



## leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST



accuracy • reliability • trust

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 sharing your 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 misdemeanor 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. **IANS**



## Rhea celebrates female friendship

lic made speak

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. **IANS**

**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



# ISHA SET TO MAKE BIG SCREEN DEBUT

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."

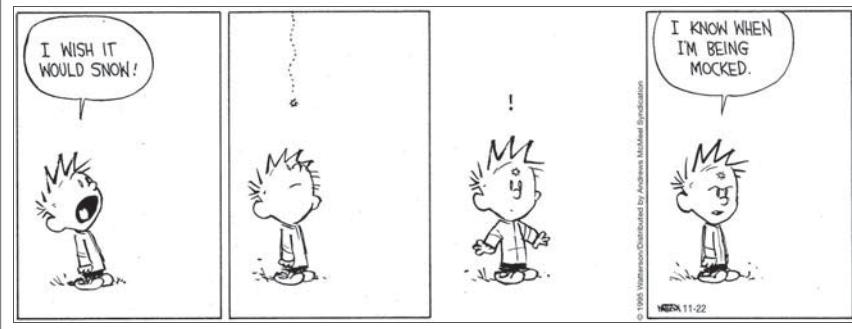
This comes amid the Supreme Court issued a statement criticising individuals and groups who feed stray dogs in public areas, asking rhetorically why they don't feed them at home or take responsibility for them personally instead of leaving them on busy streets where they can bite or scare people. **IANS**



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBES

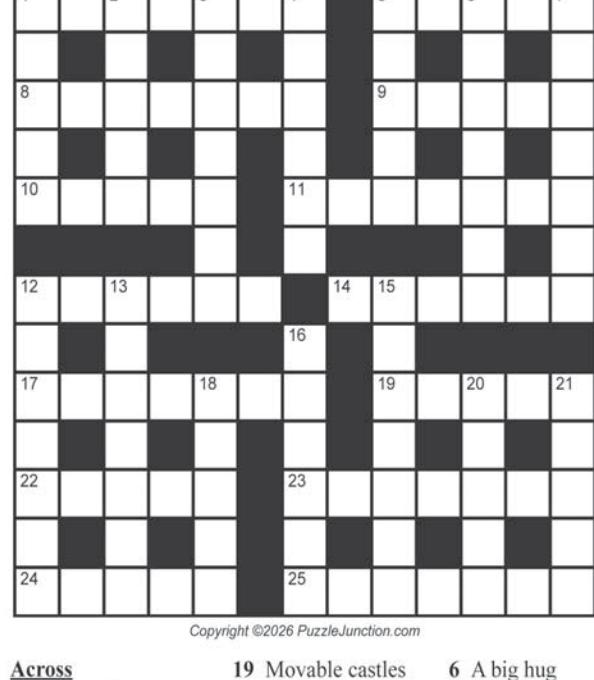


## BREVITY



## FUN POST

## CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2026 PuzzleJunction.com

## 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

- 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

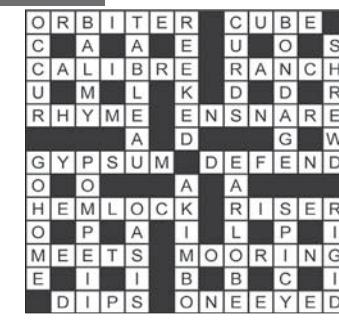
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## SUDOKU

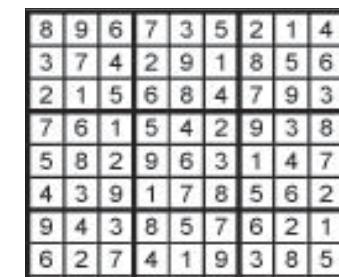
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



## SOLUTIONS



## CROSSWORD



## SUDOKU



# downtown

## NSD branch soon in Keonjhar

Art and culture  
are the soul  
of society: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Highlighting that art and culture are the soul of society, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday announced that a branch of the National School of Drama (NSD) will be soon established in Keonjhar and the state government will provide all possible assistance in this regard.

Attending the inauguration ceremony of an acting workshop organised by the NSD and Spirita Academy of Performing Art in Keonjhar as its chief guest, Majhi said, "Art and culture are the soul of any society. It reflects our thoughts, our struggles, our hopes and our dreams."

"With the support of the Central government, a branch of the NSD will be soon established in Keonjhar. The state government will provide all possible assistance for all its related developments," the CM said.

Majhi said, "Drama is a powerful medium to express our thoughts. It not only entertains but also educates. It asks questions, shares awareness and connects the audience



with the emotions of the society. Through drama, we learn empathy, discipline, teamwork and self-expression."

He said that NSD has played a historic role in shaping the Indian theatre scene and connecting artists with the performing arts from generation to generation. Keonjhar is a land rich in nature, tradition and cultural heritage. From folk music and dance to storytelling and rituals, the district carries a deep cultural

heritage. When a national institution like NSD comes to a district like Keonjhar, they help build a bridge between traditional and modern art, the CM said.

"Showing due respect to art and artists, our government has increased the allowance of artists. Our government is committed to promoting art and culture, supporting young talent, preserving traditional forms, and creating new platforms for creative expression.

We want our youth to dream big, but stay connected to their roots," he said.

"Every corner of Odisha is filled with the sweet aroma of folk music and folk art. Along with this, Odisha's folk art is rich in classical dances like Odissi and Chhau. Tribal culture is inextricably linked with Utkal traditions. Therefore, our government has taken many steps to promote and propagate the art and culture of the tribes," he said.

### PhD scholar killed

Bhubaneswar: A PhD scholar was killed, and another critically injured after their scooter hit a median on IIT-Bhubaneswar campus, a statement said Tuesday. The accident took place around 11.20pm Monday, it said. The two scholars were rushed to the hospital, but one of them succumbed to the injury, it added. The deceased was identified as Shankhasubhra Chakraborty, while the injured was Shakti Sagar Srivastav. Both of them hailed from Kolkata. The statement, issued by IIT-Bhubaneswar, said the rider lost control near a turn and hit the median. A nearby security patrol heard the crash and found the rider severely injured on the road. "The pillion rider was found conscious and lying on the pavement. The security team immediately transported both students to the institute's Sanjeevan Hospital," it said.

### Preparations for SIR in final stage: Addl CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Preparations for the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Odisha are in the final stage, though the Election Commission of India (ECI) is yet to announce the schedule for the exercise, a senior officer said Tuesday.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Special Secretary Sushanta Kumar Mishra said the state has been preparing for the SIR for the past five months.

The revision was last carried out in 2002. "We have been making preparations for the last five months, and it is almost in the final stage," Mishra said.

He said the number of polling booths in the state has increased to nearly 43,000 from 36,000 with the addition of around 7,000 new centres.

"Our effort is to limit the number of voters in each booth to 1,200, ensure that every eligible voter is properly registered and strengthen polling infrastructure ahead of upcoming elections," he said.

As part of the preparations, around 45,000 Booth-Level Officers have been appointed and trained in phases.

Training has also been imparted to District Election Officers, mostly Collectors, and Assistant Returning Officers in the rank of Additional District Magistrates.

He said the SIR process involves integrating voter data from the 2002 and 2025 electoral rolls to ensure that names included in earlier lists remain valid while new eligible voters are added. "Nearly 70 per cent of the mapping work has been completed, and the remaining will be finalised before publication of the updated rolls,"

Mishra said.

Moreover, since the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy has been increased from ₹2,300 to ₹2,369 per quintal, the state government should be paying ₹3,169 per quintal instead of ₹3,100. "However, the government is paying only ₹3,100, which is yet another act of deception against farmers," he said.

Addressing a press conference, BJD vice president Sanjay Dasburma, media coordinator and party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty, and media coordinator Priyabrata Majhi strongly criticised the gross mismanagement in paddy procurement and the government's apathy towards farmers.

At a time when an alarming situation has arisen in paddy procurement across the state, nearly 70 per cent of Odisha's population that depends on agriculture has fallen victim to the betrayal of the state government, said senior BJD leaders while briefing media.

