



Showbiz's dark side

Actor Taapsee Pannu slams PR game prevalent inside the Hindi film industry, saying it has gone to some other level

LEISURE | **P2**



Unrest in Syria

Several thousand people hold a march in Syria to protest the expulsion of Kurdish fighters from the city of Aleppo

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Markets end lower

Sensex and Nifty end lower after a day's breather, as investors pare exposure to index majors amid global tariff-related concerns

BUSINESS | **P11**



BCB holds ground

Bangladesh Cricket Board stays firm over security concerns amid ICC's reluctance to shift T20 WC games out of India

SPORTS | **P12**

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STATION ON FIRE: A fire broke out at Jharsuguda railway station Tuesday morning following a short circuit, causing damage to valuable equipment and official documents. Train services on the route were briefly disrupted owing to the blaze **(Report P5)**

Choudwar Class VIII girl drugged, raped

POST NEWS NETWORK

Choudwar, Jan 13: In a shocking incident, a minor girl was allegedly drugged and raped by a youth on multiple occasions here, police said Tuesday.

According to a complaint lodged by the family members of the survivor, the accused, Malay Kumar Swain of Mundamal village, has been sexually exploiting the Class VIII girl and blackmailing her for a few days now.

The incident came to light after the girl's family lodged a complaint with Choudwar police Monday.

On the basis of the complaint, police registered a case (22/26), arrested Swain and forwarded him to court.

The incident has spread shockwaves in the region, with locals demanding stringent action against the culprit.



71 projects worth over ₹1,900cr for Keonjhar

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Keonjhar, Jan 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday laid foundation stones for 35 projects worth ₹1,708 crore and inaugurated 36 others worth about ₹194 crore, including a ₹50 crore Regional Plant Resource Centre (RPRC) in Keonjhar district.

The projects include schools, hostels, irrigation, parking zones, road construction, pond improvement, tourism, libraries, career counselling centres, primary health centres, Anganwadi buildings and others in Keonjhar.

Majhi also laid the foundation stone for establishment of 147 model Anganwadi centres at an investment of ₹38.22 crore, stadiums in six blocks at an investment of ₹101 crore. Along with this, Nicholson Forest Training School has also been estab-



lished at Champua with an investment of ₹14 crore.

"Beginning from minerals to forests, from agriculture to human resources, Keonjhar has always provided strength to the growth of the state," Majhi said, adding most of the roads in the district will be of six-lane.

NSD branch in Keonjhar

The CM announced that the state branch of the National School of Drama (NSD) will be established in Keonjhar. He made the announcement while inaugurating a theatre workshop organised by the NSD and Spiritza Academy of Performing Art in Keonjhar town. **P3**

Iran protest death toll 2,000

DUBAI: The death toll from nationwide protests in Iran surpassed 2,000 Tuesday, activists said, and Iranians made phone calls abroad for the first time in days after authorities severed communications during a crackdown on demonstrators. The number of dead

climbed to at least 2,003, as reported by the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency. That figure dwarfs the death toll from any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades and recalls the chaos surrounding the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution. **P10**

SC's split verdict on Section 17A of PC Act

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Tuesday delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of a 2018 provision of the anti-graft law which mandates prior sanction for initiating a probe against a government servant in a corruption case.

While Justice BV Nagraathna said Section 17A of Prevention of Corruption Act is unconstitutional and needs to be struck down, Justice KV Viswanathan held the provision as constitutional while stressing on the need to protect honest officers. **P8**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



SC: Dog bite onus on feeders, authorities

AGENCEIS

New Delhi, Jan 13: The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed serious concern over the absence of clear rules fixing responsibility and accountability for stray dog attacks and indicated that it may examine introducing a licensing or liability framework to address the issue.

Hearing a suo motu case on stray dog management for the fourth consecutive

day, a Bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice NV Anjaria observed that existing laws do not clearly define who is responsible when a stray dog bites or attacks a human being.

The Bench noted that under the current legal framework, stray dogs are not considered to be "in the possession" of any individual or authority, creating a vacuum in responsibility.

Justice Mehta observed

that if people or organisations claim the right to feed stray dogs, they may also have to accept responsibility for their actions.

The SC indicated that such persons or groups may be required to take licences or be made legally accountable for dog bite incidents. Justice Vikram Nath remarked that the court is inclined to fix liability both on civic authorities and on dog feeders for every injury or death caused by stray dogs.

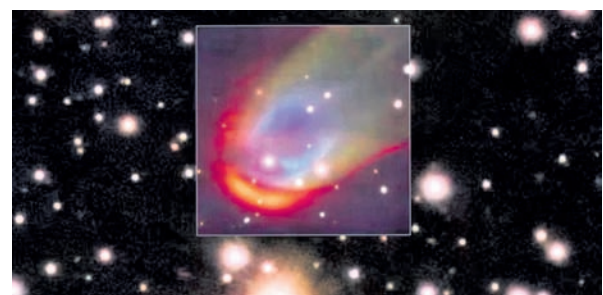
Dwarf star creates colourful shockwave

REUTERS

Washington, Jan 13: Astronomers have observed a white dwarf - a highly compact Earth-sized stellar ember - that is creating a colourful shockwave as it moves through space, leaving them searching for an explanation.

The highly magnetised white dwarf is gravitationally bound to another star in what is called a binary system. The white dwarf is siphoning gas from its companion as the two orbit close to each other. The system is located in the Milky Way about 730 light-years from Earth - relatively nearby in cosmic terms - in the constellation Auriga.

The shockwave - more specifically a bow shock - caused



by the white dwarf was observed using the European Southern Observatory's Chile-based Very Large Telescope. The shockwave was seen in an image released by the scientists glowing in various colours produced when material flowing outward from the white dwarf collided with interstellar gas.

"A shockwave is created when fast-moving material

plows into surrounding gas, suddenly compressing and heating it. A bow shock is the curved shock front that forms when an object moves rapidly through space, similar to the wave in front of a boat moving through water," said astrophysicist Simone Scaringi of Durham University in England, co-lead author of the study published Monday in the

journal Nature Astronomy, opens new tab.

"The colours come from interstellar gas that is being heated and excited by the shock. Different chemical elements glow at specific colours when this happens," Scaringi added.

In this shockwave, a red hue represented hydrogen, green represented nitrogen and blue represented oxygen residing in interstellar space.

A handful of other white dwarfs have been observed creating shockwaves. But all of those were surrounded by disks of gas siphoned from a binary partner. Although this white dwarf is siphoning gas from its companion, it lacks any such disk and is releasing gas into space.

Fresh 25% tariff blow

At a time when India is already facing 50 per cent tariffs from US, including 25 per cent for purchases of discounted Russian oil, President Donald Trump has slapped another 25 per cent duty on trading partners of protest-hit Iran, such as India, China, UAE and Turkey. The fresh US move, 'effective immediately', could hit India hard. New Delhi has been one of the Tehran's five largest trading partners, with bilateral trade between the two countries standing at \$1.68 billion in FY2024-25, according to the Department of Commerce data



Trump: We're screwed, if SC bins our tariffs

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has warned that it would "be a complete mess, and almost impossible for our Country to pay" back the money the US has collected from his sweeping tariffs if the Supreme Court rules he doesn't have the unilateral ability to impose many of them. In a social media post, he said that if the court strikes down his tariffs: 'WE'RE SCREWED!' Trump has increasingly posted warnings on social media about the court's looming decision, including similar posts many days last week about how complicated it would be for the government to issue refunds.

chinery and artificial jewellery, while major Indian imports from Iran consist of dry fruits, inorganic/organic chemicals and glassware.

According to Department of Commerce data, bilateral trade between India and Iran stood at approximately USD 1.68 billion in FY2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025). Of this, India exported goods worth USD 1.24 billion, while imports were significantly lower at USD 440 million.

During 2023, the top exports from India to Iran were rice (USD 734M), Soybean Meal (USD 96.8M), and Bananas (USD 52M). Top exports from Iran to India included Acyclic alcohol derivatives (halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated) (USD 309M).

"India and Iran share a millennia-long history of interactions. The contemporary and relationship draws upon the strength of these historical and civilisational ties, and continues to grow further marked by high-level exchanges, commercial and connectivity cooperation, cultural and robust people-to-people ties," the Indian Embassy in Tehran has said.

Iran unrest hits India's basmati rice exports **P11**

PNN & AGENCIES

New York/Washington, Jan 13: US President Donald Trump announced that any country "doing business" with Iran will have to pay a 25 per cent tariff on its trade with Washington, a move that could impact Tehran's major trading partners such as India, China and the UAE.

"Effective immediately, any Country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a Tariff of 25 per cent on any and all business being done with

the United States of America. This Order is final and conclusive," Trump said in a post on Truth Social Monday.

According to the Indian Embassy in Tehran, major Indian exports to Iran include rice, tea, sugar, pharmaceuticals, manmade staple fibres, electrical ma-



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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesha warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

TAURUS

All is not likely to go well during this day says Ganesha. Though you will sail smoothly most of the day, problems are very likely to come up. At the professional level you are not likely to face obstacles or difficulties. Your relations with your parents turn awkward and unpleasant.

GEMINI

You will be filled with concern and sensitivity towards others, and will bestow your blessings upon many. However, being too emotional is not advisable. Your emotions could get in the way of your progress at the work-front. You need to listen to your head over your heart when it comes to professional matters, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Today, you are likely to experience something life-changing. A small incident, an observation, a tragedy, a disaster, or a simple thought may change the course of your life. You, however, may not be able to take the changes well. It may have a strong bearing on your health. You may spend a lot of time with your loved ones, says Ganesha.

LEO

You need to keep your temper in check and guard against being aggressive today. You need to channelise your energies towards some productive pursuits, otherwise you may make someone the target of your anger. The good thing about the day is you will make satisfactory progress on work related issues.

VIRGO

You are renowned for your leadership qualities and today they will be much appreciated for the way you manage your team. You will get a long-due promotion, and will come in for some extra cash. Ganesha says you received all this by wisely balancing work and home, so be careful not to slip up on this front.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today will be a wonderful day and bring forth a breakthrough for you. You shall get to know and learn a lot from top most officials and elderly people. The higher ups in your office will give you good support today. Ganesha warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

SCORPIO

Socially, you enjoy being in limelight as all the eyes are focused on you. However, beware of evil eyes that may not have good intentions towards you. You are a good soul and never hurt anyone. But, at times, it's important to know your foe's weakness to be on the safer side.

SAGITTARIUS

Scorpios beware. Tough time today is on the cards, and you may perhaps find your hands tied up in unpleasant money matters. But put in your best to overcome this situation and strive to be independent economically.

CAPRICORN

You are beaming with optimism and positive energy. Such strong vibes will penetrate through the day and maintain the energy level right till the end. Not everyone is blessed with such spirit, so will certainly have an upper hand at work, be it your profession or business, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You are an excellent team player and your performance reaches a new high when you are a part of a group. Be an active member of your group, express your opinions, share your knowledge and see how your team becomes the winning team, says Ganesha. Wind up your day by hanging out with friends and family.

PISCES

Today you will feel like sharing you innermost feelings with those that you are close to. You will find yourself communicating better and this will result in attracting intellectual people towards you. You will get an opportunity to work with very educated and well established people. This will result in personal progress at work, says Ganesha.



DANIEL STERN CITED FOR SOLICITING PROSTITUTION

Actor Daniel Stern has been charged with one misdemeanour count of soliciting prostitution following a brush with police at a motel in California. The 68-year-old appeared in *Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* as well as two City Slickers films.

VANESSA WANTS TO MARRY DESPITE THREE DIVORCES

Vanessa Williams still believes in love. The 62-year-old actress has not ruled out getting hitched again in the future despite her last three marriages - film producer Ramon Hervey II (1987-1997), basketball player Rick Fox (1999-2004) and accountant Jim Skrip (2015-2021) - having ended in divorce.



TAAPSEE questions PR game

MUMBAI: Actor Taapsee Pannu has criticised the PR game prevalent inside the Hindi film industry, adding that it “has gone to some other level.” Speaking to a news portal, Taapsee also said that people are “paying to push someone else down” and questioned if a person’s success depends upon “someone else’s failure.”

Taapsee opened up about the PR game and how things have changed. “I was too busy doing my own things. But last 1.5-2 years, I have slowed down things and it has also been a conscious effort. I have realised that this PR game has gone to some other level. You are paying either to, I mean push yourself. Which was one version of doing PR. You are also paying to push someone else down,” she said.

“Since

when did your success depend upon someone else’s failure? People have started creating a new facade of their personalities because they need relevance. I am not okay with just me being there in a hit film, I also need to have a very strong voice even if it is not yours. But you have to create a voice. And that voice that you are trying to create beyond films is not matching with the work you are doing. So that discrepancy. You are saying beyond your films but your work is saying something else,” she added.

