for resisting the development of new infrastructure.

"The Integrated Judicial Court Complex is envisaged to match aspirations of the future. It is being built not for the moment but for decades ahead," the CJI said after laying the foundation stone for the facility at Rangmahal in North Guwahati.

The GHCBA has been opposing the relocation of the high court complex to the northern bank of the Brahmaputra river from the heart of Guwahati city, and staged a four-hour hunger strike and abstained

for attending the foundation laying ceremony Sunday.

As the head of the country's judiciary, Justice Kant stressed that he is bound to cater to the needs of those coming into the profession.

The chief justice of India said that he was surprised when he learnt that the GHCBA is opposing the new integrated court complex, which will also house the Gauhati High Court.

The Gauhati High Court serves as the high court for the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.

"Those opposing the new court complex are either ill-informed or not realising the needs of new members of the bar. Personal vested interests should not be valid grounds for opposing development of infrastructure for the future," the CJI added.

CJI Kant said the site for the new complex is 'strategically positioned' and will provide all facilities under one roof.



Demolition work underway in the Varanasi Dalmandi area, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

UP govt plans Tamil classes in Varanasi schools, colleges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP), Jan 11: Regular Tamil language classes are likely to be introduced in schools and colleges of Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi as part of efforts to deepen cultural and linguistic exchanges, officials said.

The initiative is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam. The Prime Minister, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme, December 28, mentioned Payal Patel, a student of Government Queen's College here, for learning Tamil in a short span of time.

Inspired by Prime Minister Modi's vision, the Government Queen's College is planning to start daily evening Tamil classes. The district inspector

of schools has directed the institution to run the classes, college principal Sumit Kumar said.

Around 50 teachers from Varanasi are also likely to be deputed to Tamil Nadu to teach Hindi as part of the initiative, officials said.

"Keeping in mind the prime minister's vision of cultural integration, Tamil classes will be started at the college," principal Kumar said.

He said discussions have been held with Sandhya Kumar Sai from Tamil Nadu, who earlier taught Tamil to the student, and she has agreed to take online classes. The head of the Tamil Department at Banaras Hindu University has also assured co-operation, Kumar added.

According to officials, preparations are also underway to



send 50 teachers from Varanasi to Tamil Nadu to teach Hindi. This proposal has been discussed in meetings chaired by the Varanasi commissioner and district magistrate.

Kumar further said that students of the college recently

conveyed New Year greetings in Tamil to the Prime Minister and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as part of a programme showcasing Kashi-Tamil cultural integration. The programme was led by Payal Patel and featured ran-

The initiative is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam

The Prime Minister, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme, December 28, mentioned Payal Patel, a student of Government Queen's College here, for learning Tamil in a short span of time.

goli and dance performances set to Tamil music.

Principal of Harish Chandra Girls Inter College, Priyanka Tiwari, said a 15-day Tamil language programme was conducted at her institution during the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, in which 50 students participated. The students later presented

what they learnt through poems and songs.

Encouraged by the students' enthusiasm for language learning, the college is considering launching a formal Tamil course from the next academic session, she added.

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam is a cultural exchange initiative aimed at highlighting the age-old civilisational, cultural and educational links between Kashi and Tamil Nadu.

The programme brings together students, scholars, teachers and artists from Tamil Nadu to Varanasi through academic sessions, language workshops, literary interactions and cultural performances, with a focus on promoting linguistic learning, mutual understanding and national integration.

of the day

quote

Today, when we are introducing technology and transparency through G-RAM-G, they claim to find faults in it

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM

We should learn to realise what we have. We actually try to focus on what we do not have. Respect what you have, make the best of it and success will keep coming back to you without even asking

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA | ASTRONAUT

We have six postal training centres under the Department of Post, and every centre trains around 2,000 postal personnel annually. Today I am announcing the 7th National Postal Training Centre of ₹111 crore in Shivpuri

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION TELECOM MINISTER

X

POST OF THE DAY

India does not have a single University among the top 500 universities in the world! This is the reality of the claim of becoming Vishwaguru! In the Modi years, our universities have been systematically degraded by forcing them to have RSS VCs, who have destroyed critical thinking & scientific temper

@pbhushan1

SHORT TAKES

- Farmer duped of ₹4 crore ends life

Haldwani: A farmer allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself Sunday after being duped of ₹4 crore in a fake land deal in Uttarakhand's Kathgodam area, police said. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed deep condolences to the deceased farmer's family and ordered a magisterial inquiry into the matter.
- 300 stray dogs killed; Case against 9 people

Hyderabad: Police Sunday said a case was registered against nine people after around 300 stray dogs were allegedly killed in Hanamkonda. In a complaint filed January 9, animal welfare activists Adulapuram Goutham and Farzana Begum alleged that 300 stray dogs were killed in Shayampet and Arepally villages over three days from January 6.

- Panic over bag near minister's bungalow

Mumbai: An abandoned bag found near a minister's bungalow in south Mumbai triggered panic on Sunday until police determined that it had been left by a US citizen who wanted to give away his clothes and shoes, officials said. The incident came to light around 9.30 am, when security personnel posted at minister Nitesh Rane's bungalow at Marine Drive informed the police about a bag lying near the adjacent servant quarters, they said.
- J&K cops crack down on drug peddlers

Srinagar/Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested and detained nine suspected drug peddlers in different parts of the Union territory and recovered contraband substances from their possession, officials said Sunday.

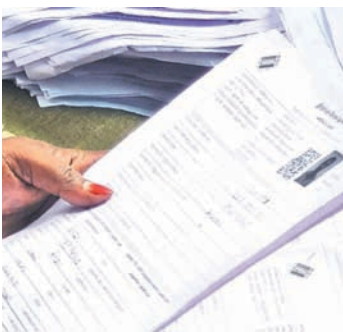


In the elections held last year, people lost, and the system won. These people (NDA leaders) have turned 'loktantra' (democracy) into 'dhan tantra' (rule of money) and 'machine tantra' (rule of government machinery)

TEJASHWI YADAV | BJP LEADER

VOTER REVISION REUNITES MP MAN WITH MOTHER

A man who left his home in Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district 22 years ago after his family opposed his marriage was reunited with his mother because of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, police said Saturday



DMK snubs Congress power-share demand



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dindigul (Tamil Nadu), Jan 11: Ruling out scope for a coalition government, senior DMK leader and State Minister I Periyasamy Sunday asserted that Chief Minister M K Stalin is firm on the stand against sharing power with allies. Speaking to reporters here, Periyasamy, when asked on Tamil Nadu Congress's demand for share in power, he said it was the right of the grand old party to make that demand. However, the DMK had never been in favour of such a proposition. "There had never been a coalition government," he said, adding the state had all along been helmed by the DMK on its own.