Addressing a press conference, BJD vice president Sanjay Dasburma, media coordinator and party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty, and media coordinator Priyabrata Majhi strongly criticised the gross mismanagement in paddy procurement and the government's apathy towards farmers.

Since nearly 70 per cent of

## Parida launches 'We'll Study in Our Language'

The Deputy CM highlights the state government's commitment to ensuring a safe, equitable, and respectful environment for women and children, emphasising that women empowerment is the key to a developed Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida inaugurated a series of initiatives, including 'We'll Study in Our Language', at Lok Seva Bhawan here Tuesday.

Launching the initiatives, Parida, who also holds the Women and Child Development (W&CD) portfolio, highlighted the state government's commitment to ensuring a safe, equitable, and respectful environment for women and children, emphasising that women empowerment is the key to a developed Odisha.

According to W&CD department, 'We'll Study in Our Language', a five-year initiative being implemented in line with NEP 2020, will provide early education in mother tongues for children aged 3-6 in Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri districts.

"Languages covered include Munda, Kui, Soura, Kuvu, Gondi, and Koya. Anganwadi workers will receive language-specific training, teaching materials, and audio-visual content. Pacts were signed with Pratham Foundation and Piramal Foundation for this programme," the department said.

Parida encouraged popularising the initiative across households, similar to the 'Subhadra Yojana', to enhance early education engagement at the grassroots level.

The Deputy CM inaugurated



### KEY INITIATIVES

- 100-DAY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE
- PILOT PROJECT TO PREVENT ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AND SUPPORT YOUNG MOTHERS
- ICDS STAFF QUARTERS IN BOUDH AND KANDHAMAL
- NEW STATE INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN BUILDING IN BARPALI OF BARGHARH

a 100-day campaign to prevent child marriage.

"This state-level campaign aims to strengthen girl child education, awareness, and protection through active participation of communities, youth leaders, Anganwadi workers, and institutional platforms. Activities include cycle rallies, youth meetings, human chains, school-college awareness programmes, and digital outreach," it said.

Parida also inaugurated a pilot project to prevent adolescent pregnancy and support young mothers.

"Launched in collaboration with UNICEF in Mayurbhanj district, this initiative will provide integrated support in

health, nutrition, education, social protection, re-skilling, and rehabilitation, serving as a future model for state-wide implementation," the W&CD department said.

The W&CD Minister inaugurated residential quarters for ICDS staff. The new residential facilities for field officers were unveiled in Kandhamal and Boudh districts.

The day also witnessed opening of the new State Institute for Women & Children (SIWC) building in Barpali of Bargharpur district.

"The Deputy CM inaugurated the state-of-the-art administrative building for the SIWC, which will strengthen training and capacity-building initiatives," it pointed out.

**BADE SAPNO KA RAKHE KHAYAL LIC AMRITBAAL**  
UIN: 512N365V02  
Plan No. 774

**Insurance Plan for Children**

**Product's Key Features**

- Attractive Guaranteed Addition throughout the Policy Term
- Maturity age between 18-25 Years
- Option to choose Single/Limited premium payments

Plan is also available online for sale  
A Non-Par, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Savings Plan

Download LIC Mobile App Visit: licindia.in Call Centre Services 0322 6827 6827

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

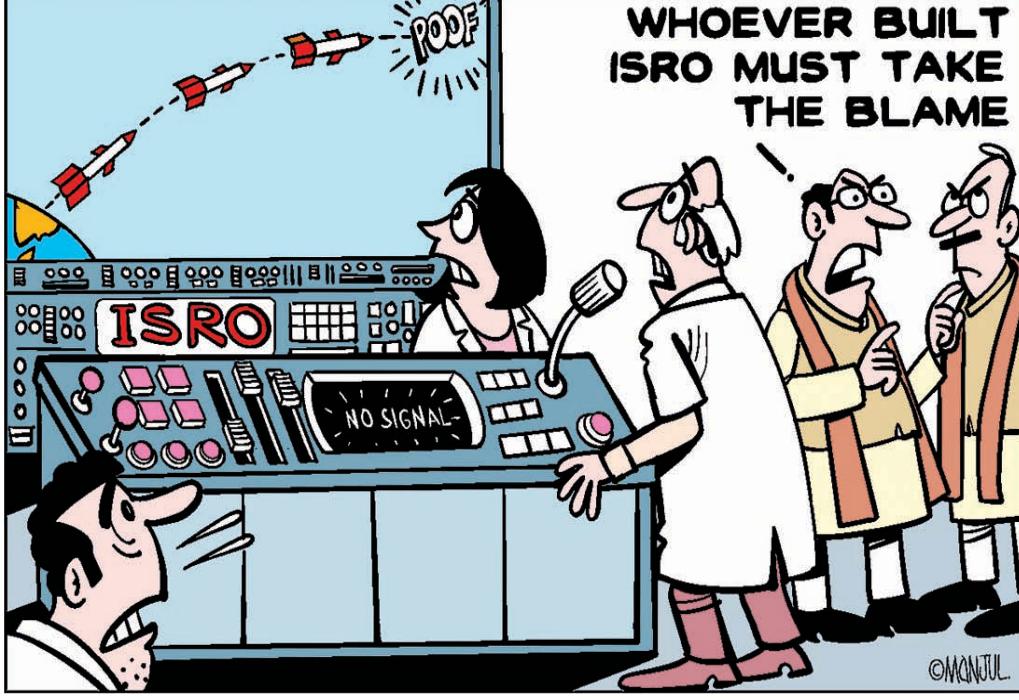
Follow us: LIC India Forever | IRDAI Reg No. 512

Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say H1!

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

LIC/2024-25/17/ENG

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



### WHOEVER BUILT ISRO MUST TAKE THE BLAME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar: A PhD scholar was killed, and another critically injured after their scooter hit a median on IIT-Bhubaneswar campus, a statement said Tuesday. The accident took place around 11.20pm Monday, it said.

The two scholars were rushed to the hospital, but one of them succumbed to the injury, it added. The deceased was identified as Shankhasubhra Chakraborty, while the injured was Shakti Sagar Srivastav. Both of them hailed from Kolkata.

The statement, issued by IIT-Bhubaneswar, said the rider lost control near a turn and hit the median. A nearby security patrol heard the crash and found the rider severely injured on the road.

"The pillion rider was found conscious and lying on the pavement. The security team immediately transported both students to the institute's Sanjeevan Hospital," it said.

## BJP govt betrayed farmers: BJD



Odisha's population depends on agriculture, paddy procurement is a critically important issue. However, it is extremely unfortunate that the procurement process this year has become completely chaotic, said Dasburma.

During the election campaign, the BJP had assured farmers that all surplus paddy in the state would be procured. "But the ground reality is entirely different. Paddy procurement is not taking place as scheduled. An examination of official procurement data clearly reveals that the situation is deeply alarming," Dasburma stated. He pointed out that while 19,66,181 farmers are registered in the state, only 3,40,294 have so far been able to sell their paddy.

While Odisha had set a paddy procurement target of 73 lakh metric tonnes, only 17.85 lakh metric tonnes have been procured so far. In contrast, neighboring Chhattisgarh, which had a target of 80 lakh metric tonnes, has already procured 97 lakh metric tonnes of paddy.

"This clearly demonstrates that Odisha's paddy procurement system has been miserable and erratic," said Dasburma.

Addressing a press conference, BJD vice president Sanjay Dasburma, media coordinator and party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty, and media coordinator Priyabrata Majhi strongly criticised the gross mismanagement in paddy procurement and the government's apathy towards farmers.

At a time when an alarming situation has arisen in paddy procurement across the state, nearly 70 per cent of Odisha's population that depends on agriculture has fallen victim to the betrayal of the state government, said senior BJD leaders while briefing media.

Since nearly 70 per cent of

in eight districts – Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Nayagarh, Jajpur and Kandhamal. The directives of the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary have thus turned out to be nothing more than empty words," Dasburma noted.

While Odisha had set a paddy procurement target of 73 lakh metric tonnes, only 17.85 lakh metric tonnes have been procured so far. In contrast, neighboring Chhattisgarh, which had a target of 80 lakh metric tonnes, has already procured 97 lakh metric tonnes of paddy.