IAN S

MUMBAI: In the finale of her podcast *Chapter 2 with Rhea Chakraborty*, the actor offered an introspective look at a period of her life that has been widely discussed in the media: the challenges she faced in 2020.

Joined by sisters Shibani Dandekar and Anusha Dandekar, Rhea reflected on the people who provided steady support during a time when public scrutiny made it difficult to openly. “At that time, it was not common to talk about who was supporting me. Today, I want to say I survived the storm because of certain people, female friends in particular, in my life,” she said. She added that being able to acknowledge their presence openly now felt freeing, allowing her to express gratitude without fear of judgment or backlash.

Beyond friendship, Rhea also reflected on the pivotal role of women in her life. Quoting her father, she said, “If it weren’t for these women, we would have never survived. Now we don’t need a temple in the house, we need a picture of these women.” Through this statement, Rhea emphasized that her circle of support, friends who stood by her through uncertainty and emotional strain, was central to her survival and well-being.

IAN S



Rhea celebrates female friendship

lic made speak

ISHA SET TO MAKE BIG SCREEN DEBUT

MUMBAI: If industry buzz is to be believed, actress Isha Malviya might be on the verge of stepping into the biggest phase of her career yet. The young actress, who rose to fame with her show *Udaariyaan*, according to reports is all set to venture into

films. IANS has exclusively learnt that the production house and the film’s details are being kept tightly under wraps, adding to the growing curiosity around the project.

Insiders reveal to this agency, that this is not just any film, but a high-scale project that could mark Isha’s transition into Bollywood in a big way.

A source close to the development shares with IANS, “Isha Malviya is expected to begin shooting for a big project soon. Preparations are already underway, and if things fall into place, this could mark her major Bollywood debut.”

The secrecy around the project is also being maintained deliberately, as the makers reportedly want to unveil everything at the right time.

Over the past few weeks, fans have noticed Isha’s packed schedule, frequent meetings and a visible shift in her public appearances, further fuelling speculation that something big is in the pipeline.

An official confirmation from the makers or Isha herself is awaited. IANS



MUMBAI: Actress Divya Dutta, who is known for films like *Badlapur*, *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, *Veer-Zaara* and others, has spoken up on the importance of co-existence.

On Tuesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a video in which she spoke about how stray animals live their own lives without disturbing anyone.

She also penned a long note in the caption, as she wrote, “If they want to, everyone can exist together in one place. Everyone has an equal right. The one above gave it. If you handle it with a little patience and

Divya on value of co-existence

tolerance, everything is possible. The human race will be alone in this world, keeping what they want and removing what they don’t...

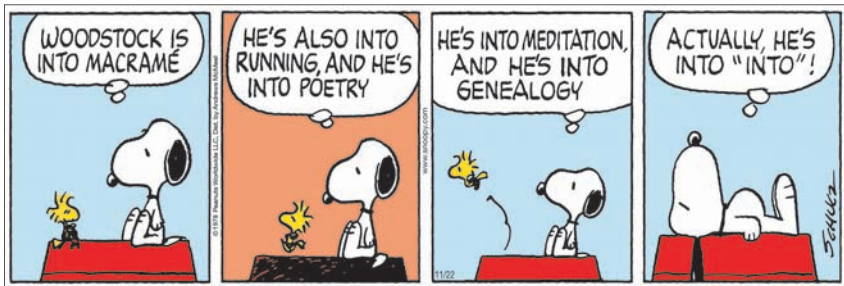
right? Hoping and praying, everything will be alright. I’m sure it will happen.”

This comes amid the Supreme Court issued a statement criticising individuals and groups who feed stray dogs in public areas, asking rhetorically why they don’t feed them at home or take responsibility for them personally instead of leaving them on busy streets where they can bite or scare people.

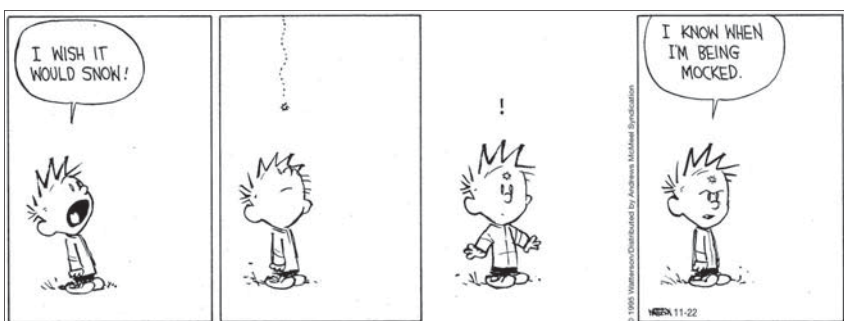
IAN S



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

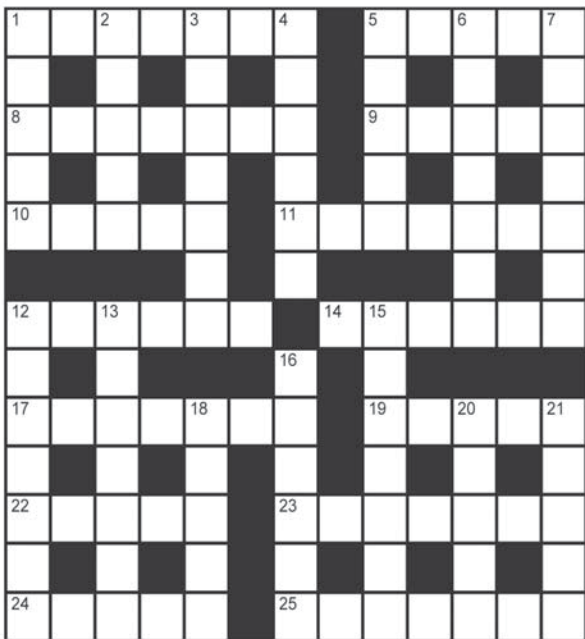


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across

1 Kinship

5 Boxing venue

8 Enmity (3,4)

9 Workload holder (2-3)

10 Rain forest ruminant

11 Copy

12 Organism type

14 It comes in stalks

17 Singing voice
- 19 Movable castles

22 Come to pass

23 Lead

24 Figure out

25 Entourage
- Down

1 Safari sight

2 Bohemian dance

3 View

4 Bank clerk

5 Parting word

6 A big hug

7 The jitters

12 Team cheerleaders

13 Normal

15 Heartfelt

16 Metallic element

18 See eye to eye

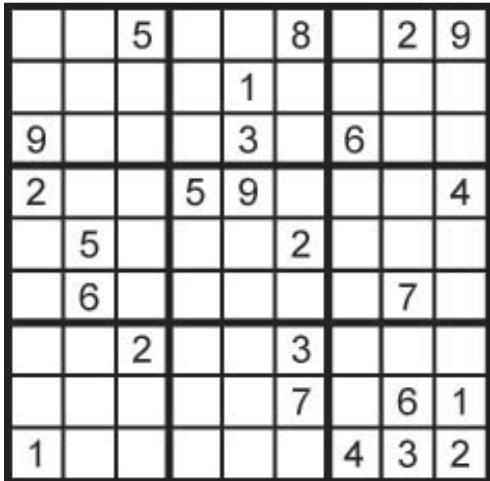
20 Ancient Greek theatre

21 Public spat

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

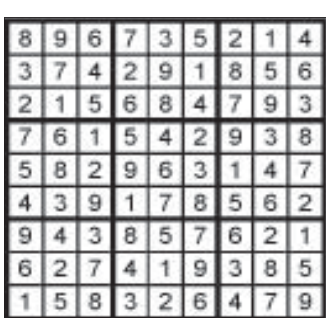


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



Youth gets 20 yrs RI in POCSO case



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: A local court Tuesday sentenced 20 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) to one Manoj Shekhar Mallick (23) in connection with sexual assault of a minor girl in December 2021.

According to reports, the victim, a 15-year-old girl, from Chiguratola Basti under at Infocity police station went missing from home December 22, 2021. Despite extensive searches, her family members could not trace her, following which a written complaint was lodged.

Based on the complaint, police investigated the matter, rescued the minor and arrested Mallick.

After completion of the investigation, Police submitted charge sheet January 28, 2022 with Sections 363, 376(2)(n), 376(3) IPC read with Sections 6 and 4(2) of the POCSO Act.

After examining eight witnesses and 53 documentary exhibits, the court convicted the accused under Section 4(2) of the POCSO Act and sentenced him to 20 years RI with a fine of ₹5,000.

The court also directed the District Legal Services Authority, Khurda, to pay ₹4 lakh as compensation to the victim under Odisha Victim Compensation Scheme.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Jharsuguda, dated 18.11.25, I, Siriti Mallick, W/o. Late Susanta Mallick, R/o. At. TRL Township, Gumadera, Belpahar, P.O./P.S.: Belpahar, Dist.-Jharsuguda (Odisha) declare that I have changed my name from Siritilata Khan to Siriti Mallick. Henceforth I shall be known as Siriti Mallick for all purposes. Siriti Mallick

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Basudevpur, dated- 04.10.2025, I, Narayan Ghadai, 71 yrs, S/o.- Late Jogendra Ghadai, At- Apartipur, P.O.- Matipaka, P.S.- Naikanidihi, Dist.-Bhadrak do hereby solemnly declare that as per my Aadhaar Card my name is Narayan Ghadai which is wrongly mentioned as Narayan Chandra Ghadai in my son Krushna Chandra Ghadai's Passport. I declare that Narayan Ghadai and Narayan Chandra Ghadai is one and same person.

LOST

Extract of GD No. 021 dated 11.01.2026 of Sunabeda Police Station, I, Geeta Tripathy (50), wife of Pranaya Tripathy, resident of Kakigan Road, P.S.- Sunabeda, District- Koraput declare that my sale deed relating to Kakigan Mauza, Plot Nos. 1359/1517/1483, Khata Nos. 130/1373, is not traceable. Matter is entered in GD for future reference.

Orissa HC: Forced marriages undermine a healthy society

Court allows a girl, forced into marriage by parents, to live independently away from husband and parents, upholding her right to decide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 13: The Orissa High Court observed that forcing a girl into marriage against her will is not conducive to a healthy society, while permitting a girl, forced into marriage by her parents, to live independently, away from both her husband and parents. The Court also directed the police to ensure her safety and security.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice Murahari Sri Raman directed the state to conduct sensitisation programmes to educate parents against imposing their decisions on adult children.

“A time has come when the society would introspect when the girls are forced to marry by the parents. The decision of the girl is paramount and her consent should be obtained before any such decision is taken by the parents,” the bench said.

The married woman was brought to the Court by Kakatpur police during the hearing. The Judges interacted with the lady who disclosed about her forced marriage and incongruence to stay in a marital life. She also conveyed her wish to live independently away from both pa-



rental and matrimonial homes.

She stated clearly that she did not wish to live with either her husband or her parents, as she is gainfully employed and self-reliant. She emphasised that, being a major, she is fully capable of making her own decisions.

Hearing the girl's version, the Court expressed disappointment over the existing state of affairs where parents often impose their whims on children, especially daughters and force them to undergo marriage without consent.

The Court unequivocally held that the decision of a ma-

major girl is paramount and she cannot be given in marriage by parents without her consent.

The Bench directed the police to ensure the girl's safe return to her place of residence and to prevent any interference or obstruction from any party, including her parents or the so-called husband. “We respect the decision of a major girl,” the Court stated in its order.

The police shall ensure the safety and the security of the said girl at her place of abode and shall immediately take steps in the event any incident is reported to them, the Court further directed.

Stewart School hosts URJIX-2026



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Stewart School, Bhubaneswar organised its Annual Science, Art and Craft Exhibition, titled URJIX-2026, at the school premises, with a focus on the theme ‘Science and Sustainability’. The exhibition, jointly organised by the Science, Mathematics and Art departments, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various classes.

Students showcased a wide range of innovative models and charts highlighting key environmental issues such as renewable energy, waste management, water conservation and environmental protection. Several projects were made using recycled materials, reinforcing the message of sustainable living and demonstrating how scientific principles can provide practical solutions to real-life environmental challenges.

The exhibition drew appreciation from teachers, parents

and visitors for the students’ creativity and scientific approach. Outstanding projects were awarded prizes, while all participants received certificates of appreciation.