"There is no doubt about this stand of the party, there will be no coalition government and the chief minister is firm on

this stand," the Rural Development Minister said. To a question on CM Stalin's scathing criticism of the Censor Board, he alleged it was true that the film board functioned in a partial manner. Tamil Nadu Congress has revived its demand for a share in power if the DMK-led alliance wins the Assembly election due by March-April this year. Congress MP Manickam Tagore had said recently that it was time to debate "share in power." CLP leader, Killiyoor (Kanyakumari district) legislator S Rajeshkumar had also batted for a coalition government. Congress party in-charge for Tamil Nadu, Girish Chodankar had asked if any political party, "will say that they don't want the power; then we should name ourselves as NGO." Since 1967, both the DMK and AIADMK had formed their own

Nitin slams DMK regime

Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu): BJP national working president Nitin Nabin Sunday held discussions with party workers over the forthcoming Assembly elections in the state and said people of Tamil Nadu are "deeply dissatisfied" with the DMK government's administrative failures. The senior saffron party leader, who is on a two day visit to the textile town, interacted with the BJP office bearers and the karyakartas of the Singanallur Assembly constituency.

governments despite fighting polls in alliance with other parties. Following independence, when the first general election was held in the then composite Madras state in 1952, the Congress party failed to secure an absolute majority. It was the only during the First Assembly's (1952-57) term that non-Congress leaders (including Manickavelu Naicker of the Commonweal Party) were accommodated in the Congress-party led State Cabinet. In 2006, though the DMK did not have an absolute majority, it ran the government for a full five years (2006-11) with support from allies, including the Congress and without sharing power with allies. Without any success, the TN Congress leaders had made the same "share power with us," demand during 2006-11 term of the DMK too.

Suspected Pak drones seen hovering over areas along LoC, IB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Jan 11: Security forces picked up movement of suspected drones in several forward areas along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Samba, Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday evening, officials said. All the flying objects came from the Pakistan side, and returned after hovering over Indian territory for few minutes, they said. According to officials, security forces have launched a search operation on the ground after noticing the suspected drones activity in the forward areas. Army troops guarding the Nowshera sector along the LoC in Rajouri, fired from medium and light machine guns on observing drone movement over Gania-Kalsian village around 6.35 pm, they said. Another drone was noticed at Khabbar village in Teryath in Rajouri district at 6.35 pm. The flying object, with blinking light, came from the direction of Dharmasal village in Kalakote and moved further towards Bharakh, officials said.

Dhurwa: Shutdown over disappearance of 2 kids

Ranchi: Normal life was partly affected due to a 12-hour shutdown in Ranchi's Dhurwa area Sunday over the disappearance of two children. The two siblings, aged 4 and 5, had gone to a grocery store near their house January 2, following which they went missing. Police have formed a special investigation team, comprising 40 personnel, to find them, but it has already been 10 days.

rumours, and warned of strict legal action against those indulging in rumour-mongering. People were asked to report misleading information to the district control room. District Commissioner Pan-kaj Chakravarty and Senior Superintendent of Police Akshat Garg held a peace meeting with representatives of political parties, social organisations, student bodies, and noted citizens to ensure that the situation does not escalate. Chakravarty said the district administration was closely monitoring the situation and had taken necessary measures to ensure public peace and tranquillity.

Shutdown in Assam over rape of mentally-challenged woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kokrajhar, Jan 11: Normal life was disrupted Sunday in Assam's Kokrajhar district, where a bandh was called to protest the alleged rape of a mentally-challenged woman. The rape happened in the Patharghat area of the district Saturday, with the accused apprehended within a few hours. The accused, who hailed from Dhubri district, was injured in police firing when he allegedly tried to snatch the weapon of an accompanying personnel and flee, officials said. As a result of the shutdown, called by the World Hindu Federation, markets and business establishments remained shut, and public transport stayed off the roads. Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita were imposed to prevent any deterioration of the law and order situation, officials said. Additional forces were deployed at sensitive locations to maintain peace, they said. The administration urged the people not to be swayed by



Members of an Uttarakhand organisation stage a protest demanding a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into the Ankita Bhandari murder case, in Patiala, Punjab

PTI PHOTO

PM Modi takes part in 'Shaurya Yatra' in Somnath



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Somnath (Gujarat), Jan 11: Priests played 'damrus' and 108 horses slowly trotted towards the Veer Hamirji Gohil Circle that faced the Somnath temple complex here Sunday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a ceremonial procession to the ancient shrine amid traditional dance performances. The 'Shaurya Yatra', organised to honour the countless warriors who laid down their lives defending the Somnath Temple, began from the Shankh Circle, with the prime minister riding an open-top vehicle for the nearly one-km stretch. He also briefly played a 'damru' at the beginning of the procession. A group of young priests -- 'rushi kumars' -- walked ahead of Modi's vehicle, playing 'damrus', an instrument associated with Lord Shiva, as a huge crowd lined the streets, showering flower petals and cheering the procession. Elevated platforms were placed at regular intervals along the parade route where artistes performed different dance forms of India. What stood out in the procession was the cavalcade of 108 horses and their riders

sporting starch-white shirts paired with khaki trousers and saffron headgears. "These horses and their riders have been drawn from different parts of Gujarat. We belong to the Gujarat Police and rehearsed for it in the last 10 days. I feel proud to be part of this Shaurya Yatra," Bharat Kumar Jatabhai, a police constable in Patan district, told PTI, patting his horse 'Garud'. Around 10 horses were from Patan district, he said as he pointed to another horse, 'Harsha', standing nearby. In a post in Hindi on X, PM Modi said, "I am deeply honoured to participate in the Shaurya Yatra of the Somnath Swabhiman Parv. On this occasion, I have the privilege of paying tribute to the countless brave sons of Mother India who sacrificed their lives to protect the temple. Their indomitable courage and valour will always inspire our countrymen." He offered prayers at the historic temple and then addressed a gathering -- Somnath Swabhiman Sabha -- at a ground near the shrine, before travelling to Rajkot. Different troupes performed dance forms such as Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kutchi, Gidha, Manipuri dance, along the Shaurya Yatra route, presenting an elegant sight as the parade marched on. Krupa Dhal was among the artistes who represented Kutchi dance, while her daughter Vani Dhal was part of the Bharatnatyam team. "It was such a joy to perform for the Shaurya Yatra, which our prime minister led. The different dance forms added the colours of India to the event," she told PTI.

BLO found hanging; family blames work pressure due to SIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 11: A booth level officer (BLO) was found hanging inside a primary school in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, with his family alleging that excessive SIR work pressure led him to take his own life, police said Sunday. The death of Hamimul Islam (47) Saturday came three days after another BLO died in the state, allegedly due to the workload in connection with the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, taking the total number of deceased booth level officers to eight since the rollout of the process November 4. Islam was a primary school teacher at Paikmari Char Krishnapur Boys Primary School and a BLO assigned to a booth in Purba Alaipur village under Kharibona gram panchayat, an officer of Ranitala police station said. The incident came to the notice of locals late Saturday night in the Paikmari Char area under Ranitala police station, he said. The deceased's family members alleged that Hamimul left home on Saturday morning to attend school but did not return in the afternoon. "After an extended search, his body was found hanging from a room inside the school premises Saturday night. Our officers recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem examination. An investigation is underway," the officer said. The family members alleged that Hamimul was under severe stress due to the workload arising from his dual responsibilities as a teacher and a BLO, the police officer said, adding that the family claimed that pressure to complete SIR-related tasks had intensified in recent weeks. Islam's elder brother, Farman-ul-Kalam alleged that the pressure to complete SIR duties was beyond his brother's capacity to handle.