Moreover, since the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy has been increased from ₹2,300 to ₹2,369 per quintal, the state government should be paying ₹3,169 per quintal instead of ₹3,100. "However, the government is paying only ₹3,100, which is yet another act of deception against farmers," he said.

Addressing a press conference, BJD vice president Sanjay Dasburma, media coordinator and party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty, and media coordinator Priyabrata Majhi strongly criticised the gross mismanagement in paddy procurement and the government's apathy towards farmers.

At a time when an alarming situation has arisen in paddy procurement across the state, nearly 70 per cent of Odisha's population that depends on agriculture has fallen victim to the betrayal of the state government, said senior BJD leaders while briefing media.

Since nearly 70 per cent of

every eligible voter is properly registered and strengthen polling infrastructure ahead of upcoming elections," he said. As part of the preparations, around 45,000 Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) have been appointed and trained in phases. Mishra said, adding that training has also been imparted to District Election Officers, mostly Collectors, and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) in the rank of Additional District Magistrates.

He said the SIR process involves integrating voter data from the 2002 and 2025 electoral rolls to ensure that names included in earlier lists remain valid while new eligible voters are added. "Nearly 70 per cent of the mapping work has been completed, and the remaining will be finalised before publication of the updated rolls,"

Mishra said.

Addressing a press conference, BJD vice president Sanjay Dasburma, media coordinator and party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty, and media coordinator Priyabrata Majhi strongly criticised the gross mismanagement in paddy procurement and the government's apathy towards farmers.

At a time when an alarming situation has arisen in paddy procurement across the state, nearly 70 per cent of Odisha's population that depends on agriculture has fallen victim to the betrayal of the state government, said senior BJD leaders while briefing media.

Since nearly 70 per cent of

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 In-foxy 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.- Naikanidhi, 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.

# downtown

## 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 Kakapur 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-

jor 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.

## 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 Pokharipat 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 Rabu 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

CANDIDATES DEMANDED IMMEDIATE RESOLUTION OF TECHNICAL FAULTS, INTRODUCTION OF AN EDIT/ CORRECTION FACILITY, AND EXTENSION OF THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

mental distress, especially among unemployed aspirants.

Another aspirant Subhrat 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.

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 ₹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

problems in the 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

## PHW explores birthplace of 'Purnachandra Bhashakosha'

POST NEWS NETWORK



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.

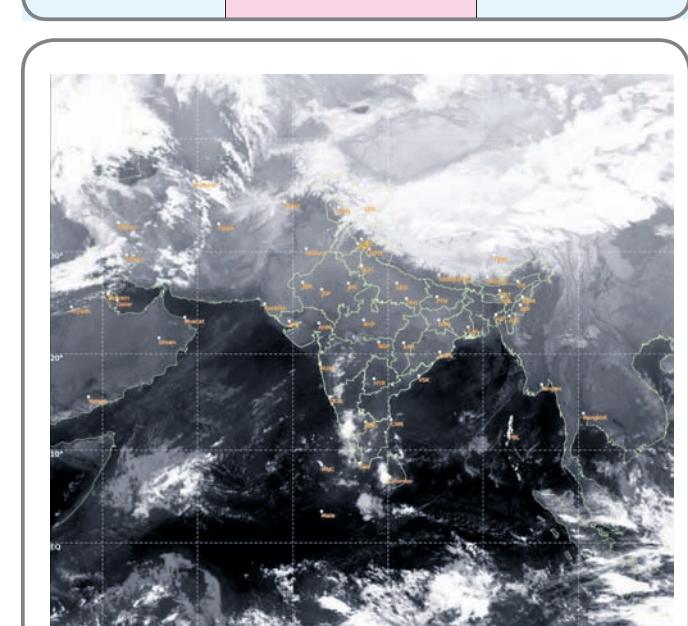
After offering prayers at the ancient Durga Madhava Temple in Biragobindapur Shasana, established in the 17th century by Govinda Vidyadhar, minister of Gajapati Prataparudra Dev, they visited Lord Biswanath Mahadev at the end of the village. The participants also closely observed several nearby ancient 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	BOURSES
INDEX 90.25 ▲ 0.01	SENSEX 83627.69 ▲ 250.48
EURO 105.35 ▲ 0.17	NIFTY 25732.30 ▲ 57.95

GOLD ₹142,549 ▲ ₹517

SILVER ₹278,113 ▲ ₹9143



### WEATHER

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



# Potato output hit in Koraput; officials blame climate change

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Jan 13:** Climate change has reportedly put a dent on potato cultivation in Koraput district, where farmers report lower yields and poor-quality produce this season.

As per official reports, erratic and excessive rainfall, coupled with rising temperatures during dry spells, adversely affected the tuber crop. Potatoes were cultivated over 3,500 hectares during the kharif season, with a target yield of 150 quintals per hectare.

Under a subsidy scheme, the horticulture department supplied potato seed procured from the Odisha State Seed Corporation to farmers. While the plants showed healthy growth and good flowering initially, many cultivators suffered losses at harvest time.

Farmers complained of rotten potatoes, undersized tubers and fewer potatoes per plant. Rupak Turuk, a farmer from Umri village under Koraput block, said his crop appeared healthy throughout the growing stage but yielded mostly rotten and small potatoes during harvest. He blamed inferior-quality seed for the losses.

Similar complaints were raised by farmers Krishna Mali and Arjun Mali of Patmaliguda village in Dasmantpur block.

Agriculture observer Sarat Patnaik said hundreds of farmers across the district have been



affected by poor potato yields this year. He noted that Koraput requires around 200 bags of potato seed annually but has yet to become self-sufficient in producing quality seed locally.

When contacted, Sudam Biswal, deputy director of the Horticulture Department, said the situation this year was mainly due to the impact of climate change.

He said some farmers sowed potato seed early or late this season. In the district, kharif potato is cultivated as a 100-day crop. Tuber formation generally begins about 30 days after sowing, and the crop attains maturity between 30 and 60 days. During this stage, a temperature range of 17 to 20 degrees Celsius is required.

However, during the tuber formation period this year, heavy rainfall led to water-

logging in fields that lacked proper drainage facilities, resulting in crop damage. Biswal said fluctuations in temperature were also a key reason for the decline in potato production.

A crop damage report related to potato cultivation will be collected. Farms where more than 33 per cent of the crop has been damaged will be inspected, and eligible farmers will be included on a priority basis in various horticulture department schemes during the upcoming Rabi season.

Biswal said rain-fed potato grown in Koraput fetches good market prices during the festive season. He added that Koraput is suitable for potato seed production, and the government has taken steps to promote potato seed production in the coming year.

## Newborn jumbo calf found dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bonai, Jan 13:** An elephant calf was found dead in the Kelo reserve forest under the Jarda forest area of Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh district Tuesday.

Forest officials, veterinarians and the rescue team jointly visited the spot Tuesday following the direction of the Deogarh DFO who is in charge of Bonai forest division.

After continuous tracking, they found the carcass of a male elephant calf. Veterinarians conducted a post-mortem of the carcass in the presence of forest personnel and the DFO (in-charge) of Bonai. Preliminary inquiry indicated that the elephant calf was dead at the time of birth.

To ascertain the exact reasons behind its death, samples were collected from various parts of the carcass during the post-mortem and sent to Bhubaneswar for examination.

## Mother-son duo sustains injuries in acid attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pattamundai, Jan 13:** A long-running land dispute escalated into a brutal acid attack in Bachhara village under Pattamundai Adarsha police station limits Monday evening, leaving a mother and her son seriously injured, police said Tuesday.

The victims, identified as Rabindra Sahu and his mother, sustained severe injuries after acid was allegedly thrown on them by a neighbour, Vijay Sahu, following an old rivalry over land ownership. Both were initially rushed to the Pattamundai sub-divisional hospital and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, where they are undergoing treatment.

Police registered a case (16/2026) in connection with the incident and arrested the accused. He was later produced before a local court, said Patta-

mundai Adarsha police station IIC Bandana Patra.