The chief guest, Asique Rashid, Senior Engineer (Production) at the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, under the Ministry of MSME, lauded the students for their dedication and innovative thinking. Emphasising the role of science in building a sustainable future, he encouraged students to explore scientific ideas in meaningful and socially responsible ways. School Principal Madhuswani Pramanik graced the occasion, while other dignitaries included Nandita Swain, former director, College of Basic Science and Humanities, OUAT; Rima Sahani, Assistant Professor, department of Civil Engineering, ITER, SOA University; Netaji Upadhyaya, retired professor, OUAT and Sqn Leader (Prof) Ashish Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, Odisha Bigyan Academy.

Excise nabs five in ganja, liquor trade

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: In a major crackdown on illegal narcotics and illicit liquor trade, the Bhubaneswar Excise department Tuesday conducted multiple raids across the City, leading to the arrest of five persons and the seizure of contraband worth ₹2 lakh.

In the first operation, the Excise officials arrested two persons at Acharya Vihar Chowk under Saheed Nagar police limits in connection with Ganja trade. The accused have been identified as Bipin Digal (31) and Nurat Digal (35). A total of 21 kilograms of ganja, valued at approximately ₹2.10 lakh, was seized from their possession. The duo was forwarded to the court after arrest.

In another coordinated operation, the Excise station-III officials carried out raids within the Khandagiri and Bharatpur police station limits. During the raids, officials seized 580 litres of illicitly distilled liquor (IDL) and 15 litres of country liquor (CL). Three accused identified as Chandan Patra, Ganguli Behera and Rabin-dra Mallick were apprehended by the Excise team. The accused were forward to the court.

Banned Chinese kite string injures youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: A youth was critically injured after a banned Chinese kite string slit his throat in Bhubaneswar on the eve of Makar Sankranti, prompting the Police to conduct raids and seize manja threads from markets across the state.

The incident occurred in the Pokhariput area when Kamala Kanta was travelling on a scooter and came in contact with the sharp kite string, police said.

He sustained severe injuries to his throat and also hurt his fingers while attempting to remove the thread. The youth was initially admitted to Capital Hospital here and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as his condition remained critical, a family member said.

Despite repeated warnings, some traders continue to sell the banned manja thread.

Following Tuesday's incident, the police carried out raids in markets in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri and seized several bundles of banned kite strings.

Puri City DSP Prasant Kumar Sahu said the police have been conducting awareness campaigns through mobile vans, urging people not to use banned kite strings during the Makar Sankranti festival.

Cuttack DCP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo said that, as prior warnings have already been issued, use of banned manja will be treated as use of a weapon and strict action will be taken against violators.

Colourful kites to light up Sisir Saras-2026 today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: To reconnect the younger generation with the traditional joy and cultural heritage of kite flying during Makar Sankranti, ORMAS and Mission Shakti will organise a special kite show at the Sisir Saras-2026 fair Wednesday.

The kite show will be held from 4pm to 5pm, when the sky is expected to come alive with colourful kites showcasing both traditional and modern designs. Special balloon kites shaped like birds and animals are likely to be a major attraction for children.

Keeping public safety in mind, organisers have announced that no manja (glass-coated string) will be used this year, ensuring a safe and eco-friendly celebration.

Earlier in the day, from 2pm to 4pm, a kite-making workshop will be organised to promote the art of traditional and creative kite crafting. Children and youth will receive hands-on training and will later fly the kites they create themselves. Based on their skills, selected participants will take part in a kite-flying competition scheduled for Thursday.

Welcoming the initiative, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water & Rural Development Minister Rabi Narayan Naik said the Odisha government remains committed to preserving and promoting the state's rich cultural traditions. He appealed



to residents of the Capital to participate in Sisir Saras and celebrate Makar Sankranti with joy and enthusiasm. The minister added that increased footfall at the fair would boost sales of rural products and help spread festive cheer to villages across the state.

Popularly known as the ‘Mini India Fair’, Sisir Saras showcases not only Odia culture but also diverse traditions from across the country. As part of this cultural exchange, Assam's Bihu folk dance will be performed at the fair Wednesday evening.

Meanwhile, the fair continues to witness heavy crowds at food stalls, handicraft and handloom outlets. Live demonstration counters, where visitors can create Sambalpuri jewellery, lac bangles and items made from sabai grass, have drawn particular interest from young visitors.

Notably, sales during the first three days of Sisir Saras fair have crossed ₹3.6 crore, with expectations of further growth in the coming days.

OSSC CGL aspirants seek CM's help over portal glitches, fees



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Applicants for the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) Combined Graduate Level (CGL) Examination have urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the OSSC chairman to intervene following widespread technical glitches encountered during the online application process.

According to aspirant Sunil Kumar Mishra, the OSSC CGL application portal has faced repeated technical glitches, including website loading failures, login errors, difficulties

in uploading documents, and interruptions during form submission. These problems have reportedly prevented many eligible candidates from completing their applications within the prescribed deadline.

A major concern raised by applicants is the deduction of the ₹500 application fee from their bank accounts, even when the application process remained incomplete or unsuccessful due to portal errors. Candidates claim that despite receiving payment confirmation, their applications were not submitted, resulting in financial loss and significant

mental distress, especially among unemployed aspirants.

Another aspirant Subhrajit Sahoo has pointed out the absence of an ‘edit’ or ‘correction’ option on the application portal, making it difficult to rectify inadvertent errors—some of which arose from system-related failures rather than mistakes by the applicants.

In a representation submitted to the authorities, candidates have demanded an immediate resolution of technical issues, the introduction of an edit/correction facility, and an extension of the application deadline to ensure fairness and equal opportunity. They have also sought appropriate measures for the refund or adjustment of fees deducted due to failed submissions.

Thousands of candidates across the state are reportedly affected by these issues and are hoping for swift intervention from the government and OSSC to ensure that deserving aspirants are not excluded from the recruitment process.

PHW explores birthplace of ‘Purnachandra Bhashakosha’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Jan 13: Commencing the 17th edition of Puri Heritage Walks (PHW) here recently, heritage enthusiasts visited Nuagaan, including Biswanathpur—the birthplace of Odia lexicon ‘Purnachandra Bhashakosha’ compiled by Gopal Chandra Praharaj.

During the tour, participants visited many ‘sashana’ villages under Satyabadi block and some of the ancient temple complexes. Starting their journey from Puri in the morning, the participants offered prayers to Gopinath Deb. After the original structure of the ancient temple fell into ruins, the deity is now enshrined in a newly built Rekha Deula-style temple.

The idol worshipped in the temple is believed to be the most ancient ‘Madan Mohan’ idol of the Srimandir, said temple priest Brundaban Dikshit and explained that earlier, during the Chandan Yatra festival, Madan Mohan used to come to Chandan Pushkarini in the village to take part in the ceremonial chapa khela. “It is believed that during 16th century, the idol of Madan Mohan was lost in a tank here and later recovered. Since then, the deity has been worshipped at this place in the form of Go-



pinath,” he added.

According to historical accounts narrated by villager Soumyaranjan Mishra, the Swadeshi Movement was initiated from the village's Swarajya Pushkarini under the leadership of Krupasindhu Hota. “In commemoration of this event, Swarajya Day is observed here every year on Jyestha Shukla Dwitiya,” he said. After visiting the temples of Nilakantha Mahadev and Maa Jayadurga, the participants started their journey towards Biswanathpur village.

History reveals that the village deity, Lord Biswanath Mahadev, was established by Biswanath Ray, brother of then king Narasingha Deva. The village derived its name,



Biswanathpur, from the deity. Within the temple compound, there is also a shrine housing

an ancient idol of Maa Harachandi. The main festival of the village, Chandan Yatra, is celebrated for 21 days, while another festival, Ahihara, is observed on Magha Purnima.

Reaching Athaisha Gram—a group of 28 villages established by Gajapati Kapilendra Dev—the participants visited the temple of Lord Siddha Balaram Deb and studied several ancient idols, including those of Gajapati Kapilendra Dev, located within the temple compound. They then proceeded to Biragobindapur village.

After offering prayers at the ancient Durga Madhava Temple in Biragobindapur Shasana, established in the 17th century by Govinda Vidyadhar, minister of Gajapati Prataparudra Dev, they visited Lord Biswanath Mahadev at the end of the village. The participants also closely observed several nearby ancient idols and, after offering prayers to Maa Dakshinakali, concluded the heritage walk.

Former district culture officer of Puri, Prafulla Kumar Samantaray, joined the walk as a guest. He shared experiences from his tenure with the members and opined that such heritage walks are an effective means to survey and document heritage monuments scattered across villages.

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY

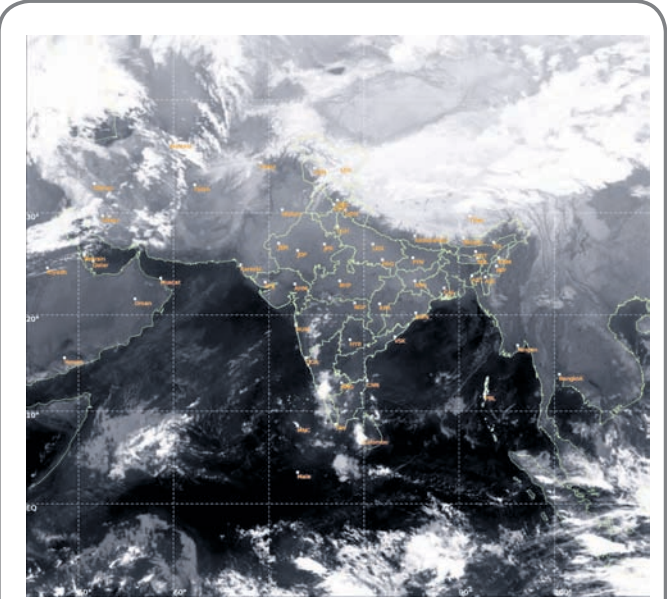
INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	90.25 ▲ 0.01
EURO	105.35 ▼ 0.17

BOURSES

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	83627.69 ▼ 250.48
NIFTY	25732.30 ▼ 57.95

COMMODITIES

INDEX	VARIATION
GOLD	₹142,549 ▲ ₹517
SILVER	₹278,113 ▲ ₹9143



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	28.5°	26.4°	Fog or mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later
Min Temp	12.4°	11.4°	
Humidity	71%	82%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Short circuit sparks fire at Jharsuguda railway station



बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

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At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk,
Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob.: 77520-50804

E-AUCTION
SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 04.02.2026 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co-borrowers, Mortgagors & Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of **"Physical / Symbolic Possession"** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/Guarantor/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME : 03.02.2026 time 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM. Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL				
Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD : 04.02.2026 latest by 6.00 P.M. The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 04.02.2026 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.				
Sl. No.	BRANCH Name & Address of Borrowers/ Co-borrowers/Mortgagors & Guarantors	Description of the Properties & the Owner (Type of Possession)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues
1.	RENGALI BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050862) / Borrower: Mr. Akhila Kumar Mahana, S/o: Sri Siba Narayan Mahana, At: Mauli Nagar, P.O: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768212 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, standing in the name of Sri Akhila Kumar Mahana , S/o: Sri Sibanarayan Mahana., Bounded by East: Plot No.: 441, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 441 (P), South: Plot No.: 440, Type of Possession : Physical	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land situated at Mouza: Babuchakuli, PS: Katarbaga, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, bearing MS Khata No.: 165/307, Plot No.: 441/2416, Area: Ac. 0.15	₹6,08,000/- ₹60,800/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 9,58,457.17 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment
2.	VSS MARG BRANCH (MOB.: 7682829021) / Borrower: M/s. Ladies Garments, Prop.: Mr. Deepak Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Bishi Keshan Panda / Guarantor: Mr. Bishi Keshan Panda, S/o: Late Dibakar Panda, Both are At: Medical Para, P.O: Themara, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768005 Sri Bishi Keshan Panda, Bounded by East: Open Land, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 7175, South: Plot No.: 7183, Type of Possession : Symbolic	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Themara, Thana: Sambalpur Sadar, Thana No.: 29, Tahasil: Maneswar No.: 248, Plot No.: / Survey No.: 7184/8688, Khata No.: 508/840 to an extent of Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec., standing in the name of Mr. Deepak Kumar Panda, S/o:	₹23,50,000/- ₹2,35,000/- / ₹50,000/-	₹ 7,29,958.36 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com>

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR FOR SALE UNDER RULE 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002

This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2) of security interest (Enforcements) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date

Scan here for more details



Place: Sambalpur
Date: 13.01.2026

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



Carving The Globe

A rough sketch of a spheres-of-influence world order is becoming more and more visible as US President Donald Trump takes the lead in this direction with seemingly tacit approval of his counterparts in Russia and China – Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping. This is amply clear now from the statements of Trump who has suggested the future of Taiwan is “up to” Xi while seeking to distinguish the issue from Washington’s attack on Venezuela. This strategy is almost a carbon copy of what he is doing in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war virtually leaving “up to” Putin how he would keep in Russia’s possession the Ukrainian territories he has already overrun. To hoodwink the world he said he would be “very unhappy” if Xi moved to seize control of the self-governed island through military action. That he would not mind if China takes such a course of action is evident from the fact that he hoped Xi would desist from such an adventure during his presidency and he believes Xi “may do it after we have a different President.” Trump’s tenure ends in early 2029.