Winter chill grips north India, cold wave hits Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the spell of extreme cold is likely to continue for the next few days, with severe cold wave conditions expected in isolated parts of northern India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: The intense cold sweeping through north India tightened its grip further Sunday, with parts of Rajasthan experiencing sub-zero temperatures and the mercury dropping to below 3 degrees Celsius in some places in Delhi for the first time this season. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the spell of extreme cold is likely to continue for the next few days, with

severe cold wave conditions expected in isolated parts of northern India. Some places in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand also recorded temperatures below zero degrees Celsius and the mercury hovered close to the freezing point in Punjab and Haryana. Cold to severe cold wave conditions were recorded at isolated places in parts of Rajasthan. The minimum temperature in Pratapgarh was at minus 2 degrees Celsius, while Barmar recorded a low of minus 1 degree Celsius, the local met office said. Isolated places in eastern Rajasthan saw dense to very dense fog, while a few places in the western part of the state saw dense fog, it said. The mercury remained below 10 degrees Celsius at most other places in the state. Jaipur recorded a low of 9.2 degrees Celsius. Delhi experienced its first



cold wave of the season, with temperatures falling below 3.0 degrees Celsius in some places. Ayanagar was the coldest place in the city, with a low of 2.9 degrees Celsius, while Palam station recorded its lowest minimum temperature in 13 years

at 3.0 degrees Celsius. The Saffdarjung Observatory, Delhi's principal weather station, recorded a minimum temperature of 4.8 degrees Celsius, 2.6 notches below the seasonal average, while the maximum temperature settled at 18.8 de-

grees Celsius, 1.1 notches below normal, IMD data showed. Similar conditions are likely to prevail over the next two days, and a yellow alert has been issued in this regard, they added. The capital's air quality was

in 'poor', with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) logged at 291, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed. In neighbouring Noida, all schools up to Class 8 have been ordered to remain closed till January 15 in view of dense fog and severe cold conditions. Several parts of Punjab and Haryana reeled under intense cold conditions. Bathinda was the coldest place in Punjab, recording a minimum temperature of 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Hisar, at a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius, was the coldest place in Haryana, according to the weather office. Fog reduced visibility in the morning at some places in Punjab and Haryana. The IMD has predicted in its daily bulletin released Sunday that cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely to continue over Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on January 12-13.

of the day

quote

In Germany, doctors are not punished by the government for issuing false medical certificates. In our country, the courts are independent

KARL LAUTERBACH | FORMER GERMAN HEALTH MINISTER

Once a Nobel Prize is announced, it cannot be revoked, shared or transferred to others

MARÍA CORINA MACHADO | VENEZUELAN OPPN LEADER

If we look at the commercial constructs and frameworks in place today in Venezuela, today it's uninvestable

DARREN WOODS | CEO OF EXXONMOBIL

SHORT TAKES

Nepali Cong rebel faction begins special convention

Kathmandu: Dissident faction of Nepali Congress kicked off a Special General Convention here Sunday to chalk out the strategy ahead of the March 5 general election, despite objections by senior leaders. Nepali Congress (NC) General Secretary duo Gagan Thapa and Bishwa Prakash Sharma formally inaugurated the largest democratic party's Special General Convention at Bhrikutimandap ground.

World Hindi Day celebrated in Shanghai

Beijing: The Indian Consulate in Shanghai has celebrated Vishwa Hindi Divas with the participation of students and teachers of Hindi from top universities in China's eastern region. Addressing the gathering Saturday, the Consul General of India in Shanghai Pratik Mathur said that Hindi connects us beyond borders. Highlighting the dignity and glory of Hindi, he read out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to the nation, "Hindi is not merely a language, but a powerful link that carries India's sensitivity, values, and thought to the world," a post on X by the Consulate said.

Pak: Eight killed in gas cylinder blast


Islamabad: A newlywed couple was among eight people who died in a gas cylinder explosion in Pakistan's capital Islamabad early Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred at a house located in Sector G-7/2 where a wedding was underway.

Myanmar holds 2nd round of voting in 1st general poll

Yangon (Myanmar): Myanmar began a second round of voting Sunday in the country's first general election since a takeover that installed a military government five years ago. Voting expanded to additional townships, including some areas affected by the civil war between the military government and its armed opponents.

23-year-old Hindu farmer shot dead

Karachi: A 23-year-old Hindu farmer has been shot dead in Pakistan's Sindh province allegedly by his landlord for building a shelter on his land, leading to widespread protests by the Hindu community. The police arrested the landlord Sarfaraz Nizamani, and his facilitator, Zafarullah Khan, from Hyderabad Saturday night, SSP Badin Qamar Reza Jaskani said.



Let the national unity day inspire all of us to achieve prosperity and happiness while safeguarding national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country

RAMCHANDRA PAUDEL | NEPAL PRESIDENT

HUMAN REMAINS FOUND AMID AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRES

Human remains were found in Australia's southeast where bushfires raging for days have razed buildings, cut power to thousands of homes and burned swathes of bushland, police said Sunday



US launches new retaliatory strikes against ISIS in Syria

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Jan 11: The US has launched another round of retaliatory strikes against the Islamic State in Syria following last month's ambush that killed two US soldiers and one American civilian interpreter in the country.

The large-scale strikes, conducted by the US alongside partner forces, occurred around 12:30 pm ET, according to US Central Command. The strikes hit multiple Islamic State targets across Syria.

The Jordanian military later announced it had taken part in the strikes.

Saturday's strikes are part of a broader operation that is part of President Donald Trump's response to the deadly ISIS attack that killed Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard, and Ayad Mansoor Sakat, the civilian interpreter, in Palmyra last month.

"Our message remains strong: if you harm our warfighters, we will find you and kill you anywhere in the world, no matter how hard you try to evade justice," US Central Command said in a statement Saturday.

A day earlier, Syrian officials said their security forces had arrested the military leader of IS's operations in the Levant.

The US military said Saturday's strikes were carried out alongside partner forces without specifying which forces had taken part.

The Trump administration is calling the response to the Palmyra attacks Operation Hawkeye Strike. Both Torres-Tovar and Howard were members of the Iowa National Guard.

It launched December 19 with another large-scale strike that hit 70 targets across central Syria that had IS infrastructure and weapons.

PROTESTS IN IRAN

Over 500 dead in crackdown



AGENCIES

Dubai, Jan 11: The death toll in the crackdown on nationwide protests in Iran spiked Sunday to at least 538 people, activists said.

Over 10,600 people have been detained, said the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency. Of those killed, 490 are protesters and 48 are members of the security forces, it said, warning the toll is likely to go up.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult. The activist group, which relies on activists in Iran crosschecking information, has offered accurate tolls in previous rounds of unrest in the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian government has not offered any overall casualty figures for the demonstrations. The Associated Press has been unable to independently assess the toll, given that internet and international phone calls are now being blocked in Iran.

Iran's parliament speaker warned Sunday that the US military and Israel would be "legitimate targets" if the US strikes the Islamic Republic over the ongoing protests roiling the country, as threatened by President Donald Trump.

Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf made the threat after nationwide protests challenging Iran's theocracy saw protesters flood the streets in the country's capital and its second-largest city into Sunday morning, crossing the two-week mark. At least 203 people have died in violence

- US-based group says 490 protesters, 48 security personnel dead
- Trump has threatened US intervention to help protesters
- Iran warns US against 'miscalculation', threatens retaliation
- Israeli sources say Israel on high alert for US intervention
- Analyst says protests unlikely to topple Iran's rulers

surrounding the demonstrations, activists said, with fears the death toll is far higher.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult. Those abroad fear the information blackout is emboldening hard-liners within Iran's security services to launch a bloody crackdown.

Trump offered support for the protesters, saying on social media that "Iran is looking at FREEDOM, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!" The New York Times and Wall Street Journal, citing anonymous US officials, said Saturday night that Trump had been given military options for a strike on Iran, but hadn't made a final decision.

Parliament rallies

Iranian state television broadcast the parliament session live. Qalibaf, a hard-liner who has run for the presidency in the past, gave a speech applauding police and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, particularly its all-volunteer

Basij, for having "stood firm" during the protests.

He went on to directly threaten Israel, "the occupied territory" as he referred to it, and the US military, possibly with a preemptive strike.

The US military has said in the Mideast it is "postured with forces that span the full range of combat capability to defend our forces, our partners and allies and US interests." Iran targeted US forces at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar back in June, while the US Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet is stationed in the island kingdom of Bahrain.

Israel, meanwhile, is "watching closely" the situation between the US and Iran, said an Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to not being authorized to speak to journalists. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio overnight on topics including Iran, the official added.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, which relies on activists in Iran cross-checking information, offered the new death toll of 203 Sunday, a large jump. Of those killed, 162 are protesters and 41 are members of the security forces, it said. The agency also acknowledged receiving claims of far more deaths that it was still assessing as over 3,280 others have been arrested.

The group has offered accurate tolls in previous rounds of unrest in the Islamic Republic. The Iranian government has not offered any overall casualty figures for the demonstrations.

Protests in Tehran and Mashhad

Online videos sent out of Iran, likely using Starlink satellite transmitters, purportedly showed demonstrators gathering in northern Tehran's Punak neighbourhood. There, it appeared authorities shut off streets, with protesters waving their lit mobile phones.

Suspect held after fire damages historic Mississippi synagogue

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Jan 11: One person was taken into custody after a fire ripped through a synagogue in Mississippi, heavily damaging the historic house of worship in what authorities say was an act of arson.

No congregants were injured in the blaze, which broke out at the Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi, shortly after 3 am Saturday, officials said.

Photos showed the charred remains of an administrative office and synagogue library, where several Torahs were destroyed or damaged.

Jackson Mayor John Horhn confirmed that a person was taken into custody following an investigation that also included the FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Force. "Acts of antisemitism, racism, and religious hatred are attacks on Jackson as a whole and will be treated as

acts of terror against residents' safety and freedom to worship," Horhn said in a statement. He did not provide the name of the suspect or the charges that the person is facing.

The synagogue, the largest in Mississippi and the only one in Jackson, was the site of a Ku Klux Klan bombing in 1967 — a response to the congregation's role in civil rights activities, according to the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, which also houses its office in the building. "We are devastated but ready to rebuild, and we are so appreciative of the outreach from the community," said Michele Schipper, CEO of the Institute of Southern Jewish Life and past president of the congregation.

The synagogue will continue its regular worship programs and services for Shabbat, the weekly Jewish Sabbath, likely inside of one of the local churches that reached out.

‘No more Venezuelan oil or money to go to Cuba’



REUTERS

Washington, Jan 11: US President Donald Trump Sunday said no more Venezuelan oil or money will go to Cuba and suggested the Communist-run island should strike a deal with Washington, ramping up pressure on the longtime US nemesis.

Venezuela is Cuba's biggest oil supplier, but no cargoes have departed from Venezuelan ports to the Caribbean country since the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by US forces in early January amid a strict US oil blockade on the OPEC country, shipping data shows.

Meanwhile, Caracas and Washington are progressing on a \$2 billion deal to supply up to 50 million barrels of Venezuelan oil to the US with proceeds to be deposited in US Treasury-supervised accounts, a major test of the emerging relationship between Trump and interim President Delcy Rodriguez.

"THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA - ZERO! I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform Sunday. "Cuba lived, for many years, on large amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela," Trump added.

Trump did not elaborate on his suggested deal. US officials have hardened their rhetoric against Cuba in recent weeks.

CUBA DEFENDS IMPORT RIGHTS
Cuban Foreign Minister Bru-

- Cuba has the right to import fuel from any suppliers, foreign minister says
- Venezuela was Cuba's largest supplier last year with some 26,500 barrels per day of crude and fuel
- Mexico is emerging as alternative oil supplier to the island

no Rodriguez said in a post on X on Sunday that Cuba had the right to import fuel from any suppliers willing to export it. He also denied that Cuba had received financial or other "material" compensation in return for security services provided to any country.

Thirty-two members of Cuba's armed forces and intelligence services were killed during the US raid on Venezuela. Cuba said those killed were responsible for "security and defense" but did not provide details on the arrangement between the two long-time allies.

Cuba relies on imported crude and fuel, mainly provided by Venezuela, and Mexico in smaller volumes, purchased on the open market to keep its power generators and vehicles running.

As its operational refining capacity dwindled in recent years, Venezuela's supply of crude and fuel to Cuba has fallen. But the South American country is still the largest provider with some 26,500 barrels per day exported last year, according to ship tracking data and internal documents of state-run PDVSA, which covered roughly 50% of Cuba's oil deficit.



Protesters march during a rally for Renee Good, who was fatally shot by an ICE officer earlier in the week, in Minneapolis

AP PHOTO

Buddhist monks, their dog charm Americans on peace walk

Documenting their journey on social media, they — and their dog, Aloka — have racked up millions of followers online

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, Jan 11: A group of Buddhist monks and their rescue dog are striding single file down country roads and highways across the South, captivating Americans nationwide and inspiring droves of locals to greet them along their route.

In their flowing saffron and ochre robes, the men are walking for peace. It's a medi-



tative tradition more common in South Asian countries, and

it's resonating now in the US, seemingly as a welcome respite

from the conflict, trauma and politics dividing the nation.

Their journey began October 26, 2025 at a Vietnamese Buddhist temple in Texas, and is scheduled to end in mid-February in Washington, DC, where they will ask Congress to recognise Buddha's day of birth and enlightenment as a federal holiday. Beyond promoting peace, their highest priority is connecting with people along the way.

"My hope is, when this walk ends, the people we met will continue practicing mindfulness and find peace," said the Venerable Bhikhu Pannakara, the group's soft-spoken leader who is making the trek barefoot. He teaches about mindfulness,

forgiveness and healing at every stop.

Preferring to sleep each night in tents pitched outdoors, the monks have been surprised to see their message transcend ideologies, drawing huge crowds into churchyards, city halls and town squares across six states.

Documenting their journey on social media, they — and their dog, Aloka — have racked up millions of followers online. On Saturday, thousands thronged in Columbia, South Carolina, where the monks chanted on the steps of the State House and received a proclamation from the city's mayor, Daniel Rickenmann.

At their stop Thursday in

Saluda, South Carolina, Audrie Pearce joined the crowd lining Main Street. She had driven four hours from her village of Little River, and teared up as Pannakara handed her a flower.