According to police, Rabindra Sahu and Vijay Sahu had been involved in a prolonged dispute over land, with earlier incidents already under investigation at the police station. The tension reportedly took a violent turn Monday when Vijay Sahu allegedly attacked Rabindra and his mother while Rabindra was engaged in household work. The accused is said to have worn gloves while carrying out the attack.

Following a complaint, police detained the accused and intensified the investigation. A scientific team visited the spot to conduct a forensic examination Tuesday. During the investigation, police seized three bottles of acid, a sharp weapon and the gloves allegedly used during the attack.

Further investigation is underway.

## Collector transfers Purushottampur ABDO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Jan 13:** Validating a long-standing demand by the Purushottampur bar association, the Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan ordered transfer of the local ABDO Nirakar Jena. Jayashri Nayak has been posted as the replacement of Jena as Purushottampur ABDO.

As per the order, Nirakar has been posted to Sheragada block. Jayashri was brought to Purushottampur from Chhatrapur block where she was working earlier.

For the unversed, Purushottampur bar association had presented a demand letter to the Collector 6th January alleging bribery demands by ABDO Nirakar Jena for marriage certification and other government services. The Collector issued transfer orders, vide letter number 222/08.01.2026, after conducting inquiry based on the allegations made by the bar association.

**Berhampur, Jan 13:** A local court here Tuesday sentenced a man and his second wife to 10 years in prison for the murder of their minor daughter.

Additional District Judge-III Bibaswati Gautam convicted A Dibakar (36), and his wife S Tapeya (32), holding them guilty of killing the six-year-old girl. The court pronounced the sentence after concluding the

## Short circuit sparks fire at Jharsuguda railway station

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Jan 13:** A fire broke out at Jharsuguda main railway station Tuesday morning following an electrical short circuit, causing damage to valuable equipment and official documents, officials said.

The incident occurred at around 11am near platform no-1 and the railway station's telecom section. Thick black smoke engulfed parts of the platform area, triggering panic among passengers and railway personnel.

Railway police immediately evacuated passengers from the affected platforms and shifted them to safer locations. The fire



department was alerted, and three fire tenders along with three teams rushed to the spot.

Firefighters, assisted by railway police personnel, battled the blaze for nearly three hours, before bringing it under control.

District Fire Officer Arun Topno said the fire originated

in the telecom section due to a short circuit and later spread to areas outside the platform as well. "Several valuable materials and important documents were destroyed in the fire. It took considerable effort to douse the flames completely," he said.

Jharsuguda station master confirmed that some official papers and electrical cables were damaged in the incident without any casualties.

Railway operations and some departmental activities were temporarily disrupted due to the incident, but normalcy was restored after the fire was brought under control, officials said.

## Dad, stepmom get 10 yrs in prison for child's murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

trial in the case.

According to the prosecution, Dibakar of Tentulia Sahi had married K Shashi, daughter K Bhima of Digapahandi in 2015 under Hindu rites. The couple had a daughter. Shashi died in 2020, after which Dibakar married Tapeya.

After the second marriage, the child, identified as K Tapaswi, was allegedly subjected to physical abuse by her stepmother, in which Dibakar was

allegedly complicit as well, police said. Meanwhile, the child was found dead inside the house February 28, 2022. Bhima, the father of Dibakar's first wife Sashi, visited his house and enquired about his granddaughter. However, he failed to give any satisfactory reply following which Bhima lodged a complaint at Digapahandi police station alleging that Dibakar and Tapeya had beaten the child to death.

Police registered a case-92/22, sent the body for postmortem and seized a bloodstained stick from the spot. Both the accused were arrested and later chargedsheeted by the then investigating officer, Inspector Deepak Behera.

During the trial, the court recorded statements of 26 witnesses. The accused duo was produced in the court at the time of pronouncement of the verdict.

## Jaundice at OAV: Samples collected

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Gondia, Jan 13:** A PA special team led by Dhenkanal Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Sanjay Kumar Mohapatra Tuesday inspected Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya at Bishwanathpur in Gondia block following reports of jaundice outbreak there.

Blood samples of 197 students were collected for laboratory test. Food safety officer Lopamudra Nayak collected food and water samples too. The team conducted inspections at two private hos-

tels near the school. Water from a well at one hostel was found to be contaminated, while the owner of the other hostel was found to have locked the premises and fled.

Engineers from Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation department visited the spot to assess drinking water and sanitation facilities. Gondia BDO Pabitra Kumar Behera also took stock of the situation.

Students and parents alleged that unhygienic toilets and poor-quality food at the school caused jaundice and held the school authorities responsible.

## Nabarangpur bandh over paddy procurement mess

**Nabarangpur:** Alleging large-scale irregularities in paddy procurement, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday observed a 12-hour bandh across seven blocks of Nabarangpur district. The party alleged chaos since the start of paddy procurement at mandis. Farmers complained of delays in token issuance, exploitation in the name of katri-chhatni (deductions and rejections), and denial of entry to mandis even for minor delays. They also alleged lack of basic facilities at procurement centres. The dawn-to-dusk bandh was led by Nabarangpur district BJD president and Dabugaon MLA Manohar Randhari, along with former MP Pradeep Majhi. A memorandum addressed to the Governor was submitted through the District Collector.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No.: eT-M-BG-PURI-42-2026

NAME OF WORK : TRANSPORTATION OF ALL TYPES BOGIES OF BG COACHES AND INCLUDING MECHANIZED LOADING/UNLOADING, FROM COACHING DEPOT, PURI TO CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR &amp; BACK FOR A PERIOD OF 04(FOUR) YEARS. AND VANDE BHARAT BOGIES TRANSPORT FROM PURI TO TIRUPATI WORKSHOP FOR SS-I SCHEDULED &amp; BACK.

Advertised Value : ₹ 3,13,52,431.78,

EMD : ₹ 3,06,800/-, Tender Document

Cost : ₹ 11,800/-, Period of

Completion : 48 Months.

Bidding Start Date : 15.01.2026.

Tender Closing Date and Time :

At 1530 Hrs of 29.01.2026.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-tender documents and corrigendum is available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Coaching Depot Officer/

PR-1004/Q/25-26

## Expression of Interest for Development of Green Cover Patches in Railway Station approaches

Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Individuals, NGO's, Trusts, Charitable Institutions, Corporates, Government Bodies and Self-help groups for the Development of Green cover patches in Railway Station approaches for beautification of Railway area/premises. Policy guidelines on beautification of Railway area/premises shall be applicable as per Railway Board's letter no. 2022/LML-II/15/1, dated 23.09.2022. MOU shall also govern as per this guideline. [Link: [https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/land\\_amen/downloads/2022/Revised-Policy-Guidelines-280922.pdf](https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/land_amen/downloads/2022/Revised-Policy-Guidelines-280922.pdf)]. The Applicant shall submit the general information about them in the prescribed formats enclosed along with this EOI as per format Annexure -A for different stations as detailed below. It is desirable that Applicants submit the photos, details of similar works executed by them, if any along with this EOI. Sl.No.: EOI No. as per Annexure-A & Station are as follows: 1; EOI No.: CKP-ENGG-EOI-WEST-BEAUTIFICATION-25-26-02 & Rourkela & Jharsuguda. 2; EOI No.: CKP-ENGG-EOI-EAST-BEAUTIFICATION-25-26-02 & Tatanagar. 3; EOI No.: CKP-ENGG-EOI-SOUTH-BEAUTIFICATION-25-26-02 & Chaitabasa. Closing Date: 02.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). Opening Date: 02.02.2026 at 15.30 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). For any query/details, parties may contact office of the Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co-ord) Chakradharpur of Chakradharpur Division during working hours. The EOI in a sealed envelope along with details as per Annexure A, which is available in link mentioned below with any other suggestions, if any to be reached within 02.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. in the office of Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-Ord/Chakradharpur and opened on 02.02.2026 at 15.30 hrs., Engineering Department, DRM Office Complex, AP/Post Chakradharpur, Dist- West Singhbhum, Pin-833102, Jharkhand. M.No.: 9771467081, 7319936830, Email ID: [tender.ckp@gmail.com](mailto:tender.ckp@gmail.com). All the intended agencies/parties are requested to visit the site location before submission of EOI. Detail EOI notifications are uploaded in <https://ser.indianrailways.gov.in/>→Divisions→Chakradharpur→NOTIFICATIONS→NOTIFICATIONS→PUBLICATION OF REVISED EOI NOTICE TO SER/CKP WEB PORTAL]. (PR-1055) Divisional Railway Manager/Engg, Chakradharpur