On the other hand, the possibility of the US of A trying to take control of Greenland is looming large by the day. Greenland is a self governed island in the north Atlantic belonging to Denmark, a NATO member. Meanwhile, the UK’s move to mobilise NATO forces in defence is a serious development, though the preparation is being glossed over as a step to stop Russia and China from attacking the country. Frank Rose, a former US Assistant Secretary of State (under the Obama administration) and the last American official to negotiate a defence deal with Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule administration, warned in a recent response to the media that Trump’s aggressive threats and alarming move toward acquiring Greenland could prove counterproductive. Rose, who negotiated a key agreement in 2003-2004 for satellite defence systems on Greenland, agreed the island was “critical” to US defence. Trump’s posturing, he said, is needless from this standpoint since the US already has significant rights under existing treaties. He may end up antagonizing Denmark and Greenland which would then become less cooperative with the US in future engagements.

Trump has repeatedly expressed interest in controlling Greenland, citing national security needs to counter Russia and China in the Arctic. That appears to be a ruse.

China and Russia have been seeking regional spheres of influence for years. Under Trump, it is increasingly becoming possible that the US would be a willing partner in this game of apportioning different regions for their respective gains of new territories and priceless natural resources. Trump’s recent moves to get closer to Putin and Xi are well suited to spheres-of-influence diplomacy. He does not seem averse to striking great-power bargains at the expense of weaker states.

Spheres of influence are an arrangement in which a strong country governs the destiny of a weaker one. Such a global scheme may take the form of outright conquest of territory or loose arrangements that still provide influence over a country’s policies and politics.

The US appears to be eager to regain sway over Latin America. It has already tied Latin American economies to its own, meddled pervasively in their politics and conducted dozens of military interventions against actual or potential threats. Putin’s war in Ukraine is the apogee of a 25-year project to revive Moscow’s primacy in what Russians call its “near abroad.” Xi is pursuing “Asia for Asians,” code for a region in which Beijing rules because Washington is no longer interested in spending billions of dollars to control faraway regions. When viewed under this light, India could be termed a weak nation and considered as falling under the Chinese sphere-of-influence.

The adventure of the Trump-Putin-Xi troika is fraught with deadly consequences for the rest of the world. A divide-the-world approach might deliver temporary stability with the big powers forcing the weaker states to surrender to their bullying, but in the long run, maybe very long yet spheres of influence cannot be the path to peace but the road to disquiet and disaffection.

FOCUS

GEOPOLITICS

HOBBSIAN WORLD ORDER

Trump’s obsession with seizing others’ mineral wealth – key, in his view, to sustaining America’s industrial hegemony – extends far beyond Venezuela

One year into his second presidency, Donald Trump has established himself as the most revolutionary US president in recent history. Whereas “America First” once seemed like an isolationist posture (not least to Trump’s MA-GA base), it is now clear that it embraces a Hobbesian worldview, in which the powerful US extracts whatever it wants from those it deems weak. In the world this view describes, the US is unlikely to engage in direct military clashes with “peer” powers, such as China, or with nuclear states, such as Russia and North Korea. It will compete with other superpowers over resources and advanced technologies, lest they become more “super” than the US. But, for the most part, Trump will probably limit his involvement in their “spheres of influence” – as long as they stay out of what he considers to be America’s.

But, in Trump’s view, they are not; China’s presence in Latin America is increasingly seen as a strategic threat. It invested billions in Brazil, brought Colombia into its global Belt and Road Initiative, and invested generously in Argentina’s production of lithium chloride, a key component in battery production. China also replaced American soybean exporters by doubling its purchases from Brazil, from which it also buys iron ore, and has made Peru’s Chancay Port the centerpiece of its physical logistics in the region. Its e-commerce with Latin America also surged by some 50% in 2025, while tying digital infrastructure to China’s goals of data sovereignty, control over cybersecurity, and expansion of its surveillance capacity. If this were not enough, China has also significantly expanded its military presence across the continent through arms sales, training programmes, and strategic partnerships, notably with Venezuela.

The view that China’s presence in Latin America is a threat to the US rests on an old idea. The 1823 Monroe Doctrine effectively established US dominion over the Western Hemisphere, asserting that any foreign intervention in the Americas would be viewed as a hostile act. Since then, almost a

third of the nearly 400 US interventions that have taken place worldwide occurred in Latin America, where the US has toppled governments it deemed unfavourable to its interests, often using tactics that international courts later ruled illegal.

In 2013, President Obama’s secretary of state, John Kerry, announced that the “era of the Monroe Doctrine” was over: the US would treat Latin America as a partner, rather than a sphere of influence. But that position has now been reversed: in its 2025 National Security Strategy, the Trump administration pledged to “reassert and enforce” the Monroe Doctrine. The stage for the US attack on Venezuela and abduction of its President, was set.

Maduro was a dictator who stole the 2024 presidential election, decimated the Venezuelan economy, and violated its people’s human rights. But the US intervention had little to do with “liberating” Venezuela from Maduro’s “tyranny.” By that logic, there are many more dictators the US would have to remove, yet Trump is more interested in threatening to annex Greenland. Trump is not even particularly interested in regime change in Venezuela. Two opposition leaders, Edmundo González and Nobel Peace Prize laureate María Corina Machado, have won elections, but the Trump administration has refused to let either take power. He presumably considers them too weak and too liberal to serve as effective lackeys. Instead,

Maduro’s vice president, Delcy Rodríguez – whose extensive experience bowing to China and Russia can presumably be transferred to the US – has stepped in as interim president.

While the NSS does not mention Venezuela, it leaves no doubt as to Trump’s intentions in the country. The US, it states, will not allow “non-Hemispheric competitors” to “position forces or other threatening capabilities, or to own or control strategically vital assets, in our Hemisphere.” In other words, Trump wants to ensure that the US, not its adversaries, controls Venezuela’s vast resources, beginning with the world’s largest oil reserves.

Until now, China has accounted for about 80% of Venezuela’s annual oil sales. Among the buyers of the other 20%, sold at reduced prices, is Cuba, which has been a thorn in the side of the US since 1959. The US takeover of Venezuela’s oil industry thus offers multiple prizes: opportunities for American oil companies, denial of an energy source for China, and the already-battered Cuban economy.

Trump would certainly relish being the US president who finally took down the Cuban regime, not least because it would score him plenty of political points with America’s large Cuban community. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has hinted that Trump might even target Cuba directly.

Beyond oil, Venezuela might possess significant stores of critical minerals, including rare-earth elements, which are vital to nu-

merous high-tech industries, including semiconductors. Controlling them would enable the US to erode Chinese dominance over critical-mineral supply chains.

Trump’s obsession with seizing others’ mineral wealth – key, in his view, to sustaining America’s industrial hegemony – extends far beyond Venezuela. Last year, the US strongarmed Ukraine into signing a deal to share profits from the future sale of its mineral and energy reserves, supposedly to reimburse the US for supporting Ukraine’s defense. Greenland is in Trump’s sights because it has the world’s largest untapped reserves of rare-earth elements.

Trump claims that the US is projecting strength so that it is “respected again.” And plenty of leaders are willing to go along with the charade, in the hopes that they will benefit. Argentina’s right-wing president, Javier Milei – who owes his victory in last year’s midterm elections to a \$40 billion US bailout – applauded the US attack on Venezuela, as did leaders in Chile, Ecuador, and Honduras. Europe’s far-right “patriotic” parties, which the NSS praises, also welcomed the move.

But it should be clear by now that Trump cannot be trusted. America’s European allies are finally coming to terms with this, as they confront the possibility that they will have to defend Greenland from the US. So is Machado, who dedicated her Nobel Peace Prize to Trump, hoping that he would bring down the Maduro regime and allow her to take power, only to be sidelined. Fear, hatred, and distrust do not add up to respect.

With the Venezuela operation, Trump has effectively given China an open invitation to invade Taiwan, while vindicating Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. He has also set the stage for more illegal military actions in Latin America and beyond. If the world is to prevent the dawn of a new Hobbesian age of international relations, condemnations will not be enough. Large and rising powers – such as Germany, India, and Japan – must work together to affirm and enforce rules of conduct.

The writer is a former Israeli foreign minister.

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IN JEST THIS

Exercise can help you with depression

Melvin Durai

LIGHT TO MODERATE EXERCISE IS ANY ACTIVITY THAT GETS YOUR HEART BEATING FASTER – AND I DON’T MEAN LOOKING AT PHOTOS OF YOUR FAVOURITE ACTOR

If you’re feeling depressed, there is one thing I recommend to brighten your mood: ice cream.

Nothing puts a smile on a person’s face faster than giving them ice cream. If you don’t believe me, just go to any public place, find a kid who is crying and give the kid an ice cream cone. The tears will disappear faster than an unlocked bike in New York City.

I wish I could cite some scientific evidence on the effectiveness of ice cream in treating depression, but scientists have not yet gotten around to conducting studies on this important connection. What they’ve done, however, is make a connection between exercise and depression. The less time you spend exercising, the happier you will be. Nothing lifts your spirits more than sitting on the couch and watching your favourite TV show, while eating a bowl of ice cream.

Actually, scientists have found the opposite to be true. Exercise may be just as effective

as psychological therapy in reducing symptoms of depression, according to a review of evidence by researchers connected to Cochrane, a London-based network of health researchers and professionals. They also found that exercise may be just as effective as antidepressant medication, but more evidence is needed for them to feel confident about this finding.

Researchers from the University of Lancashire conducted the review, examining 73 randomised controlled trials involving a total of almost 5,000 adults with depression.

“Our findings suggest that exercise appears to be a safe and accessible option for helping to manage symptoms of depression,” said Professor Andrew Clegg, lead author of the review. “This suggests that exercise works well for some people, but not for everyone, and finding approaches that individuals are willing and able to maintain is important.”

The phrase he used — “willing

and able” — is important. You may be willing to climb Mount Everest tomorrow, but are you able to do it? Will they put you on a stretcher and call an ambulance for you, saying that you almost made it to base camp?

You may be able to participate in a daily aerobics class, but are you willing to do it? For me, the answer is “no.” I prefer to follow my own routine and pretend that I’m as coordinated as Simone Biles.

According to the review, light to moderate intensity exercise may be more beneficial than vigorous exercise. Light to moderate exercise is any activity that gets your heart beating faster — and I don’t mean looking at photos of your favourite actor. You need to be slightly out of breath.

If you’re out of shape and have not exercised in a long time, it’s important to start with something that’s not too challenging. Don’t take the stairs to your ninth-floor apartment — take the elevator, but do jumping jacks on the way up.

Once you have established a

habit of exercising regularly, you can gradually increase the duration or intensity of your exercise, but try not to overdo it.

As psychiatrist Dr. Stephen Mateka told National Public Radio (NPR) in the US, “When it comes to exercise, it’s about just finding the exercise that works for you, such as something like yoga or tai chi versus something like walking and jogging.”

Even if you have to pay a membership fee to a gym, exercise will cost you less than therapy and you won’t have to reveal any family secrets.

“Exercise is something that is extremely low cost,” Mateka said. “It’s very accessible. It has very minimal side effects. And it has the opportunity to impact you positively, mentally, emotionally, socially and physically.”

Depression affects more than 280 million people worldwide. That’s equal to the entire population of Indonesia. Imagine if we could get them all to start playing badminton. The only depressed people would be the ones who didn’t buy stock in Yonex.

WISDOM CORNER

It takes considerable knowledge just to realize the extent of your own ignorance.

THOMAS SOWELL

Only the man who does not need it, is fit to inherit wealth, the man who would make his fortune no matter where he started.

AVN RAND

You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.

HARPER LEE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1526:** The Treaty of Madrid was signed by the Habsburg emperor Charles V and Francis I, king of France, who had been captured during the Battle of Pavia in February 1525 and held prisoner until the conclusion of the treaty, when he was allowed to return to France.
- **1784:** The Continental Congress ratified the Peace of Paris, which formally ended the American Revolution (though fighting had long since ended) and recognized the independence of the United States.
- **1943:** Churchill, Roosevelt and de Gaulle meet to discuss WWII strategy. During the secret Casablanca Conference, the leaders agreed that the allied forces would accept nothing less than the unconditional surrender of the Axis powers.
- **1953:** Tito becomes President of Yugoslavia. The authoritarian leader became a unifying symbol in his country and is still known by many today.
- **1954:** Baseball player Joe DiMaggio and actress Marilyn Monroe married at City Hall in San Francisco.
- **1967:** The Summer of Love is launched with the Human Be-In. San Francisco was the epicentre of the Hippie Revolution, which soon influenced cultures around the world.