"There's something traumatic and heart-wrenching happening in our country every day," said Pearce, who describes herself as spiritual, but not religious. "I looked into their eyes and I saw peace. They're putting their bodies through such physical torture and yet they radiate peace."

Hailing from Theravada Buddhist monasteries across the globe, the 19 monks began their 3,700 kilometre trek at the Huong Dao Vipassana Bhavana Centre in Fort Worth.

of the day

quote

It is important to note that our commitment to an all-electric future remains unchanged, and we view these figures as a steady baseline as we prepare for a more aggressive EV rollout in 2026

JYOTI MALHOTRA

| MD, VOLVO CAR

The government is likely to achieve the fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of the GDP in FY26, and it could even be better it

RANEN BANERJEE

| PARTNER AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY SERVICES LEADER, PWC

This week marks the start of the earnings season alongside a busy macroeconomic calendar. Investors will closely track India's CPI inflation, WPI inflation... Quarterly results from major companies across IT, banking, financial, and energy sectors will also be in focus

AJIT MISHRA

| SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING

SHORT TAKES

Mcap of 7 of top-10 valued firms erodes

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 3,63,412.18 crore last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest laggard, amid a bearish trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark declined by 2,185.77 points or 2.54 per cent. While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro faced erosion from their valuation, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers. The market valuation of Reliance Industries tumbled Rs 1,58,532.91 crore to Rs 19,96,445.69 crore. HDFC Bank's valuation eroded by Rs 96,153.61 crore to Rs 14,44,150.26 crore. The market valuation of Bharti Airtel declined by Rs 45,274.72 crore to Rs 11,55,987.81 crore, and that of Bajaj Finance plunged Rs 18,729.68 crore to Rs 5,97,700.75 crore. The Mcap of Hindustan Unilever climbed Rs 6,097.19 crore to Rs 5,57,734.23 crore, and that of State Bank of India edged higher by Rs 599.99 crore to Rs 9,23,061.76 crore. Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and Larsen & Toubro.

IBA backs ₹10k-cr subsidy for biogas

New Delhi: Indian Biogas Association (IBA) has recommended a Rs 10,000 crore fund to provide capital subsidy for the biogas industry in the forthcoming Budget. The association also urged the government to increase the subsidy by 50 per cent to Rs 6 crore per 4.8 TPD of compressed biogas (CBG) and suggested capping the upper cap at Rs 25 crore per project, according to an IBA statement issued Sunday. IBA will share the recommendations with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Finance, it added. The industry body also raised the demand at various forums before the general Budget. IBA has proposed a minimum 5 per cent mandated FOM (fermented organic manure) blending in overall fertiliser application by 2028, and further ramped up in a phased manner to 10 per cent by 2030.

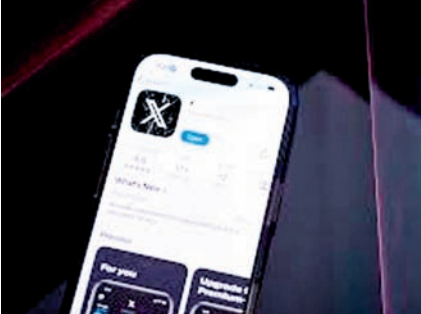


There could be a risk of high-net-worth individuals leaving the country for low tax jurisdictions if surcharges are high or wealth tax is reintroduced

SURABHI MARWAH | TAX PARTNER, EY INDIA

NEW X ALGORITHM FOR PUBLIC SOON

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has said that he will open the new X algorithm to the public in seven days. It will include all code for organic and advertising post recommendations. "We will publish the full algorithm in a week. Still much to improve. It's just trying to show you what you are most likely to find interesting. The goal is to maximise unregretted user-seconds," Musk said



SECURITY OVERHAUL

India eyes smartphone source code

The plan is part of govt's efforts to boost security of user data as online fraud and data breaches increase in the world's second-largest smartphone market, with nearly 750mn phones

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 11: India proposes requiring smartphone makers to share source code with the government and make several software changes as part of a raft of security measures, prompting behind-the-scenes opposition from giants like Apple and Samsung.

The tech companies have countered that the package of 83 security standards, which would also include a requirement to alert the government to major software updates, lacks any global precedent and risks revealing proprietary details, according to four people familiar with the discussions and a Reuters review of confidential government and industry documents.

IT Secretary S Krishnan told Reuters that "any legitimate concerns of the industry will be addressed with an open mind", adding it was "premature to read more into it". A ministry spokesperson said it could not comment further due to ongoing consultation with tech companies on the proposals.



INDIA SMARTPHONE SECURITY PROPOSALS WORRY TECH COMPANIES	SHARING SOURCE CODE A VERY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, SOURCES SAY	INDIAN GOVERNMENT SAYS IT WILL ADDRESS ANY INDUSTRY CONCERNS	MODI GOVERNMENT POLICIES HAVE OFTEN IRKED BIG TECH
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ing consultation with tech companies on the proposals.

ONGOING TUG OF WAR OVER GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Apple, South Korea's Samsung, Google, China's Xiaomi and MAIT, the Indian industry group that represents the firms, did not respond to requests for comment.

Indian government requirements have irked technology firms before. Last month it revoked an order mandating a state-run cyber safety app on phones amid concerns over surveillance. But the government brushed aside lobbying last

year and required rigorous testing for security cameras over fears of Chinese spying.

Xiaomi and Samsung - whose phones use Google's Android operating system - hold 19% and 15%, respectively, of India's market share and Apple 5%, Counterpoint Research estimates.

Among the most sensitive requirements in the new Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements is access to source code - the underlying programming instructions that make phones work. This would be analysed and possibly tested at designated Indian labs, the

documents show.

The Indian proposals also require companies to make software changes to allow pre-installed apps to be uninstalled and to block apps from using cameras and microphones in the background to "avoid malicious usage".

"Industry raised concerns that globally security requirement have not been mandated by any country," said a December IT ministry document detailing meetings that officials held with Apple, Samsung, Google and Xiaomi.

The security standards, drafted in 2023, are in the spotlight now as the government is considering imposing them legally. IT ministry and tech executives are due to meet on Tuesday for more discussions, sources said.

COMPANIES SAY SOURCE CODE REVIEW, ANALYSIS 'NOT POSSIBLE'

Smartphone makers closely guard their source code. Apple declined China's request for source code between 2014 and 2016, and US law enforcement has also tried and failed to get it.

India's proposals for "vulnerability analysis" and "source code review" would require smartphone makers to perform a "complete security assessment", after which test labs in India could check

their claims through source code review and analysis.

"This is not possible ... due to secrecy and privacy," MAIT said in a confidential document drafted in response to the government proposal, and seen by Reuters. "Major countries in the EU, North America, Australia and Africa do not mandate these requirements."

MAIT asked the ministry last week to drop the proposal, a source with direct knowledge said.

The Indian proposals would mandate automatic and periodic malware scanning on phones. Device makers would also have to inform the National Centre for Communication Security about major software updates and security patches before releasing them to users, and the centre would have the right to test them.

MAIT's document says regular malware scanning significantly drains a phone's battery and seeking government approval for software updates is "impractical" as they need to be issued promptly.