South Eastern Railway We serve with a smile

## E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

REGIONAL OFFICE (SAMBALPUR REGION), At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob: 77520-50804

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) &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 Borrower/Guarantor/Legal Heirs/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues
1.	ARB, CUTTACK, PH.: 8249067773 / 7008973027 / 1 (For Cash Credit) Borrower: Santilata Das, W/o: Late Ramesh Chandra Das, C/o: Mr. Rasa Bihari Das, At: Friends Colony, Buxibazar, Mangalabag, Cuttack-753001 / Guarantor: Legal heirs of Late Bindu Bihari Das are: a) Madhusmita Das, W/o: Late Bindu Bihari Das, b) Santilata Das, W/o: Late Ramesh Chandra Das, Both are At: Thoria Sahi, Mangalabag, Cuttack-753001, 2) (For Cash Credit) Borrower: Mr. Subrat Kumar Pattaikai, S/o: Mr. Saroj Pattaikai, C/o: Mr. Rasa Bihari Das, At: Friends Colony, Buxibazar, Mangalabag, Cuttack-753001 / Guarantor : Legal heirs of Late Bindu Bihari Das are: a) Madhusmita Das, W/o: Late Bindu Bihari Das, b) Santilata Das, W/o: Late Ramesh Chandra Das, Both are At: Thoria Sahi, Mangalabag, Cuttack-753001 / Total Dues: ₹3,06,11,000/- interest, costs and expenses,			



## 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 weakened 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.

### 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.**

AYN 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 engaged 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!”

# HOBBESIAN WORLD ORDER

**O**ne 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 MAGA 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, 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



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

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 Rodriguez – 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.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### 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**

**I**f 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.”

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.

### 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*

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**HERE NOW  
OrissaPOST**

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



www.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 bona fide 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*

KASHMIR 'WHITE COLLAR' TERROR MODULE

# MOSQUE PROFILING BEGINS

The move has drawn criticism from National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of religious bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, saying it is an infringement on constitutional freedom of religion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Jan 13:** Authorities have started the process of profiling mosques, madrassas and people associated with their management in Kashmir following the busting of the 'white collar' terror module last year, officials said.

The move has drawn criticism from National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of religious bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, saying it is an infringement on constitutional freedom of religion.

A proforma has been given to village numberdars (village-level revenue department employees) for getting the details of mosques, madrassas, imams (prayer leaders), teachers and management committee members of these institutions, the officials said.

The focus of the enumeration drive is on the finances of mosques and madrassas, including the source of funds used for construction and meeting the day-to-day expenses, they said.

The officials said that besides the usual details, the teachers of madrassas and imams are also expected to provide details of their Aadhar card, bank account, property ownership, social media handles, passport, ATM card, ration card, driving licence, SIM cards and mobile phone model along with the IMEI number.

A senior official, who wished not to be named, said that among the objectives of the drive is to create a database of mosques and madrassas and the people associated with these.

"During the investigation into the 'white collar' terror module, which was busted in November last year, it came to light that some of the suspects were radicalised through madrassas or social media. The role of some imams like Moulvi Irfan has also put them under the scanner," the official said.

The proforma also seeks details about the Muslim sect



-- Barelv, Deobandi, Hanafi or Ahle Hadeeth - the mosque or the madrassa is following.

The officials said the rise of puritanical Islam, which abhors the Sufi version that is widely followed in Kashmir, is also seen as a factor in radicalisation of the youth in the valley.

The imams, teachers and management committee members have also been asked to provide details of any past involvement in terrorist or subversive activities, including details about any pending cases or convictions by a court of law.

Srinagar Lok Sabha MP, Mehdi, said the profiling of mosques, madrassas and imams by the police in Jammu and Kashmir is an infringement of the religious freedom guaranteed under the Constitution. "There are already so many layers of surveillance, by CID, IB and the paramilitary forces. This intimidation and surveillance is an infringement of the right to practise religion guaranteed by the Constitution," Mehdi told reporters here.

"They (police) already have details by virtue of Aadhaar and other documents. This profiling is an attempt to intimidate the specific class of people from a particular religion who are involved in preaching the religion," he added.

He alleged that the profiling seems to be an exercise by the BJP and the RSS to control the mosques. "It looks like imams would be told to deliver sermons which are approved by the BJP or maybe sent by the

RSS," the MP said.

The MMU, the largest conglomerate of Islamic religious organisations in Jammu and Kashmir, expressed deep concern and raised questions about the ongoing police exercise in the valley seeking "extensive and intrusive information" regarding mosques, their management committees, imams and individuals associated with places of worship and even their family members.

The MMU has learnt that detailed multi-page forms are being distributed by the police seeking highly personal and sensitive information, including private identification details, family particulars, financial information, phone details, digital and social media profiles, passport details, travel history and even phone IMEI details... Such an unprecedented and invasive data-collection exercise has caused widespread anxiety among religious institutions, imams, Khateeb and the public in general," the MMU, headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, said in a statement.

The amalgam said this exercise is in complete violation of fundamental rights and the right to privacy and personal information even guaranteed under the Constitution.

Mosques are sacred institutions meant for worship, guidance and community service, and their internal religious affairs cannot be subjected to arbitrary surveillance and intrusive scrutiny. The nature and depth of information be-

ing sought goes far beyond any routine administrative requirement raising serious questions of intent, reflecting an attempt to control and regulate religious institutions through coercive means and checks," it added.

Jammu and Kashmir Police, with the help of UP Police and Haryana Police, busted a 'white collar' terror module in the first week of November last year. Nine people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives seized with the uncovering of the module involving Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, spanning across Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Among those arrested were Dr Adeel Rather in Sahanpur, Dr Muzammil Ganaie in Faridabad and Dr Shaheen from Lucknow.

The 2,900 kg of explosive material included ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate and sulphur. Of this, 360 kg of inflammable material, suspected to be ammonium nitrate, and some arms and ammunition were recovered from Ganaie in a rented accommodation in Faridabad.

Another Kashmiri, Dr Umer Nabi, was driving the explosive-laden car that blew up outside the Red Fort Metro station in Delhi November 10.

Ganaie, a teacher at the Al Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad, was arrested after Jammu and Kashmir Police named him as a wanted person in a case involving putting up posters supporting Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Srinagar.

Multiple JeM posters were found pasted at different locations in the Bhopal Nowgam area of the city here October 19, threatening and intimidating the police and security forces.

That was the starting point of the investigation, leading to the unravelling of the inter-state terror network.

The police said the investigation revealed a 'white collar' terror ecosystem, involving radicalised professionals and students in contact with foreign handlers, operating from Pakistan and other countries.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**Ahmedabad, Jan 13:** From private terraces to high-priced viewing galleries, the old city's rooftops are transforming into a lucrative rental market this 'Uttarayan' (Makar Sankranti), fetching owners as much as ₹10,000 to ₹80,000 for a single day of kite flying.

Private terraces in the 'pols' (traditional neighbourhoods) of Khadia, Raipur, Sarangpur, and Astodia are being transformed into premium viewing galleries.

While modern Ahmedabad is dotted with luxurious high-rises, the true essence of the festival stays alive in the narrow streets of the old city. Travel agents and locals say that wealthy residents from affluent families are more willing to pay extra to experience the city's heritage.

"Amdavadis living in apartments worth crores in posh areas willingly pay for the heritage experience -- the warmth, welcome and hospitality -- by renting rooftops in the 'pols' of the old city," Ajay Modi, a travel agent who facilitates terrace rentals during Uttarayan, told PTI. Jubilant cries of "Kai Po Che" will echo through old neighbourhoods of Khadia, Raipur, Sarangpur and Astodia January 14.