LOL TWO ROACHES HAVING A DISCUSSION

Two roaches were munching on garbage in an alley when one engages a discussion about a new restaurant. "I was in that new restaurant across the street," said one. "It's so clean! The kitchen is spotless, and the



floors are gleaming white. There is no dirt anywhere--it's so sanitary that the whole place shines." "Please," said the other roach frowning. "Not while I'm eating!"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Ticketless travel

Sir, Due to its enormous network, passengers without tickets are increasingly becoming a pain in the neck for the Indian Railways. These unauthorised travellers are also a big spot of bother for bonafide ticket holders as they tend to occupy the latter's seats and refuse to vacate them when confronted. The minimum fine of Rs 250 and the cost of the entire trip ticket, that is followed at present, is insufficient. Additionally, many “enlightened” passengers are known to willfully travel sans tickets and are ready to cough up the fine when caught because that is more economical than travelling by cabs and even buses. More manpower should be assigned at random points to check people for valid tickets. Special enforcement drives and surprise checks in between stations, or by halting trains midway, must be intensified.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Youth are future

Sir, The recent report from the World Economic Forum Survey, titled Youth Pulse 2026 has confirmed that there exists a great amount of inequality among the youth globally in a variety of subject matters including AI, technology, entrepreneurship, political representation, climatic impact and so on. Although the good part of the same report is that it has highlighted so many positive aspects about Gen Z as well. The points to be appreciated are that modern young generation is ready to govern others, they have a greater civic participation, and they have a critical space for learning, growth and dialogue. They accept digital innovation more swiftly and are happily using AI to learn new skills and experiences. This is particularly welcoming that amidst the paradoxical situations, the positive things are overcoming the negative. We hope that governments of the nations address the divided reality and contribute their best efforts in addressing the youth division.

Kirti Wadhawan, KANPUR

national

of the day quote

The Government of India is aware of the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh. The people of Bharat stand by our Hindu brethren in Bangladesh during this difficult time

HIMANTA BISWA SARM | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

As you may be aware, Operation Sindoor remains ongoing, and a future misadventure will be resolutely responded to

UPENDRA DWIVEDI | ARMY CHIEF GEN

Air pollution in NCR is driven by both anthropogenic activities and meteorological factors

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

POST OF THE DAY

In Mumbai, A foreigner was filming and enjoying the sea view near the Gateway Of India. A man came by car , and randomly dropped garbage in it and left without an iota of shame. Gov and people in this country are equally shameless. Pukeworthy.

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT TAKES

Woman, son among five of theft gang held

Medininagar: Five members of an inter-state theft gang, including a woman and her son, were arrested along with stolen jewellery worth Rs 4 lakh in Jharkhand's Palamu district Tuesday, a police officer said. The accused were apprehended from different locations: three in Chainpur area and the remaining ones in Medininagar.

Elephant found dead in Ramgarh

Ramgarh: An elephant was found dead in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district Tuesday, a forest official said. The carcass of the pachyderm was recovered from a potato field near Chodaru valley along the Ramgarh-Bokaro highway in the Gola police station area, they said. Ramgarh DFO Nitish Kumar said, "The elephant's death might be due to anthrax. A team of veterinary doctors has collected a blood smear and sent it for analysis."

Ex- CPI(M) MLA joins Congress

Thiruvananthapuram: Senior CPI(M) leader Aisha Potty Tuesday joined the Opposition Congress, ending her more than a decade-long association with the Left party. Potty, who represented the Kottarakkara Assembly constituency for three consecutive terms, formally took Congress membership after arriving at the venue of a day-and-night protest organised by the party in front of the Lok Bhavan here.

Nine injured as bus overturns

Gumla (Jharkhand): Nine passengers, including a child, were injured when a speeding bus overturned in Jharkhand's Gumla district Tuesday, police said. The accident occurred around 6.30 pm on the Ranchi-Gumla NH-43 when the bus broke the road railing and fell on its side while negotiating a turn in Nagpheni area, Sisai Police Station Officer-in-Charge Santosh Kumar Singh said.



The MGNREGA had effectively become a guarantee of loot, while asserting that there was no scope for even a single rupee of corruption under the Narendra Modi government's newly enacted 'VB-G RAM G' Act

KIREN RIJU | UNION MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER

All eyes on Mumbai as campaigning ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 13: Campaigning for the high-stakes elections to 29 municipal corporations in Maharashtra culminated Tuesday with all eyes fixed on the big fight for Mumbai, where the BJP-led Mahayuti is making a strong pitch to control the BMC in the face of a challenge from a united Thackeray front.

Polling for the 2,869 seats spread across 893 wards will begin at 7.30 am and conclude at 5.30 pm January 15. A total of 3.48 crore eligible voters will decide the fate of 15,931 candidates, including 1,700 in Mumbai and 1,166 in Pune.

The counting of votes will



take place January 16.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis spearheaded the campaign for the ruling alliance, crisscrossing the state to canvas for Mahayuti candidates.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar-led NCP, the third part-

ner in the Mahayuti combine, was strategically excluded to attract "non-Hindu" voters, observers said.

The run-up to the elections saw the coming together of estranged cousins Uddhav and Raj Thackeray after 20 years, steadfast in their attempts to consolidate Marathi votes, while rival factions of the NCP joined hands for Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Parbhani polls.

Notably, this would be the first Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election for the Shiv Sena since the 2022 split, which saw party leader Eknath Shinde leaving with a majority of the legislators, the

party name and symbol. The undivided Shiv Sena ruled the country's richest civic body for 25 years.

The Congress party has also projected a strong image this election by stepping out of the shadow of its Maha Vikas Aghadi allies - Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) - in Mumbai.

The grand old party has aligned with Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and the Rashtriya Samaj Paksh in the capital, while opting to go solo in Nagpur.

Elections to the 29 municipal corporations are being held after a gap of more than six years - their tenure ended between 2020 and 23.

J&K: Army opens fire on Pak drones along LoC in Rajouri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Jan 13: Indian Army troops opened fire to take down multiple suspected Pakistani drones that entered Indian territory from across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday evening, army officials said in Jammu.

However, the drones briefly hovered in the Manjakote sector before returning to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), officials said. This incident marks the second occasion in three days that the Indian Army has fired upon Pakistani drones in the Rajouri district.

Defence sources said that the Indian Army implemented counter-Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) measures after drones were spotted along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

Around 7 pm, troops fired up on a few Pakistani drones when they entered Indian territory over Dunga Gala in the Chingus area of Rajouri. The drones subsequently vanished and are believed to have retreated to the other side, officials said.

Officials noted that army personnel detected the movement of two drone-like objects over the forward Dheri Dhara village around 7.35 pm and fired several live rounds to target them.

 बैंक ऑफ बरौदा Bank of Baroda		Regional Office (Sambalpur Region), 1st Floor, G.M. College Chowk, Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001, Mob.: 7682829040		GOLD AUCTION NOTICE		
It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments and general public that inspire of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs charges /expenses) by Dt. 30.01.2026 , then from 11.00 AM of Dt. 31.01.2026 , their pledged gold ornaments will be sold in public auction at Respective Branch's Premises having details given herein below . For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to below or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time and place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. The purity & net weight & the floor price of the gold ornaments / coins etc. (item wise) will be made available to the intending bidders on the date and at the site of auction.						
Sl. No.	Account Number	Name & Address of the Borrower		Gross Weight (in Grams)	Net Weight (in Grams)	Balance Outstanding as on date of NPA plus further contractual interest and charges thereon.(Amount in Rs.)
Bank of Baroda, Rengali Branch, Opposite ITCI Computer Center, Main Road, Rengali Sambalpur, Odisha -768212, Mob : 7752050862						
1	32560600002401	Antar Yami Pani, At : Salad, PO: Kuria , Via : Rengali, Rengali Dist : Sambalpur, Odisha, Pin-768212.		68.90	62.00	₹ 3,24,171.72
Bank Of Baroda, Bhawanipatna Branch, First Floor, Plot No.723, Khata 93, Opp. Town Hall, Bhawanipatna, Dist - Kalahandi, Odisha, Mob : 7752050828						
2	33670500001885	Hari Majhi, AT/PO: Pastipada, Bawanipatna, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, Pin -766001.		14.62	12.42	₹ 40,000.00
Bank of Baroda, Sonepur Branch, 1st Floor, Majhipada, Bus Stand Road Sonepur, Odisha -767017, Mob : 7752050865						
3	34280600003073	Chakrayudha Kumar Naik, At : Khadalpada, PO : Sonepur Sonepur, Dist : Subarnapur, Odisha, Pin-767017.		131.96	112.00	₹ 4,07,674.44
4	34280500008643	Satyabati Putel, W/o Mahendra Putel, At : Sahajpita, PO: Baidyanath, Gp: Haradkhol, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, Pin-767017.		22.17	15.60	₹ 52,999.70
5	34280600005201	Trayambak Bel, S/o : Debarchhan Bel, Ainlapali, Bishimunda Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, Pin-767017.		13.94	12.20	₹ 52,671.00
6	34280500009139	Jitendra Bhoi, At : Panchamahala, Gp : Panch, PO : Panchamahala, Dist : Subarnapur, Odisha - 767062.		13.30	11.60	₹ 37,999.50
7	34280500009111	Purnnima Bagha, At:Barigaon, PO:Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, Pin - 767062.		7.60	6.00	₹ 20,000.00
Bank of Baroda, Patnagarh Branch, Ground Floor, College Road, Patnagarh, Bolangir, Odisha - 767025, Mob : 7752050858						
8	35940600003839	Tikeswar Patel, C/o : Mahendra Patel, Dandrabahal, Mundomahul, Patnagarh, Dist : Deogarh, Odisha, Pin-767025.		27.15	26.50	₹ 1,16,988.00
9	35940600003655	Sushanta Mirdha, At : Manaipad, PO : Mundomahul,PS:Patnagarh, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha, Pin-767025		16.20	15.40	₹ 70,207.00
Bank of Baroda, Debagarh Branch, Kargil Chowk, Debagarh, Odisha-768108, Mob : 7752050832						
10	40700500001348	Bishakha Nayak, W/o:Sushanta Kumar Nayak, Majhipalidholpada, Dist : Deogarh, Odisha, Pin-768121.		12.15	7.80	₹ 26,485.86
11	40700500001343	Ghana Naik, At: khaimali, Tileebani, Dist : Deogarh, Odisha, Pin-768121.		6.66	6.50	₹ 20,450.46
Bank of Baroda , Rayagada Branch, Plot No. 126/1/1158, Sai Mandir Road, New Colony, Rayagada, Odisha-765001, Mob : 7752050861						
12	40750600005942	Eftkhar Khan, At : Prem Nagar, Front of Hanuman Temple Daily Market., Dist : Rayagada, Odisha, Pin-765001.		36.80	35.00	₹ 1,51,938.39
13	40750600008082	Rabindra Nayak, Bhagaban Nayak, Sansarpalli, Bandhugaon, Dist : Rayagada, Odisha, Pin-765001.		16.70	13.50	₹ 97,000.00
14	40750600007846	Rabindra Nayak, C/o : Bhagaban Nayak, Sansarpalli, Bandhugaon Dist : Rayagada, Odisha, Pin-765001.		14.76	13.00	₹ 93,884.00
15	40750600002637	D Gouri Shankar, S/o : D Ganesh, Goutam Nagar, 4th Lane, Rayagada, Ward No.: 09, Dist : Rayagada, Odisha, Pin-765001		3.80	3.80	₹ 20,835.33
Bank of Baroda, Malkangiri Branch, BDO, Panchayat samiti, Block Office Malkangiri, Odisha-764048, Mob : 7752050852						
16	46560500000286	Sujit Kundu, At:badali, MPV 24, Kangarukonda, KaliMela, Malkangiri, Dist : Malkangiri, Odisha-764047.		19.10	15.00	₹ 51,999.80
Bank of Baroda, Jeypore Branch, Plot No. 715/1359, Bidyadharpur Mauja, KSBD Road, Tarini Junction, Jeypore, Koraput, Odisha - 764001, Mob : 7752050837						
17	46580600003729	Rabindra Kumar Sabat, At : Room No. 32, Suriya Rao, Sriram Nagar 2nd Lane, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha-764001		92.77	85.95	₹ 4,44,336.00
18	46580600003591	Kishor Kumar Nissanko, Behera Street, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha-764001.		37.60	34.10	₹ 1,29,456.30
19	46580600003569	Hussain Baig, S/o : Rahim Baig, KBSD Road, Jeypore, Dist:Koraput, Odisha, Pin : 764001.		31.19	28.19	₹ 83,712.00
20	46580600002506	Tapan Kumar Harichandan, C/o : Satyapriya Harichandan, Sunari Street, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha, Pin-764001.		61.35	54.85	₹ 1,86,999.66
21	46580600002505	Tapan Kumar Harichandan, C/o : Satyapriya Harichandan Sunari Street, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha, Pin-764001.		21.28	19.70	₹ 67,830.00
Bank of Baroda, Padampur Branch, Rajborasambar, Padampur, Bargarh, Odisha-768036, Mob : 7752050855						
22	46600500000703	Suratha Meher, At:Gidhamal, PO: Katabahal, Padmapur, Dist:Bargarh, Odisha, Pin-768036.		18.89	18.50	₹ 51,300.00
23	46600600001011	Usharani Mishra, At:Bhela, PO:Nuapada, Dist:Bargarh, Odisha, Pin-766106.		13.45	12.48	₹ 35,000.00
Bank of Baroda, Umarkote Branch, SH- 39, Near New Bus Stand, Main Road, GuliPatna, Umorkote Nabarangpur, Odisha-764073, Mob : 7752050868						
24	52720600001333	Raju Bairagi, At:Badakumari,PO:Umarkote, Dist:Nabarangpur, Odisha, Pin - 764073.		16.70	13.10	₹ 64,623.00
25	52720600001585	Mahendra Bhatra, At:Bakadabeda, PO:Umarkote, Dist:Nabarangpur, Odisha, Pin-764072.		13.20	9.90	₹ 52,842.55
Bank of Baroda, Khariar Road Branch, AT-Khariar Road, Beltukri Chowk , Ward No 8,Dist- Nuapada, Odisha- 766104, Mob : 7328803814						
26	57850500000676	Pitabash Sahu, Angawadi Kendra, Amalidadar, PS:Jonk, PO:Jenjera, Gp : Budhipali, Khariar Road, Dist:Nuapada, Odisha, Pin-766104.		10.90	8.00	₹ 30,000.00
27	57850500000679	Pitabash Sahu, Angawadi Kendra, Amalidadar, PS:Jonk, PO:Jenjera, Gp : Budhipali, Khariar Road, Dist:Nuapada, Odisha, Pin-766104.		8.60	6.30	₹ 23,500.00
28	57850500000639	Pitabash Sahu, Angawadi Kendra, Amalidadar, PS:Jonk, PO:Jenjera, Gp : Budhipali, Khariar Road, Dist:Nuapada, Odisha, Pin-766104.		8.50	6.20	₹ 23,000.00
Bank of Baroda Semiliguda Branch Nandpur Road, Beliguda chowk, Semiliguda, Koraput, Odisha-764036, Mob : 9078080048						
29	59400600001081	Ramesh Chandra Mandi, At:Nandaka,PO:Nandapur, Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, Odisha, Pin -764036.		16.30	13.30	₹ 52,557.00
30	59400600001079	Ramesh Chandra Mandi, At:Nandaka,PO:Nandapur, Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, Odisha, Pin -764036.		12.10	11.92	₹ 35,589.80
31	59400600001159	Muna Behera, At:Sunabeda 1, Sunabeda, PO:Semiliguda, Dist:Koraput, Odisha, Pin-763001.		6.20	5.40	₹ 19,524.00
Bank of Baroda, Bisra Road Rourkela Branch, 408, Bisra Road Near Radhiaka Hotel, Rourkela, Sundergarh,Odisha-769001, Mob : 7682829020						
32	783206000001813	Ranjan Marothia, Jivan Chakki Lane, Main Road, Rourkela, Dist:Sundargarh, Odisha, Pin-769013.		51.90	40.00	₹ 1,99,464.00
33	783206000001829	Sanjiv Kumar Sharma C/o Nathun Mistri Jay. Jay Furniture, Bisra Road Rourkela, Dist:Sundargarh, Odisha, Pin-769001.		5.45	4.60	₹ 18,390.89
Bank of Baroda, Attabira Branch Ground Floor, Opp. To Old Cinema Hall, NH-6, Attabira, Bargarh ODISHA 768027, Mob : 7682829029						
34	84080500001763	Farid Khan, At:Attabira, PO:Attabira, Dist:Bargarh, Odisha, Pin-768027		48.70	43.00	₹ 1,52,000.00
35	84080600001995	Yashoda Mallik, At:Topa, PO:Attabira, Dist:Bargarh, Odisha, Pin-768027		10.90	10.00	₹ 67,100.00
36	84080500002298	Yashoda Mallik, At:Topa, PO:Attabira, Dist:Bargarh, Odisha, Pin-768027.		11.00	10.00	₹ 55,999.40
37	84080500001592	Farid Khan, At:Attabira, PO:Attabira, Dist:Bargarh, Odisha, Pin-768027		16.40	14.50	₹ 51,000.00
Place : Sambalpur Date : 13.01.2026				Regional Manager Bank of Baroda		