India also wants the phone's logs - digital records of its system activity - to be stored for at least 12 months on the device. "There is not enough room on device to store 1-year log events," MAIT said in the document.

Gold, silver set to stay firm next week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Gold and silver prices are expected to sustain positive momentum next week amid heightened geopolitical tensions and the uncertainty surrounding the US Supreme Court's impending decision on President Donald Trump's tariff policy, analysts said.

The release of inflation data from major economies, including the US, India, and Germany, along with trade and investment numbers from China and commentary from some Federal Reserve officials, will also be closely watched by the traders, they added.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures climbed by Rs 3,058, or 0.25 per cent, over the past week and settled at Rs 1,38,819 per 10 grams Friday.

Meanwhile, silver futures on the MCX also witnessed significant upside last week, with the white metal ending near record levels. The metal surged Rs 16,409, or 6.94 per cent. It had zoomed to a record high of Rs 2,59,692 per kg before closing at Rs 2,52,725 per kg Friday.

The white metal, over the past week, increased by \$8.32, or nearly 12 per cent, before closing at \$79.34 per ounce in the overseas trade.

Looking ahead, the silver's bullish structure could see prices testing the Rs 2,80,000-3,00,000 per kilogram.

GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

FPI selloff shows no letup

After a record net outflow of ₹166,286 crore last year, FPIs have additionally sold Indian equities worth ₹11,789 crore this month

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jan 11: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have remained net sellers in the Indian stock market in five of the last seven sessions in January as the record selloff seen in 2025 showed no signs of abating.

After a record net outflow of ₹166,286 crore last year, FPIs have additionally sold Indian equities worth ₹11,789 crore this month, according to data available on NSDL. This has pushed the Nifty 50 index 1.71% lower so far in January.

Threats of Trump tariffs, increased geopolitical uncertainty, and currency volatility have kept FPIs away from Indian equities, and these factors have compounded in the initial two weeks of the year.

US President Donald Trump earlier this week threatened fresh tariffs on India in the case of non-suspension of the purchase of Russian oil. A bipartisan US bill proposing tariffs of up to 500% on countries buying Russian oil has received



The recent US military action in Venezuela has spiked global risk aversion, driving capital toward safe-haven US Treasuries rather than riskier emerging market equities. Furthermore, the looming threat of higher US tariffs on Indian exports—stemming from ongoing US-India trade negotiations—is keeping investors on the sidelines until policy clarity emerges

SANTOSH MEENA | HEAD OF RESEARCH, SWASTIKA INVESTMART

Trump's backing and awaits congressional approval.

The US military action against Venezuela last week has also heightened global risk aversion, making riskier assets like emerging market equities less lucrative for FPIs. A major chunk of FPI selling is more to do with global

and macro-level headwinds, as the domestic macro environment remains positive.

Going ahead, a strong set of earnings could make Indian equities more attractive for FPIs. In Q3FY26, MOSL analysts see earnings growing 16% year-on-year, the highest in eight quarters.

Exports gain traction in key EU markets

India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was \$136.53 billion in 2024-25 (exports worth \$75.85 billion and imports worth \$60.68 billion), making it the largest trading partner for goods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Spain, Germany, Belgium, and Poland are emerging as stable and key export destinations for Indian goods within the 27-nation European Union bloc, according to the commerce ministry data. The data showed that Spain stands out as a high-growth European market for Indian exports.

Exports to Spain rose by over 56 per cent during April-November this fiscal to \$4.7 billion from \$3 billion in the same period of the previous financial year.

Spain's share in India's total exports rose to 2.4 per cent, with a notable gain of 0.5 percentage points, the highest share increase among European partners in the period.

Similarly, India's exports to Germany increased 9.3 per cent from \$6.8 billion to \$7.5 billion during the eight months of this fiscal.

"With a 2.6 per cent share in India's total exports and a posi-



itive share gain of 0.2 percentage points, Germany continues to provide stable demand for Indian products," an official said.

The country's shipments to Belgium edged up from \$4.2 billion to \$4.4 billion during April-November 2025-26.

India's exports to Poland grew 7.6 per cent to \$1.82 billion during the period from \$1.69 billion in April-November 2024.

"Taken together, these trends highlight a nuanced European strategy for India's exports.

Rapid growth in Spain, steady expansion in Germany, and resilience in Belgium reflect a balanced export profile combining market diversification from traditional markets and consolidation in mature economies," the official said.

With India and the EU negotiating a free trade agreement, the bilateral trade between the two is expected to register healthy growth despite the global economic uncertainties. India's bilateral trade in

APRIL-NOV FISCAL
Exports to Spain rose by over 56%
Shipments to Germany surged 9.3%
Exports to Belgium edged up 4.4%
Shipments to Poland grew 7.6%

goods with the EU was \$136.53 billion in 2024-25 (exports worth \$75.85 billion and imports worth \$60.68 billion), making it the largest trading partner for goods.

The EU market accounts for about 17 per cent of India's total exports, and the bloc's exports to India constitute 9 per cent of its total overseas shipments.

Indian goods' exports to the EU, such as ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, can become more competitive if the pact sails through.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Four major banks -- Bank of Baroda, RBL Bank, Yes Bank and State Bank of India -- have approached the CIC objecting to the disclosure of information such as the list of defaulters and NPA, penalties and inspection reports, even as the RBI termed the records "liable to be disclosed" under the RTI Act.

RTI applicants Dheeraj Mishra, Vathiraj, Girish Mittal and Radha Raman Tiwari had filed separate applications with the RBI, seeking information, such as the top 100 NPAs, willful defaulters of Yes Bank, the inspection report of the SBI and RBL, and documents relating to a Rs 4.34 crore monetary penalty imposed following statutory inspection findings from the Bank of Baroda, respectively, among others.

These banks appealed before the Central Information Commission, after the bankers' bank found that the information sought by RTI Applicants could be disclosed under the provisions of the Right to Information Act.

Information Commissioner Khushwant Singh Sethi referred the matter to a larger bench of the CIC to adjudicate on the issues raised by the banks.

In a series of interim orders, Sethi noted that similar matters were earlier heard by a double bench. Consequently, all cases have been referred to the Chief Information Commissioner for consideration by a larger bench, with disclosure stayed till final decisions are issued.

The outcome of these proceedings is expected to have a far-reaching impact on banking transparency, depositor rights and regulatory accountability, particularly at a time when public scrutiny of NPAs, penalties and supervisory lapses remains intense.

The RBI had sought the views

of the banks before disclosure under the Third Party consent provision under Section 11 of the transparency law, under which a public authority seeks the view of the party whose details are being sought by the applicant.

The banks approached the CIC, the country's highest appellate body in RTI matters, with their appeals challenging the RBI's view, which said the information was "liable to be disclosed" under the provisions of the RTI Act, citing the Supreme Court judgement in the Jayantilal N Mistry case, which is binding on it.

The banks claimed that disclosing regulatory information would harm their commercial interests.

In one such case, Bank of Baroda (BoB) challenged the RBI's decision to disclose documents relating to a Rs 4.34 crore monetary penalty imposed following statutory inspection findings.

RTI applicant Radha Raman Tiwari had sought copies of "cases of non-compliance, as recorded in Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2021)," along with show-cause notices and records evidencing recovery of the penalty.