"Kai Po Che" is a triumphant Gujarati phrase yelled during kite flying, meaning "I have cut the kite!" celebrating when one's kite string severs an opponent's kite in a competition.

Renting terraces during Uttarayan is a trend in the old city. For a day, these rooftops turn into shared spaces of belonging, where hosts and visitors come together to celebrate the festival in its most authentic form.

To mark the occasion, ter-



**HERITAGE FOR HIRE**

racers are carefully painted and adorned with colourful balloons, intricate dori work, patriotic tricolour-themed decor and bright garden umbrellas. The skyline comes alive with colour and movement.

Rooftop owners thoughtfully curate these visual elements, consciously transforming their homes into vibrant cultural spaces that attract visitors and promote tourism, while showcasing the city's living heritage.

According to Modi, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are particularly keen to experience Uttarayan in their homeland and reconnect with their roots. He, however, noted that this year the number of NRI revellers has declined considerably, attributing it to the stringent policies in the US. Despite this, the old city continues to draw visitors from across Gujarat and the country, all eager to experience Uttarayan in its most traditional setting.

At Chetna Soni's terrace in Khadia, for instance, families from Mumbai arrive each year to celebrate the festival. "A family of 15 has been coming to my rooftop for the last three years," Soni said.

"The heritage that lies in the heart of Ahmedabad, within the narrow lanes of these pols, has a charm of its own. It's a lifetime, memorable experience," she added. Hosts like Soni go the extra mile to ensure comfort and authenticity. "We arrange Gujarati refreshments, mineral water, a traditional lunch, a music system and kites for our guests," she said.

**ZILLA PARISHAD, JAJPUR**  
**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
No.CAD-3005: Zilla Parishad, Jajpur invites Request for Proposal (RFP) in prescribed format from reputed organizations for Selection of Event Management Agency for execution of various deliverables in Jajati-2026 at Jajpur district. The last date for submission of RFP is 27.01.2026 (2.00 P.M.)

The detail of the RFP is available in the district web portal i.e. [www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in](http://www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in)

**Sd./ CDO-cum-EO**  
**Zilla Parishad, Jajpur**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR**  
Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/15/S.E.R.W. BOUDH/2025-26

Phone-0680-2404096, E-mail: [eerwgm@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eerwgm@yahoo.co.in)

No.O-2011: Memo No.155/ RWD-II GB, Date 6.1.26

1. Name of the Work	..:Road Works
2. Estimated Cost	..:Rs.58.82 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion	..:2 (Two) Months as per Annexure
4. Date & Time of Availability of Bid documents in the portal	..:15.01.2026 at 10.00 AM to 22.01.2026 upto 5.00 PM
5. Last Date/Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal	..:22.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	..:Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal [tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app)

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

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PURI (R&B) DIVISION, PURI**

**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**Short Tender Call Notice**

E-mail: [eerbpuri@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eerbpuri@yahoo.co.in)

Bid Identification No. S.E (R&B) Puri-55/2025-26

No.B-974: The Superintending Engineer, Puri (R&B) Division, Puri on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Double Cover / Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE from the eligible class of contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government / Railways.

1. Nature of Work	..:Electrical works
2. No. of Work	..:2 Nos.
3. Tender Cost	..:Rs.6000.00 & Rs.4000.00 (Online)
4. Class of Bidders	..:"MV" & "HT" Class
5. Available of Bid document in the website	..:From 10.00 AM of DT 15.01.2026 to 05.00 PM of DT 21.01.2026
6. Last Date of receipt of tender	..:Dt.21.01.2026 upto 05.00 PM
7. Date of Opening of Bid	..:Dt.22.01.2026 at 11.00 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

**Sd./ Superintending Engineer**  
**Puri (R&B) Division, Puri**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, GUNUPUR**  
No. O-1994

**GEPNIC e-Procurement Notice**

Bid Identification No. EERWGNP-Online-10/2025-26

Date: 05.01.26

1. Name of the Work	..:Repair & Maintenance of Road Works
2. Total No. of Works	..:29 Nos. (Percentage rate tender)
3. Estimated Cost	..:As mentioned in Col. 3 of Annexure
4. Class of Contractor	..:As mentioned in Col. 5 of Annexure
5. Period of Completion	..:As mentioned in Col. 4 of Annexure
6. EMD	..:As mentioned in Col. 6 of Annexure
7. Paper Cost	..:As mentioned in Col. 7 of Annexure
8. Other details	..:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for Bidding	Date & Time of opening of tender
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur	EERWGNP-Online-10/2025-26	15.01.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	27.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.

9. The amount put to tender is exclusive of 18% GST. The intending bidder should offer their rates which shall be exclusive of GST applicable as per norms. GST as applicable on works contract shall be paid over the bill amount at the time of payment of bill.

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

**Sd./ Executive Engineer**  
**Rural Works Division, Gunupur**

**Government of India**

**Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

Applications are invited for one (01) vacant post of **Executive Member in National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), New Delhi**, (a Non-statutory regulatory authority under Administrative Control of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship).

The detailed advertisement along with the eligibility criteria, prescribed proforma and other necessary information are available at the website of this Ministry (<http://www.msde.gov.in>). Interested candidates may send their applications complete in all respect in the prescribed format to the Joint Director (E&P Wing) either by email [ecopol-msde@gov.in](mailto:ecopol-msde@gov.in) or by post on or before 5.30 p.m. on 09th March, 2026.

## national



“

Shivakumar and I have had discussions on change in the state's leadership and even visited each other's homes for breakfast. We agreed to abide by the high command's decision

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

## SC TO HEAR 'JANA NAYAGAN' CENSOR ISSUE PLEA JAN 19

The Supreme Court is slated to hear January 19 the plea filed by the producer of Vijay-starrer Tamil film 'Jana Nayagan', challenging an interim order of the Madras high court that stayed a single-judge direction to grant CBFC clearance to the movie



of the day quote

The youth are the pride of the state and their hard work and strong willpower will be crucial in achieving the goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'

BHAGANLAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM

We are releasing regular instalments. Our practice has been to give an advance instalment during major festivals. Since the commission has directed not to release the advance instalment, it will not be released. We will do so after January 16

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

AMR means resistance developed against antibiotics. This is a huge threat to our society and humanity today. It is, in a way, a silent disaster. AMR means a reduction or complete loss of the effectiveness of antibiotics

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

## SC split verdict on 'prior sanction' to probe govt servants



The top court's judgement came on a PIL filed by NGO 'Centre for Public Interest Litigation' (CPIL) against the validity of amended section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: 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 Nagarathna said Section 17A of the 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.

Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, introduced in July 2018, bars any "enquiry or inquiry or investigation" against a public servant for recommendations made in discharge of official duties without prior approval from the competent authority.

The top court's judgement came on a PIL filed by NGO 'Centre for Public Interest Litigation' (CPIL) against the validity of amended section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Requirement of prior sanction is contrary to the Prevention of Corruption Act, forecloses inquiry and protects the corrupt, Justice Nagarathna said.

"Section 17A is unconstitutional and it ought to be struck

down. No prior approval is required to be taken... The requirement of prior sanction is contrary to the object of the Act, and it forecloses inquiry and protects the corrupt rather than seeking to protect the honest and those with integrity who really do not require any protection," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Viswanathan said striking down section 17A will be akin to throwing the baby out with the bath water and the "cure will be worse than the disease".

"Section 17A is constitutionally valid subject to the condition that the sanction must be decided by the Lok Pal or the Lokayukta of the State...

"The safeguard of this provision will strengthen the hands of honest officers but also ensure that the corrupt are brought to book. It will guarantee that the administrative machinery attracts the best talent for the service of the nation," Justice Viswanathan said.

The case will now be placed before Chief Justice of India Surya Kant for forming a larger bench to hear the matter for a final decision.

"Having regard to the divergent opinions expressed by us, we direct the Registry to place this matter before the Chief Justice of India for constituting an appropriate bench to consider the issues which arise in this matter afresh," the bench said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, had argued that the provisions crippled the anti-corruption law as sanctions were not usually forthcoming from the government, which was the 'competent authority'.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had appeared for the Union government.