international

of the day quote

We face a geopolitical crisis, and if we have to choose between the U.S. and Denmark here and now then we choose Denmark. We stand united in the Kingdom of Denmark

JENS-FREDERIK NIELSEN | PM, GREENLAND

It has been a Danish priority over the past several years to have a discussion within NATO, but not least to also get greater attention from NATO in relation to issues regarding NATO's presence in and around the Arctic

TROELS LUND POULSEN | DEFENCE MINISTER, DENMARK

The United Kingdom condemns in the strongest of terms the horrendous and brutal killing of Iranian protesters, and we demand that the Iranian authorities respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of their citizens

YVETTE COOPER | FOREIGN MINISTER, UK

SHORT TAKES

Landslide in eastern Congo kills at least 13

Goma (Congo): A landslide in eastern Congo early Tuesday killed at least 13 people and left over 30 still missing, according to local authorities. The landslide occurred at around 1 am in the village of Burutsi in North Kivu province. Witnesses say that the landslide followed several hours of intense rainfall and has cut off the main road between the major city of Goma and the provincial capital, Walikale.

Hungary to vote 12 April

Budapest: Hungary's parliamentary election will take place April 12, with the country's Prime Minister Viktor Orban expected to face his toughest challenge in 16 years. President Tamas Sul yok announced the election date Tuesday, urging people to vote. "One of the cornerstones of democracy is the right to vote freely," he wrote on social media. The announcement comes as Orban and his nationalist-populist Fidesz party have been lagging behind the opposition Tisza party in most independent polls, the biggest disadvantage the prime minister has faced since taking office in 2010.

Russia launches attack on Ukraine

Kyiv: Russia launched a second major drone and missile bombardment of Ukraine in four days, officials said Tuesday, aiming again at the power grid and apparently snubbing US-led peace efforts as the war approaches the four-year mark. Russia fired almost 300 drones, 18 ballistic missiles and seven cruise missiles at eight regions overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on social media.

Leaders of Japan, SK discuss economy

Nara (Japan): South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi agreed to step up cooperation between the neighbours, whose relations are occasionally strained, as they both face growing uncertainty and regional challenges. "I believe cooperation between Korea and Japan is now more important than ever and anything else, as we have to continue moving forward to a new, better future amid this complex, unstable international order," Lee said at the outset of the summit Tuesday.



If a regime can only keep itself in power by force, then it's effectively at the end

FRIEDRICH MERZ | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

FRENCH FARMERS DRIVE 350 TRACTORS TO PARL

French farmers steered some 350 tractors Tuesday over cobblestoned Paris avenues toward Parliament to protest low incomes and an EU trade deal with South America that they fear threatens their livelihoods. Escorted by police, the tractors tangled rush-hour traffic as they rumbled down the Champs-Élysees and other Paris avenues, and then over the Seine River to reach the National Assembly



Help is on its way: Trump China warns US

Trump's Iran tariff threat puts China's cheap oil imports at risk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Jan 13: China, the largest buyer of Iranian oil, Tuesday warned counter measures against US President Donald Trump's decision to impose 25 per cent tariffs on countries trading with Iran, amid concerns that sanctions could end Beijing's reliance on cheaper oil imports.

Trump announced Monday that any country "doing business" with Iran will have to pay a 25 per cent tariff on its trade with the US, a move that could impact Tehran's major trading partners such as China, India and the UAE. "There are no winners in a tariff war, and China will firmly safeguard its own legitimate and lawful rights and interests," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said while reacting to Trump's threat.

Trump's Iran tariff threats, coupled with the fall of the pro-Beijing Maduro regime in Venezuela which also supplied loan-linked oil supplies to China, sent "a dire warning" to Beijing's policymakers who analysts said need to urgently find ways to protect the country's strategic interests abroad.

His announcement sent shockwaves in Beijing, which may have to reconsider its approach, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted China watchers as saying. China is already grappling with



the fall of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, one of its closest allies. His fall brought about an overnight end to Venezuela's allegiance to Beijing, which, according to reports, invested over \$106 billion in the Latin American country.

According to data compiled by intelligence firm Kpler, China imported around 400,000 barrels per day of Venezuelan oil last year for far cheaper prices.

As per Kepler data, China also purchased on average 1.38 million barrels per day of Iranian oil last year, which constituted about 80 per cent of Iranian oil. China, the largest importer of Russian oil, is reportedly redrawing its energy and investment strategy to lean more to the Persian Gulf, if the Iranian unrest and overall volatility continue, James Downes, co-director of Italian think tank the Centre for Research and Social Progress, told the Post.

China also had a cumulative \$4.5 billion in outbound direct investment in Iran in 2024, up 14.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to the government's latest statistical bulletin.

BBC seeks to have Trump's \$10 billion lawsuit dismissed

REUTERS

London, Jan 13: The BBC will file a motion to dismiss US President Donald Trump's \$10 billion lawsuit over its editing of a speech that made it appear he had directed supporters to storm the US Capitol.

Court documents published late Monday showed the broadcaster would argue that the court in Florida lacked personal jurisdiction in the case because it did not broadcast the programme in Florida, and that the president could not prove damages because he was re-elected after it aired.

Trump said Britain's publicly owned broadcaster defamed him by splicing together parts of a January 6, 2021, speech, including one section where he told supporters to march on the Capitol and another where he said "fight like hell." It omitted a section in which he called for peaceful protest.

Trump's lawsuit alleges the BBC violated a Florida law that bars deceptive and unfair trade practices. He is seeking at least \$5 billion in damages for each of the lawsuit's two counts.

The BBC has apologised for the editing which appeared on its Panorama documentary programme but said it would defend the case.



It said 16,784 people had been detained, a sharp increase from the figure it gave on Monday.

Trump announced 25% import tariffs on products from any country doing business with Iran - a major oil exporter - Monday evening. Trump has also said more military action is among options he is weighing to punish Iran over the crackdown.

Tehran has not yet responded publicly to Trump's announcement of the tariffs, but it was swiftly criticized by China. Iran, already under heavy US sanctions, exports much of its oil to China, with Turkey, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and India among its other top trading partners.

RUSSIA CONDEMNS 'SUBVERSIVE EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE'

Iranian authorities have accused the US and Israel of fomenting the unrest.

Russia Tuesday condemned what it described as "subversive external interference" in Iran's internal politics, saying

FEARS OF WIDER CONFLICT GROW

Syria's Kurds protest Aleppo violence

REUTERS

Qamishli, Syria, Jan 13: Several thousand people marched under the rain in northeast Syria Tuesday to protest the expulsion of Kurdish fighters from the city of Aleppo the previous week after days of deadly clashes.

The violence in Aleppo has deepened one of the main fault-lines in Syria, where President Ahmed al-Sharaa's promise to unify the country under one leadership after 14 years of war has faced resistance from Kurdish forces wary of his Islamist-led government.

Five days of fighting left at least 23 people dead, according to Syria's health ministry, and saw more than 150,000 flee the two Kurdish-run pockets of the city. The last Kurdish fighters left Aleppo in the early hours of January 11. Several thousand Syrian Kurds protested in the northeastern city of Qamishli Tuesday. They carried banners bearing the logos of Kurdish forces and faces of Kurdish fighters who died in the battles - some of whom had detonated explosive-laden belts as government forces closed in.



■ Fighting saw more than 150,000 people flee Aleppo

■ Protesters in Qamishli carry pictures of Kurdish fighters

■ 'Closed military zone' declared in parts of eastern Aleppo

FEARS OF WIDER CONFLICT

Other posters featured the faces of Sharaa and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, crossed out with red "X"s and carrying the caption "Killers of the Kurdish people."