While BoB objected to disclosure, claiming the information was "confidential and sensitive," the RBI rejected the argument outright.

The RBI Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) recorded that the bank's contention that disclosure "may have an adverse impact on the bank's business, marketability of the bank's product and may hamper the competitive position of the bank, is not tenable."

The RBI further noted that information exempt under Sections 8(1)(d), (e) and (j) of the RTI Act had already been identified and severed, and therefore "the objections of the BoB are not sustainable."





If I'm being brutally honest the way I'm playing right now, I'm not thinking about the milestones at all

VIRAT KOHLI

Kohli's 93 steers India's win

MEN IN BLUE SEAL NERVY FOUR-WICKET WIN IN 1ST ODI AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodara, Jan 11: Virat Kohli

reigned supreme again a 91-ball 93 skipper Shubman Gill hit 56 but India huffed and puffed before completing a nervy four-wicket win against New Zealand in the opening ODI of the three-match series here Sunday.

In pursuit of 301, India were in complete control when Kohli departed in the 40th over but a flurry of wickets saw the home side going over the line with 306 for six in 49 overs.

Kohli fell a few runs short of what could have been his 54th ODI century when India needed 67 from 66 balls with seven wickets in hand. Ravindra Jadeja (4) and Shreyas Iyer (49) followed him soon in the dress-

KOHLI CHRONICLES

The batting stalwart Virat Kohli becomes fastest player to cross 28K-run mark, leaving only the legendary Sachin (34,357 runs) ahead of him in the history of the sport

ing room, giving New Zealand a real chance to clinch the game.

However, KL Rahul (29 not out) put on 37 runs with Harshit Rana (29), and the remaining runs came in company of an injury-hit Washington Sundar (7 not out), aided by a few uncharacteristic dropped catches by the Kiwis towards the end.

It was Kyle Jamieson (4/41) who dragged New Zealand back in the game when all seemed lost, getting Kohli caught at mid-on to deny the India batting stalwart a deserving ton. He also cleaned up Iyer with an off-cutter and got rid of Jadeja.

Even as he fell a few runs short of a century, Kohli became the quickest to reach 28,000 runs in international cricket and now only the second behind the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, going past Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara.

New Zealand had posed an at-par 300/8 but with Kohli in such imperious form, it never was enough especially with a depleted bowling attack.

If he didn't refrain from hitting over the top early on against South Africa, Kohli pulverised the Kiwis from the moment he arrived on the crease with a flurry of fours.

There was that trademark planted front foot for a majesti-

cal on-drive to pull behind the short fine leg for a four.

The Indian skipper took time to find his groove to bring up his 16th half-century in ODIs but as the innings progressed, Gill also struggled, possibly with cramps. But the break seemed to have broken the momentum at least for Gill, who hit a googly from rookie leg-spinner Adithya straight to mid-off, walking away for a 71-ball 56 with three fours and two sixes.

The chase began with a few tight overs before Rohit Sharma (26) took the initiative as Gill showed no intention to attack early on. Earlier, Daryl Mitchell stood tall with a stroke-filled half-century to help New Zealand post 300 for eight.

Mitchell, ranked world No 3 behind India superstars Kohli and Rohit, lived up to expectations with a gritty knock which gave New Zealand a much-needed impetus amid middle order collapse.

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand: 300 for 8 in 50 overs (Devon Conway 56, Henry Nicholls 62; Daryl Mitchell 84; Harshit Rana 2/65, Mohammed Siraj 2/40, Prasidh Krishna 2/60) lost to India: 306 for 6 in 49 overs (Virat Kohli 93, Shubman Gill 56; Kyle Jamieson 4/41) by 4 wickets

CHESS BLITZ

Wesley takes throne; Nihal grabs runner-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 11: American Grandmaster Wesley So showed remarkable consistency to clinch the title in the Open category with a round to spare, while India's Nihal Sarin ended as runner-up in the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz chess tournament here Sunday.

The Women's section also ended with a thrilling playoff that saw another American Carissa Yip hold her nerve to lift the trophy. India's Vantika Agarwal finished runner-up.

The closing rounds of the tournament delivered relentless tension, late twists, and fitting champions in both sections.

In the Open event, Wesley So aggregated 12 points for the title while Sarin ended with 11 points. Another Indian, Arjun Erigaisi ended at third spot, also with 11 points.

Wesley So capitalised when Vidit Gujrathi blundered an entire rook in a double rook endgame. Wei Yi outplayed Viswanathan Anand, who ended at eighth with eight points, by calmly consolidating an extra exchange, while R Praggnanandhaa opened lines for his rook and established a powerful knight outpost to defeat Hans Niemann.

Sarin also struck with a key win over Anand, while Wesley held Wei Yi to maintain control of the standings.

As the finish line approached, Erigaisi scored a notable win by preventing Anand from castling, but Wesley stayed just ahead despite several tense endgames, including a draw where he blundered back an exchange against Aravinth Chithambaram.

HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE

Unbeaten Kalinga Lancers move to top of the table



The team clinches 3-1 win against HIL GC in the shootout

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Jan 11: Jed Snowden came off the bench in the shootout to secure a 3-1 win for the Vedanta Kalinga Lancers against HIL GC after the two teams were locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time in the men's Hockey India League (HIL) here Sunday.

Ajeet Yadav (19th) and Alexander Hendrickx (23rd) scored for their respective sides in regulation time at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astro Turf Hockey Stadium.

The shootout was also a tense affair with both goalkeepers standing tall in goal.

After conceding a goal on their respective first attempts, James Mazarelo and Jed Snowden denied the next two takers.

Arthur Van Doren held his nerve for the Lancers before Ajeet Yadav missed for HIL GC, allowing Dilpreet Singh to seal the deal for the Lancers in the shootout.

With that result, the Lancers moved to the top of the table.

The Lancers didn't concede a single penalty corner throughout the contest.

HIL GC dictated terms in the opening exchanges but couldn't quite make any significant inroads despite the

six circle entries. The Lancers held their shape, registering six circle entries of their own while playing on the counter attack.

They did earn the first real opportunity of the game with a penalty corner, but couldn't make it count in a goalless first quarter.

HIL GC took the lead from their first attempt on target in the second quarter. Captain Hardik Singh orchestrated the move from midfield, before Ajeet tapped in his effort from close range to break the deadlock.

The Lancers had a couple of shots on goal and six penalty corners in a span of a couple minutes.

They eventually found a way past HIL GC goalkeeper James Mazarelo courtesy a powerful dragkick from Hendrickx, levelling the scores at half time.

The Lancers continued to look dangerous and came close to taking the lead through Hendrickx before being denied by James Mazarelo at HIL GC goal.

Heading into the final quarter, the two teams remained relentless in their pursuit in search of a winner. HIL GC only registered three circle entries, while the Lancers managed to register two circle entries in the final quarter.

With neither side mustering an attempt on target, the game had to be decided through a shootout.

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

Poland beat Swiss to lift United Cup

Poles capture title after runner-up finishes in 2024 and 2025

REUTERS

Sydney, Jan 11: Poland battled past Switzerland 2-1 in the United Cup final Sunday to banish the pain of title-round defeats in the previous two editions and secure a long-awaited maiden triumph in the season-opening mixed-team competition.