## Tej Pratap Yadav at BJP feast, fuels NDA entry buzz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Jan 13: Many eyebrows were raised Tuesday when Tej Pratap Yadav, the estranged elder son of RJD president Lalu Prasad, turned up at a feast organised here by senior BJP leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha.

Yadav, a former minister who has floated his own outfit "Janshakti Janata Dal" following expulsion from the RJD, received a warm welcome by Sinha.

He had met the deputy CM a few days ago to extend invitation for a feast he will be hosting Wednesday on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

Sinha hosted the feast on the eve of the festival, which was attended by a host of senior NDA leaders, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, fellow Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary, JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha and minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha chief Santosh Kumar Suman.

When Yadav, who lost his seat in the recently held assembly polls, was asked by journalists whether he had any plans to join the NDA, he said: "We may have different political ideologies, but we share the same cultural ethos."

The EC, while sitting in Delhi, used AI tools devised by the BJP to delete names. These AI software accounted for the names mismatch in SIR data.

They deleted names of women who changed surnames post marriage. They have also killed many voters across the state who are still living," Banerjee alleged, while addressing a press conference at the state secretariat Nabanna.

These EROs were given responsibilities for the 54 lakh name deletions, whereas in

## EC deleted 54L 'genuine voters' in WB: Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 13: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged Tuesday that the 54 lakh names, which were deleted from the draft rolls during the SIR in the state, were done unilaterally by the Election Commission which "misused" powers of electoral registration officers (EROs) to get the job done.

Upping the ante against the EC amid the ongoing and contentious SIR exercise in the state, Banerjee alleged that a bulk of the deleted voters were "genuine electors", who were not allowed to defend themselves because they weren't even apprised of the grounds of deletion.

"The EC, while sitting in Delhi, used AI tools devised by the BJP to delete names. These AI software accounted for the names mismatch in SIR data. They deleted names of women who changed surnames post marriage. They have also killed many voters across the state who are still living," Banerjee alleged, while addressing a press conference at the state secretariat Nabanna.

These EROs were given responsibilities for the 54 lakh name deletions, whereas in



Banerjee alleged that a bulk of the deleted voters were "genuine electors", who were not allowed to defend themselves because they weren't even apprised of the grounds of deletion

many instances, these officers weren't even aware that the marked names were being removed, she added.

The chief minister has already written five letters to the Chief Election Commissioner Ganesh Kumar complaining of anomalies, unilateral decisions and digitisation errors in electoral rolls accounting for hardships faced by electors in the state.

Claiming that 'logical discrepancy' was not part of the original SIR verification process, and that it was "included as an afterthought to add to deletions", Banerjee said on Tuesday that the "BJP-EC nexus" was planning to remove another one crore names from the final rolls.

"The commission has earmarked another 1.36 crore voters for verification hearings on grounds of logical discrepancy. Eminent personalities like Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, poet Joy Goswami, cricketers Md Shami and Laxmi Ratan Shukla are part of that list. This list was created so that one crore voters could be removed," the chief minister said.

She accused the EC of working hand-in-hand with the BJP in conducting the SIR exercise in a manner that would aid the saffron camp on the ground.

"The EC has not allowed BLA-2s to attend hearings because the BJP couldn't amass its workers to do the job," Banerjee, also the TMC supremo, said. Challenging the deployment of micro-observers in the state to oversee the ongoing hearing phase of SIR, the CM accused the Commission of going beyond its own rules to conduct the exercise.



Students perform during a function organised to celebrate 'Pongal' festival at Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

## Severe cold wave in Punjab, Haryana

Freezing cold swept many places in Punjab, where Ballowal Saunkhri in SBS Nagar recorded 0 degrees Celsius. Chandigarh's minimum temperature Tuesday settled four degrees below normal limits, according to the Met

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



FREEZING COLD SWEEPED MANY PLACES IN PUNJAB, WHERE BALLOWAL SAUNKHRI IN SBS NAGAR RECORDED 0 DEGREES CELSIUS

A WEATHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TOLD PTI THAT CHANDIGARH HAD RECORDED A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 2.4 DEGREES CELSIUS JANUARY 11, 2017 AND 2.1 DEGREES CELSIUS JANUARY 24, 2016

normal limits, while Ludhiana, Patiala and Amritsar recorded respective minimums of 2.6 degrees, 3 degrees and 4.1 degrees Celsius, which were down by three notches, four notches and one notch, respectively.

Meanwhile, minimum temperatures also hovered below normal at most places.

Bathinda recorded 1.6 degrees, four notches below

normal limits, while Ludhiana, Patiala and Amritsar recorded respective lows of 2 degrees and 2.6 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, Hisar and Narnaul reeled under biting chill recording respective minimum temperatures of 1.5 degrees and 1.8 degrees Celsius, down by five and three notches against normal,

respectively.

Gurugram, which had Monday recorded a low of 0.6 degrees Celsius, Tuesday registered a minimum of 3.3 degrees Celsius.

Karnal recorded a minimum of 2 degrees, down four notches against normal, Rohtak 3.8 degrees, Ambala 4.2 degrees while Faridabad recorded a low of 4.3 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, as cold-day conditions also persisted, the maximum temperatures Tuesday also hovered below normal limits.

Chandigarh recorded a maximum of 15.2 degrees, three notches below normal against normal limits.

Ludhiana recorded a high of 13.4 degrees, down four notches against normal while Patiala recorded a high of 13.6 degrees, five below normal.

In Haryana, Karnal reeled under severe cold during the day recording a high of 10 degrees Celsius, down eight notches below normal limits.

Narnaul recorded a maximum of 15.2 degrees, five below normal. Gurugram recorded a high of 20.2 degrees Celsius.

## Haryana bars use of 'Harijan', 'Girijan' in official work

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 13: The Haryana government has asked all its departments, public and educational institutes and others to "strictly avoid" using the terms 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in official communications in respect of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) respectively.

The Haryana Chief Secretary's Office issued a letter in this regard Tuesday.

Mahatma Gandhi had named the SCs as 'Harijans', meaning 'people of God'

However, BR Ambedkar was against the use of 'Harijans' and he preferred to call them Dalits

Officers (Civil) and Registrars of Universities in the State to strictly avoid the use of terms such as 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in all official matters and correspondence," an official statement said.

It has been reiterated in the letter that the Constitution of India does not use these expressions for denoting SCs and STs.

The state government has referred to the instructions of the government of India which clearly mandate the discontinuation of these expressions in official dealings.

"The matter was reviewed by the state government, during which it came to notice that certain departments had not been strictly adhering to the said instructions.

"Consequently, all departments and authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance with the central government's guidelines and to discontinue the usage of the terms 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in all official records, correspondence and communications," the statement said.

# national



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 RIJUJI | UNION MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER

## LAND/FLATS REGISTRATION FACILITY AT DOORSTEPS FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Tuesday announced that the state government will provide a property registration facility for land and flats for elderly people aged 80 years and above at their doorsteps. The new facility, which will be implemented under the 'Saat Nischay-3' (seven resolve), will be effective from April 1, 2026



## 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.

Around 7 pm, troops fired upon a few Pakistani drones when they entered Indian territory over Dunga Gala in the Chin-gus 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.

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 upon a few Pakistani drones when they entered Indian territory over Dunga Gala in the Chin-gus 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.

### SNIPPETS

#### Mamkootathil sent to police custody for three days in sexual assault case

**Pathanamthitta (Kerala):** A Kerala court here Tuesday granted custody of expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil to the police for three days in a sexual assault case. A Judicial First Class Magisterial court in Thiruvalla granted the MLA's custody to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the cases of sexual assault registered against him. When he was brought out from the court and taken to the police vehicle, protesters comprising the CPI(M) and BJP youth wing activists threw rotten eggs at Mamkootathil. Earlier in the day, there were intense protests by the CPI(M) and the BJP youth wings against the MLA outside the jail, when he was being taken to the court, and the taluk hospital in Thiruvalla, where his medical examination was carried out.