Turkey accuses the Syrian Democratic Forces - the main Kurdish fighting force which runs a semi-autonomous zone in northeast Syria - of links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which Ankara considers a terrorist organization.

Many Kurds say last week's bloodshed has deepened their scepticism about Sharaa's promises to govern for all Syrians.



Women wearing traditional Chinese-style costumes pose for photos near a church in Beijing, China, Tuesday PTI PHOTO

Pak, Indonesia discuss defence cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 13: Pakistan and Indonesia have discussed defence cooperation amidst reports about Jakarta joining the list of nations interested in buying JF-17 Thunder jets.

Lieutenant General Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin (Retd), Minister of Defence of Indonesia, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Monday at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi, according to an overnight

statement by the army.

"The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security dynamics, and exploration of avenues for enhancing bilateral defence cooperation," it said.

Both sides also underscored the importance of strengthening institutional linkages, training collaboration, and defence industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Indonesia.

The Indonesian defence min-

Tourists visit ancient Rome via livestream tours

For the first time, the general public can virtually visit the House of the Griffins and its newly restored frescoes, including the decoration that gives the home its name: An arched lunette fresco featuring two griffins - half-eagle, half-lion mythological creatures

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Jan 13: One of the best-preserved ancient Roman homes on the Palatine Hill is opening to the public for the first time, albeit via a livestreamed tour of its hard-to-reach underground frescoes and mosaics.

The House of the Griffins was first discovered during the excavations in the early 20th century of the Palatine Hill, the verdant hill that ris-

es up from the Roman Forum and dominates views of central Rome today with its striking red brick ruins.

The hill, located just off the Colosseum, was known for temples and homes of leading citizens during Rome's Republican era, which is traditionally dated from 509 BC to 27 BC. It became the aristocratic quarter during the Roman Empire that followed, when new palaces were built on top of the older homes.



The House of the Griffins is one of those earlier Republican-era homes, and was hidden to the world underground after the Emperor Domitian built his palace on top of it in the first century AD.

Now for the first time, the

general public can virtually visit the House of the Griffins and its newly restored frescoes, including the decoration that gives the home its name: An arched lunette fresco featuring two griffins - half-eagle, half-lion mythological creatures.

Visitors won't actually walk through the home's intimate rooms, which are only accessible via a perilously steep staircase underground. Rather, visitors above ground will watch as a tour guide wearing a head-mounted smartphone descends into the domus and walks through its rooms, livestreaming the visit and narration.

The live, virtual tour serves multiple purposes: It allows visitors to "see" a domus that, because of its underground location, would otherwise be off-limits. And by limiting the number of people in its rooms, the livestreaming protects the delicate frescoes from too much humidity and carbon dioxide.

Project chief Federica Rinaldi said that archaeologists don't

know much about the family who lived there, but said they were clearly well-off, given the level of decoration that recalls some of the elegant homes of the era in Pompeii. The frescoes feature richly coloured faux marble designs, and floor mosaics of three-dimensional cubes.

"Its location at the highest point of the hill, its distribution over several levels that take advantage of the slopes of the Palatine Hill itself, and its preservation make it today an almost textbook reference," she said. "It was certainly a domus of the highest standard."

Starting March 3, the livestreamed tours will be held weekly, Tuesdays, with one in Italian and one in English, though more are foreseen.

of the day

quote

India's firm commitment to strengthening and securing critical mineral supply chains — essential for economic prosperity, resilient manufacturing, and realizing Viksit Bharat

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Our year-end insights show that software is becoming an active part of commuting, helping riders to respond better to road conditions, monitor riding behaviour, and improve safety

RAVNEET PHOKELA | AETHER ENERGY CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER

This convergence of core industries and AI adoption will continue to position India as a global talent powerhouse

TARUN SHARMA | FOUNDTI CHIEF PRODUCT AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

SHORT TAKES

Global chip revenue touches \$793bn

New Delhi: The global semiconductor revenue reached \$793 billion globally in 2025, marking an increase of 21 per cent year on year, a report said Tuesday. The report from tech research company Gartner said that AI semiconductors — including processors, high band width memory and networking components — drove the growth and accounted for nearly one third of total sales in 2025. “This domination is set to rise as AI infrastructure spending is forecast to surpass \$1.3 trillion in 2026,” said Rajeev Rajput, Sr. Principal Analyst at Gartner. Nvidia strengthened its lead over Samsung by \$53 billion in 2025, becoming the first vendor to cross \$100 billion in semiconductor sales. Samsung Electronics retained the second rank with about \$73 billion in revenue, driven by memory (up 13 per cent), while SK Hynix rose to third spot with roughly \$61 billion as demand for High-Bandwidth Memory (HBM) in AI servers surged, the report said. Intel's market share eased to about 6 per cent, roughly half its 2021 level. The buildout of AI infrastructure is generating high demand for AI processors, HBM and networking chips.

RBI on licensing of urban co-op banks

Mumbai: The RBI Tuesday proposed resumption of issuance of licences for Urban Cooperative Banks (BKS) after more than two decades, subject to various regulatory requirements, including a minimum capital threshold of ₹300 crore. Since 2004, licensing for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) has been paused by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as it found that a large number of the newly licensed ones became financially unsound within a short period. In October last year, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra had announced that considering the positive developments in the sector during the last two decades and in response to the growing demand from the stakeholders, RBI would publish a discussion paper on licensing of new UCBs. On Tuesday, the RBI issued a discussion paper on ‘Licensing of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)’ and has invited comments on it from stakeholders by February 13, 2026. Over the years, Reserve Bank consolidated the UCBs, through amalgamation and closure of non-viable entities.

With each passing year, the global economy has become less capable of generating growth and seemingly more resilient to policy uncertainty

INDERMIT GILL | WORLD BANK GROUP'S CHIEF ECONOMIST

APPLE CALLS ON GOOGLE TO HELP SMARTEN UP SIRI

Apple will rely on Google to help finish its efforts to smarten up its virtual assistant Siri and bring other artificial intelligence features to the iPhone as the trendsetting company plays catch up in technology's latest craze

Iran unrest hits Indian basmati rice exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Civil unrest in Iran has started impacting India's basmati rice exports to the country, leading to a sharp fall in domestic prices, as exporters face payment delays and mounting uncertainties, an industry body said Tuesday. The Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF) urged exporters to reassess risks on Iranian contracts and adopt secured payment mechanisms, warning against over-leveraging inventories meant for the Iranian market. India exported USD 468.10 worth of basmati rice to Iran during April-November of 2025-26 fiscal, totalling 5.99 lakh tonnes, trade data showed. Iran is India's top basmati rice export destination, but the current financial year has seen growing stress on order flows, payment cycles, and shipment schedules due to the prevailing instability. The impact is now clearly visible in domestic mandis. Over the past week alone, prices of key basmati varieties have registered a steep decline, reflect-

ing buyer hesitation, delayed contracts and heightened risk perception among exporters. The domestic price of basmati rice variety 1121 has come down to ₹80 per kg from ₹85 per kg last week, while varieties 1509 and 1718 declined to ₹65 per kg from ₹70 per kg. “Iran has historically been a pillar market for Indian basmati. However, the current internal turmoil has disrupted trade channels, slowed payments and dented buyer confidence,” IREF National President Prem Garg said in a statement. He said exporters must exercise heightened caution, particularly with respect to credit exposure and shipment timelines. Importers have conveyed their inability to honour existing commitments and remit payments to India, creating uncertainty for exporters, the federation said. IREF has issued an advisory and appealed to stakeholders to diversify into alternative markets across West Asia, Africa and Europe to cushion any prolonged slowdown in Iran-bound shipments. “We are not sounding an

alarm, but urging prudence. In periods of geopolitical and internal instability, trade is often the first casualty. A calibrated approach is essential to protect both exporters and farmers,” Garg noted. The federation also addressed concerns over the recent remarks by US President Donald Trump, indicating that countries continuing trade with Iran may face a 25 per cent tariff. IREF clarified that Indian rice exports to the US are already subject to a 50 per cent tariff, up from 10 per cent earlier. Despite this, Indian rice exports to the US have remained resilient. India exported 2,40,518 tonnes of Basmati and non-Basmati rice to the US during April-November 2025-26, compared to 2,35,554 tonnes in the entire 2024-25 fiscal. The US is the 10th largest market for Indian rice globally and the fourth largest for Basmati rice. “There is limited clarity on whether the proposed 25 per cent tariff would be levied over and above the existing 50 per cent duty,” the federation noted, adding that it does not foresee a significant decline in exports even if tariffs rise further, given the unique position of Indian Basmati in global markets. However, IREF expressed greater concern over developments in Iran, where disruptions in local markets have affected trade settlements. Importers have conveyed their inability to honour commitments and remit payments to India, creating heightened uncertainty.

Stock markets end lower on foreign fund outflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 13: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower Tuesday after a day's breather, as investors pared exposure to index majors Reliance Industries, L&T and Bharti Airtel amid global tariff-related concerns. Market sentiment was also sluggish due to a weak start to the earnings season and continued flight of foreign capital from Indian markets, according to traders. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 250.48 points, or 0.30 per cent, to settle at 83,627.69. During the day, it declined 615.38 points, or 0.73 per cent, to 83,262.79. The 50-share NSE Nifty edged lower by 57.95 points or 0.22 per cent to 25,732.30. The session began on a negative note following disappointing results from IT major TCS and drifted lower for most of the session, though a rebound in the final hour trimmed some losses. “Domestic equities experienced a downturn due to renewed concerns about potential US tariffs on countries trading with Iran, overshadowing the initial optimism from the newly appointed US ambassador's positive statements on the trade deal. Investor sentiment remained cautious amidst the rupee's weakness, rising crude prices, higher

US bond yields, and persistent FII outflows. On a brighter note, India's December CPI remained within the RBI's target range, reinforcing expectations of future rate cuts. However, the Q3 earnings season commenced on a subdued note, with lacklustre results from a leading IT major. Profit-booking was prevalent across most sectors, though small-cap stocks showed notable gains,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. From the 30-Sensex firms, Trent, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, InterGlobe Aviation, Maruti, ITC, Adani Ports and Bharat Electronics were among the biggest lag-gards. In contrast, Eternal, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers. “...fresh selling in heavy-weights across sectors capped the upside. Ongoing geopolitical and global trade concerns also continued to weigh on risk appetite, keeping trading largely stock-specific,” Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking Ltd, said. The country's largest IT services exporter TCS Monday reported a 13.91 per cent drop in December quarter profit at ₹10,657 crore, majorly on a one-time impact of new labour costs.

New Kia Seltos unveiled at Tripti Kia

Bhubaneswar: Kia Motors, Tuesday officially unveiled its new and ultra-modern SUV, the New Kia Seltos, at Tripti Kia in the city. The model has been launched in the state in eight variants, with prices starting from ₹10.99 lakh, and is available in both petrol and diesel engine options. The new Seltos comes equipped with a host of advanced features, including a progressive Trinity display, 10-way power driver seat with memory function, and LED DRLs with welcome function. Compared to the previous version, the latest model offers more cabin space, higher ground clearance, increased length and width, and is available in 12 attractive colour options. Notably, premium features such as automatic air conditioning and cruise control have been introduced from the base variant itself, enhancing value for customers. The launch ceremony was attended by Ekamra MLA Babu Singh as the chief guest. Tripti Kia Managing Director Badrinarayan Samantaray, Director Rudra Narayan Samantaray, and General Manager Gopal Singh were also present on the occasion. Speaking at the event, Badrinarayan Samantaray said, “The new Seltos has been designed keeping in mind the evolving aspirations and needs of our customers. It offers a perfect balance of design, performance and technology, and we are confident it will be an ideal SUV choice for customers in Odisha.”

Passenger vehicle dispatches up 27% y-o-y in Dec: SIAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers increased 27 per cent year-on-year in December 2025, led by robust demand for utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said Tuesday. Total passenger vehicle sales stood at 3,99,216 units last month as compared with 3,14,934 units in the year-ago period, registering a growth of 26.8 per cent. Two-wheeler dispatches to dealers rose 39 per cent year-on-year to 15,41,036 units in December as against 11,05,565 units in the same month last year, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said in a statement. Total three-wheeler sales stood at 61,924 units last month, up 17 per cent against 52,733 units in December 2024. On sales outlook, SIAM noted that the industry enters the fourth quarter of 2025-26 with firm momentum after strong double-digit growth across all

vehicle segments in late 2025, and expects steady wholesale and retail volumes traction through the quarter. The year-end sales push, healthy pipeline of bookings, and the full transmission of 2025 interest rate cuts on loans are expected to support demand, pointing to continued growth into 2025-26, underpinned by stable macroeconomic condi-

tions and supportive policy reforms of the Government of India, it added. “While remaining watchful of geopolitical developments, the industry expects FY2025-26 to close on a positive growth trajectory, with policy-led tailwinds firmly in place, sustaining the robust performance witnessed in recent years,” the industry body stated.