Hubert Hurkacz continued his resurgence in his first event back after a near seven-month injury layoff by beating veteran Stan Wawrinka 6-3 3-6 6-3 to level the tie at 1-1 after Iga Swiatek lost 3-6 6-0 6-3 to an inspired Belinda Bencic.

The mixed doubles duo of Katarzyna Kawa and Jan Zielinski then downed Bencic and Jakub Paul 6-4 6-3 in the deciding match to trigger jubilant scenes in Sydney, where Poland finally converted their dominance into silverware.



"We've finally made it. Third time lucky," Swiatek said. "We worked hard ... I want to thank the team. This year it was such a team effort, I really felt the support. Even though my singles performances weren't perfect, you got my spirits up and you all believed until the end."

Victory capped a superb campaign for Poland, who beat last year's champions the United States in the semi-finals,

and set up Hurkacz to carry momentum into his singles campaign at the Australian Open that begins January 18.

Six-times Grand Slam champion Swiatek heads into the year's opening major at Melbourne Park with back-to-back defeats after losing to Bencic Sunday and Coco Gauff in the semi-finals, though she will remain among the top contenders.

Barcelona, Real Madrid to lock horns in first El Clasico of 2026

AGENCIES

Jeddah, Jan 11: Barcelona and Real Madrid are set to lock horns later late Sunday in what will the first El Clasico of 2026. It also happens to the final of the Spanish Super Cup, with both sides vying for their first trophy of the season.

It is a high-stakes game particularly for Real Madrid. Having been dominated by Barcelona in the Hansi Flick era, the onus is on coach Xabi Alonso to deliver, failing which he might face the axe this week.

Barcelona, on the other hand, has shown superb form since losing the season's first El Clasico. They are leading the La Liga table and is looking like the favourites heading into this Super Cup final.

Real Madrid could unleash their biggest weapon in Sunday's Spanish Super Cup final against Barcelona, with coach Xabi Alonso saying they are considering taking a risk on Kylian Mbappe's fitness after he missed the semi-final.

Mbappe, who matched Cris-



tiano Ronaldo's club record of 59 goals in a calendar year during Real's 2-0 LaLiga win over Sevilla last month, is nursing a knee injury.

Real beat Barcelona 2-1 at the Bernabeu in October after losing the Spanish Super Cup final and the Copa del Rey final to their arch-rivals last season.

Barcelona lead LaLiga with 49 points from 19 matches, four ahead of second-placed Real.

Flick confirmed Lamine Yamal was ready to start, having come on as a substitute in Barcelona's 5-0 semi-final thrashing of Athletic Bilbao Wednesday.

6th-tier Macclesfield upset FA Cup holder Palace



field, a tiny club from England's north west that was relaunched after its predecessor, Macclesfield Town, was liquidated in 2020 because of debts.

The team, placed 14th in National League North, is still coming to terms with the loss of its 21-year-old forward Ethan McLeod, who was killed in a car crash travelling back from a match he played in at Bedford Town December 16. A banner bearing his name hung

behind the dugouts at the Palace game and his family were in the stands to watch.

It made for an emotionally draining afternoon for John Rooney, the younger sibling of England and Manchester United great Wayne Rooney, who was at the match working for the BBC.

"We finished the game and then I walk in the office and see Ethan's mum and dad in there, that's very special to me," John

Rooney said. "Just knowing they were here with us, and I'm sure Ethan was looking down on us today."

Macclesfield took the lead just before halftime through captain Paul Dawson, before Isaac Buckley-Ricketts made it 2-0 in the 60th following a scramble in the penalty area.

Jeremy Pino's last-minute free kick for Palace left Macclesfield facing a nervous six minutes of stoppage time as

home fans chanted "Silkmen! Silkmen!" — the club's nickname.

Macclesfield survived, their players adding their names to the competition's lore.

Fans sprinted onto the field at Moss Rose — Macclesfield's modest 5,900-capacity stadium — in celebration at the final whistle while Dawson and Duffy were carried aloft.

"I didn't think it was possible but there is that little bit of hope that anything can happen on the day," said Rooney, who started and ended his playing career as a midfielder with the club and is in only his first season coaching.

"I can't believe it. We were incredible from the first minute."

The last time Palace played in the FA Cup, it beat City in the final for its first ever trophy.

Palace's dismal afternoon was summed up when US defender Chris Richards did a foul throw in the final minute of stoppage time.

"I have no words for this performance," Palace manager Oliver Glasner said.

Palace captain Marc Guéhi spoke with the team's traveling fans after the defeat.

BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL

Sabalenka defends crown

Brisbane: World No 1 Aryna Sabalenka successfully reclaimed her Brisbane International crown, defeating Marta Kostyuk 6-4, 6-3 in 1 hour and 18 minutes at Pat Rafter Arena Sunday. The Belarusian won the trophy without dropping a set all week. This was Sabalenka's fifth title in Australia and the 22nd overall of her career, pushing her past Victoria Azarenka for the third-most WTA Tour titles among active players, behind Venus Williams and Iga Swiatek. Sabalenka also became one of only three women to defend the season-opening WTA 500 title, joining Serena Williams and Karolina Pliskova on the tournament's illustrious honour roll. Moreover, she is ranked third among active players for most tournament victories among active players, trailing only Venus Williams (with 49) and Iga Swiatek (with 25), as per WTA stats. With her first title of 2026 secured, Sabalenka now turns her attention to the Australian Open, where she is the defending runner-up after falling to Keys in last year's final. She'll enter as the No 1 seed as she chases a third title in Melbourne.



Redemption for Medvedev

Brisbane: Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev made a commanding start to the new season by clinching the Brisbane International title Sunday, producing a straight-sets victory over Brandon Nakashima. The top seed defeated his American opponent 6-2, 7-6(1) to lift the trophy at the ATP 250 event. This victory holds special significance for the 29-year-old, marking his 22nd tour-level crown. Daniil Medvedev also holds a unique stat. All 22 of his titles have been won at different tournaments. The win also served as redemption for the former World No 1, who had previously fallen short in the Brisbane final in 2019. Medvedev dedicated the win to his family. He also explained that the long travel distance prevented his family from joining him, meaning he missed a significant personal milestone. "I want to dedicate this to my family. My daughter had a birthday when I was here, so I dedicate it to her first birthday. Medvedev's form has been on an upward curve since October, when he ended a lengthy title drought in Almaty under the guidance of new coaches Thomas Johansson and Rohan Goetzke. By winning Sunday, he became the first top seed to claim the Brisbane title since Roger Federer in 2015. With this triumph, Medvedev has joined Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner as the only active players to possess 20 or more tour-level trophies on the surface.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Jan 11: The FA Cup delivered another fairytale result Saturday when sixth-tier Macclesfield — managed by Wayne Rooney's brother — knocked out titleholder Crystal Palace in one of the competition's greatest upsets.

At the other extreme, Manchester City overwhelmed third-tier Exeter 10-1 in a match featuring a goal on debut by \$87 million signing Antoine Semenyo.

City tying the record for its biggest ever in wasn't the story of the day in the third round, though.

That belonged to Maccles-