FTA with EU to help boost India's exports to 27-nation bloc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: India and the European Union (EU) are negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA). Negotiations have reached the final stage. If finalised, this will be the 19th trade deal for India. The FTA is expected to help boost the country's exports to the 27-nation bloc. Since 2014, India has finalised seven trade pacts – Mauritius (April 2021 implemented), Australia (December 2022 implemented), UAE (May 2022 implemented), Oman (signed in December 2025), UK (signed in July 2025), EFTA (implemented in October 2025 - Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway), and New Zealand (talks concluded in December 2025). The imposition of high tariffs by the US has disrupted the global flow of goods. India is facing steep 50 per cent tariffs. The FTA is expected to help

Indian exporters diversify their shipments. It will also help reduce dependence on China. Benefits for India and the EU Tariffs or import duties are either reduced or eliminated under an FTA. Therefore, an FTA will open markets, align regulations between the two, and benefit key industries like technology, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and textiles. Lower duties will make Indian exports, including from labour-intensive sectors, such as garments, leather, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, more competitive in the EU. Similarly, Indian services exports, including telecommunications, business services, and transport, are also expected to grow significantly. According to think tank GTRI, the EU will benefit from higher exports of aircraft and parts, electrical machinery, diamonds, and chemicals to In-

dia. European service sectors such as intellectual property, business services, and IT and telecommunications may also see gains.

Bilateral Trade

The FTA will significantly boost two-way trade between India and the EU. India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was USD 136.53 billion in 2024-

25 (exports worth USD 75.85 billion and imports USD 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. In 2023-24, India exported USD 76 billion in goods and USD 30 billion in services to the EU,

while the EU exported USD 61.5 billion in goods and USD 23 billion in services to India. Within the EU, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Poland and the Netherlands are key destinations for Indian exporters. As per reports, the EU, with a GDP of about USD 19.5 trillion (France, Italy, Germany and Spain are major countries) and a population of over 450 million, is a major global trade player, exporting about USD 2.9 trillion and importing more than USD 2.6 trillion annually. India, with a population of 1.4 billion, exported USD 437 billion in goods and USD 387.5 billion in services. It imported goods worth USD 720 billion and USD 195 billion worth of services in 2024-25.

India's exports and imports

Major exports are petroleum products (Diesel and ATF), electronics (including smartphones), textiles, machinery

Rupee falls six paise to close at 90.23 against dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 13: The rupee declined 6 paise to close at 90.23 against the US dollar Tuesday, as a rebound in crude oil and high metal prices, coupled with a cautious market environment, dented investor sentiments. Forex traders said incessant outflow of foreign funds amid geopolitical tensions and weak equity markets also put pressure on the Indian currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 90.24 and touched the intra-day low of 90.30 against the greenback. The currency ended the session at 90.23 against the dollar, down 6 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee ended 1 paise higher at 90.17 against the US dollar. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset

ShareKhan, said the rupee declined amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and global risk aversion. Weak domestic markets, FII outflows and a surge in crude oil prices also pressurised the rupee. “However, optimism on the India-US trade deal and rising odds of a rate cut amid weak labour market reports last week may support the rupee at lower levels. Any intervention by the central bank may also support the rupee,” Choudhary said. Market sentiment improved after the new US envoy to India, Sergio Gor, on Monday said that both sides are actively engaged in firming up a trade deal, forex analysts said. According to Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, the USD-INR pair has immediate support at 89.90 and resistance at 90.40. “Short-term traders should watch the 89.90 level closely, as a move below it could trigger a short-term trend reversal,” he said. Meanwhile, the dollar in dex, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.09 per cent higher at 98.95. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.38 per cent higher at USD 64.75 per barrel in futures trade. and computers, organic chemicals, iron and steel, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and auto parts. Currently, India's textile exports to the EU face tariffs between 12-16 per cent, making Indian products less competitive compared to exports from countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam, which enjoy preferential market access under EU trade agreements, a GTRI report has said. Main imports are machinery, computers (including turbojets), electronics (including mobile phone parts and integrated circuits), aircraft, medical devices, scientific instruments, rough diamonds, organic chemicals, plastics, iron and steel, cars, and auto parts. India's key services exports to the EU are business services, telecommunication and IT, transportation services, while imports are intellectual property services, telecommunication and IT.

INDIA-NZ ODIs

Confident India eye series win

The Men in Blue look to close the door on New Zealand amid growing injury concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, Jan 13: Virat Kohli's imperious form has managed to offset mounting injury concerns around some key players and India would hope that the list doesn't get any longer as they close in on sealing the ODI series against New Zealand in the second game here Wednesday.

India made a winning start defeating New Zealand by four wickets in the lung-opener in Vadodara, but the hosts lost Washington Sundar for the remainder of the series due to a side strain.

The selectors have roped in Delhi's Ayush Badoni but in all likelihood, India would bring in another all-rounder in Nitish Kumar Reddy into the eleven given head coach Gautam Gambhir's preference for multi-skilled players.

On the eve of the first ODI, Rishabh Pant had copped a blow while batting against Indian throw-down staff and was ruled out of the series. His ouster had prompted the selectors to draft in Dhruv Jurel who can be another option for a specialist batter if the team management decides to go that way.

Despite the available options, India's white-ball set up would not want to see more injuries with the T20 World Cup less than a month away.

That squad would feature an entirely different batting lineup from the one in the ODIs.



But some names are common to both sides and an important one, all-rounder Tilak Varma, is out of at least the first three T20Is against the Kiwis due to a groin injury. However, all of these concerns are for later as the ongoing series continues to be about the two veterans, who have served Indian cricket with distinction. Kohli and Rohit Sharma are clearly enjoying themselves in what is the final leg of a glittering international run.

Kohli narrowly missed his 54th ODI ton in the first ODI but his stroke-filled 91-ball 93 set up India's win even though a mini collapse created a few nervous moments. However, none of that would worry the think-tank given the chasm between the two sides since New Zealand are al-

so heavily depleted for the ODIs.

Skipper Shubman Gill hit a measured half-century and his deputy Shreyas Iyer missed his by one run in the series opener. But a robust batting show heralded by a dazzling start from Rohit Sharma would keep India assured of going full throttle once again. For someone who has been batting in the nets with the same intensity as in the game, Kohli is riding high on confidence and performing at a different level.

It certainly seems to be a case of him being seemingly free of the burden of expectations and criticism.

There have been additional colours to his batting as neither has Kohli refrained from attacking from the start, nor

has he left out any runs out on the park. This is perhaps the reason why he became the fastest to 28,000 runs across formats in Vadodara. However, India would still like to see a significant improvement in their bowling performance, especially that of spinners, who had to deal with lack of grip and turn in Vadodara.

It was the fast bowlers' improvisation of taking the pace off the ball which resulted in a few breakthroughs in the last game and spinners would hope for better surface support here at the Niranjan Shah Stadium. Despite the loss in the opening ODI, New Zealand will take a lot of heart in running India close in the first game despite Kohli's exploits.

T20 WORLD CUP

BCB REFUSES TO BACK DOWN

The Bangladesh Cricket Board stays firm over security concerns amid ICC's reluctance to shift games out of India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Jan 13: The ICC Tuesday "requested" the Bangladesh Cricket Board to reconsider its demand of shifting the country's T20 World Cup matches out of India but the BCB has refused to back down, reiterating its security concerns.

In a statement, the BCB said the board's position remains unchanged despite the ICC's reluctance to entertain its request and both parties will continue to "explore possible solutions".

BCB has written to the ICC multiple times demanding that its World Cup games be shifted out of India due to security concerns but considering that the schedule for the T20 showpiece beginning February 7 is finalised, the world body is unlikely to relent.

"While the ICC highlighted that the tournament itinerary has already been announced and requested the BCB to reconsider its stance, the Board's position remains unchanged. Both parties agreed that discussions will continue to explore possible solutions," the BCB said.

"The BCB remains committed to safeguarding the well-being of its players, officials and staff while engaging constructively with the ICC to address the matter," said the BCB after its officials attended the video conference with ICC," it added.

While the BCB considers it unsafe for its players to travel to India, ICC's risk assessment report does not flag any specific



or direct threat to the team if it participates in the tournament.

In Tuesday's video conference with the ICC, the BCB was represented by its president Aminul Islam and CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury among other senior officials.

Bangladesh are scheduled to play three games in Kolkata and one in Mumbai during the league stage. BCB asked for a relocation after the BCCI instructed Kolkata Knight Riders to release pacer Mustafizur Rahman from its IPL 2026 roster amid violence against Hindus here.

Former captain Tamim Iqbal and current Test skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto have cautioned against a very hard-line approach with the former saying that decisions taken today would have repercussions 10 years down the line.

Shanto has voiced the psychological stress that the players are feeling at the prospect of missing a World Cup.

However, sports ministry advisor Asif Nazrul has taken an unyielding position, repeatedly stating that Bangladesh will not budge from its demand for relocation of its games to co-host Sri Lanka.

INDIA OPEN 2026

Lakshya upsets Ayush; Treesa-Gayatri advance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 13: Former champion Lakshya Sen and top women's doubles duo, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, made a commanding start to their India Open 2026 campaign while men's fourth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, seventh seed Kodai Naroaka of Japan and French sixth seed Alex Lanier were knocked out on the opening day of the BWF World Tour Super 750 event organised by the Badminton Association of India, in New Delhi Tuesday.

Sen needed just 36 minutes to seal a 21-12, 21-15 win over his academy-mate Shetty, while Treesa and Gayatri, the Syed Modi International winners, defeated Thailand's Ornnicha Jongsathapornpan and Sukitta Suwachai 21-15, 21-11 at the Indira Gandhi multi-purpose indoor stadium.

Before Sen took the court, Treesa and Gayatri provided a winning start to the hosts' campaign with a commanding performance.

The Indian combination will now face seventh seeds Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min of China, who defeated Francesca Corbett and Jennie Gai of the USA 21-12, 21-8.

Also advancing to the second round were the men's doubles pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, as they defeated the Malaysian combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi 21-15, 21-18 in the opening round. They will next face fourth seeds Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang of China.

Former World Champion PV Sindhu, men's singles stars Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy will kick off their campaign Wednesday.

Paris FC eliminate holders PSG

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Paris, Jan 13: Paris FC caused a major upset at the Parc des Princes as they knocked the holders Paris Saint-Germain out of the Coupe de France with 1-0 win in the Round of 32.

Despite dominating possession and creating numerous chances, PSG never managed to break down the opposing defense, as exemplified by Obed Nkambadio, who made several crucial saves. Luis Enrique's men were ultimately caught out



on a counter-attack finished by Jonathan Ikone, who sealed the victory for his former club in the 74th minute (1-0).

Alonso was immediately replaced by B team manager Alvaro Arbeloa, — they were teammates for Madrid, Liverpool and Spain and won the World Cup together in 2010

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madrid, Jan 13: Real Madrid pulled the trigger and replaced Xabi Alonso with B team man-

ager Alvaro Arbeloa.

Madrid said Monday Alonso left by mutual agreement but it followed a tumultuous stint that lasted less than eight months and came a day after Madrid lost to Barcelona 3-2 in the final of the Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia.

"Real Madrid wishes to announce that, by mutual agreement between the club and Xabi Alonso, it has been decided to bring his time as first team coach to an end. Xabi Alonso will always carry the affection



and admiration of all Madridistas because he is a Real Madrid legend and has always represented the values of our club. Real Madrid will always be his home," a statement said.

Alonso arrived last May under high expectations as

Carlo Ancelotti's replacement and pressure built as the team struggled to play well under his command. He had spat with players such as Vinicius Junior and widespread media reports said he lost control of the locker room.

Some players publicly supported the coach late last year but the situation didn't appear to improve much.

After Sunday's loss in Jeddah, Alonso appeared to want his team to do a guard of honor for Barcelona during the

awards ceremony but Kylian Mbappé and other players called him back and walked away. Mbappé was the first player to bid farewell.

He was at Madrid's helm in 34 matches across all competitions, winning 24, losing six and drawing four.

Madrid won the season's first clasico in October by 2-1 but still trails Barcelona by four points at the halfway point of La Liga. The team's next match is Wednesday at Albacete in the Copa del Rey round of 16.

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