#### German Chancellor visits Bosch & CeNSE in B'llore

**Bangalore:** German Chancellor Friedrich Merz Tuesday visited the India headquarters of German tech major Bosch at Adugodi and CeNSE here. He is on a two-day official visit to India. Merz was received at the Kempegowda International Airport by Karnataka Minister for Large & Medium Industries M B Patil and senior government officials. Bosch said Merz's visit to its campus here underscored the deep economic and technological ties between India and Germany in the areas of mobility, manufacturing and innovation. The visit also reinforced the long-standing partnership between the two countries, it said

#### Andhra CID gives clean chit to CM Naidu in skill development scam case

**Amaravati:** A local court in Vijayawada has closed a case filed against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over his alleged involvement in the misappropriation of funds from the APSSDC, which, according to the case, caused a loss of over Rs 300 crore to the state exchequer. Naidu had spent more than 50 days in the Rajahmundry Central Prison before the Andhra High Court granted him bail October 31, 2023. Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Dammalapati Srinivas said the investigating agency found no involvement of the CM and accordingly filed a memo before the court, which was accepted by the judicial officer. "After completing the investigation, the agency filed a closure report stating that there was no substance in the case regarding Naidu's role. The court accepted it Monday," Srinivas told PTI.

### 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 Chodar 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 Bhawan 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.

### NO MORE '10-MINUTE DELIVERY'

## Blinkit drops claim, Swiggy, Zepto likely to follow



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Eternal-owned quick-commerce firm Blinkit has dropped its '10-minute' delivery claim after intervention by the Labour Ministry amid growing concerns over the welfare and safety of delivery workers.

This decision would not only ensure the safety and security of gig workers but would also help ensure their dignity and working conditions," he noted.

Chadha had Monday shared a video of himself dressed as a Blinkit delivery agent and delivering orders, drawing attention to the daily grind of gig workers and renewing his call for better working conditions in India's fast-growing quick commerce sector.

Earlier, Chadha had raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session. In a statement, Gig and Platform Service Workers Union (GIPSWU) welcomed and appreciated the government's intervention and decision to discontinue the 10-minute instant delivery system.

The union has submitted a demand letter to Labour Minister Mandaviya December 24, 2025. It also filed a complaint to the National Human Rights Commission January 12, 2026, with the same plight. At the same time, time-bound targets and algorithm-driven pressures remain widespread across the gig economy, creating conditions that can closely resemble forced labour, the union said.

To achieve India's national goal of eradicating forced labour by 2030, these practices must be addressed comprehensively, it added. This is an opportunity for all stakeholders -- governments, companies, and workers -- to come together.

### Bank of Baroda Gold Auction Notice

#### 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 be 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.)
1	32560600002401	Antar Yami Pani, At: Salad, PO: Kurla , Via : Rengali, Rengali Dist : Sambalpur, Odisha, Pin-768212.	68.90	62.00	₹ 3,24,171.72
2	33670500001885	Hari Majhi, At/PO: Pastipada, Bawaniapatna, Dist: Kalahandi, Odisha, Pin - 766001.	14.62	12.42	₹ 40,000.00
3	34280600003073	Chakravudha Kumar Naik, At : Khadpalpa, 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 : Sahajita, 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	Purnima Bagha, At:Barigaon, PO:Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, Pin - 767062.	7.60	6.00	₹ 20,000.00
8	35940600003839	Tikeswar Patel, C/o : Mahendra Patel, Dandrabhal, Mundamahul, Patnagarh, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha, Pin-767025.	27.15	26.50	₹ 1,16,988.00
9	35940600003655	Sushanta Mirdha, At : Manajapad, PO : Mundamahul,PS:Patnagarh, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha, Pin-767025	16.20	15.40	₹ 70,207.00
10	40700500001348	Bishakha Nayak, W/o:Sushanta Kumar Nayak, Majhipalidhol, Dist : Deogarh, Odisha, Pin-768121.	12.15	7.80	₹ 26,485.86
11	40700500001343	Ghana Naik, At: khairnali, Tillebani, Dist : Deogarh, Odisha, Pin-768121.	6.66	6.50	₹ 20,450.46
12	40750600005942	Eftkhan 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, Bhagabati Nayak, Sansarpalli, Bandhugao, Dist : Rayagada, Odisha, Pin-765001.	16.70	13.50	₹ 97,000.00
14	40750600007846	Rabindra Nayak, C/o : Bhagabati Nayak, Sansarpalli, Bandhugao 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
16	46560500000286	Sujit Kundu, At:badali, MPV 24, Kangerukonda, KaliMela, Malkangiri, Dist : Malkangiri, Odisha-764047.	19.10	15.00	₹ 51,999.80
17	46580600003729	Rabindra Kumar Sabat, At : Room No. 32, Surya Rao, Sriram Nagar 2nd Lane, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha-764001	92.77	85.95	₹ 4,44,336.00
18	46580600003591	Kishor Kumar Nissank, Behera Street, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha, Pin-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 Harichandran, C/o : Satyapriya Harichandran, Sunari Street, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha, Pin-764001.	61.35	54.85	₹ 1,86,999.66
21	46580600002505	Tapan Kumar Harichandran, C/o : Satyapriya Harichandran Sunari Street, Jeypore, Dist : Koraput, Odisha, Pin-764001.	21.28	19.70	₹ 67,830.00
22	46600500000703	Suratha Meher, At:Gidhamal, PO: Katabhal, Padmapur, Dist:Baragarh, 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
24	52720600001333	Raju Bagri, At:Badukumari,PO:Umarkote, Dist:Nabarang			

# international



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-Elysees and other Paris avenues, and then over the Seine River to reach the National Assembly



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



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 Sulyok 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 Fidesz 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.

# Help is on its way: Trump

REUTERS



Washington, Jan 13: US President Donald Trump urged Iranians Tuesday to keep protesting and said help was on the way, without giving details, as Iran's clerical establishment pressed its crackdown against the biggest demonstrations in years.

**"Iranian Patriots, KEEP PROTESTING - TAKE OVER YOUR INSTITUTIONS!!!!... HELP IS ON ITS WAY."**

Trump said in a post on Truth Social, adding he had canceled all meetings with Iranian officials until the "senseless killing" of protesters stopped.

The unrest, sparked by dire economic conditions, has posed the biggest internal challenge to Iran's rulers for at least three years and has come at a time of intensifying international pressure after Israeli and US strikes last year.

Following the US president's post, Iranian security chief Ali Larjani said on social media platform X that Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were the "main killers" of the Iranian people.

An Iranian official said about 2,000 people had been killed in the protests, the first time authorities have given an overall death toll from more than two weeks of nationwide unrest, though the official gave no breakdown.

US-based rights group HRA-NA said that of the 2,003 people whose deaths it had confirmed, 1,850 were protesters.

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.

Teheran 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

Trump urges protesters to 'take over' institutions

**Iranian security chief blames US and Israeli leaders**

**D**ire economy sparked nationwide protests

**R**ights group says man to be executed on Wednesday

**P**rotests have posed biggest challenge to authorities in years

any repeat of last year's US strikes would have "disastrous consequences" for the Middle East and international security.

Despite the protests, the economic strains, and years of external pressure, there are as yet no signs of fracture in the security elite that could bring down the clerical system in power since a 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iranian authorities have summoned Iranian ambassadors in protest over the crackdown.

"The brutal actions of the Iranian regime against its own people are shocking," the German Foreign Ministry said on

communications restrictions including an internet blackout have hampered the flow of information. The UN rights office said phone services had been restored but internet links with Iran remained patchy.

social media platform X.

Underscoring international uncertainty over what comes next in Iran, which has been one of the dominant powers across the Middle East for decades, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he believed the government would fall.

**RIGHTS GROUP SAYS MAN ACCUSED IN PROTESTS SET TO BE EXECUTED**

The protests began December 28 over the fall in value of the currency and have grown into wider demonstrations and calls for the fall of the clerical establishment.

Iran's authorities have taken a dual approach, cracking down while also calling protests over economic problems legitimate.

Hengaw, an Iranian Kurdish rights group, has reported that a 26-year-old man, Erfan Soltani, arrested in connection with protests in the city of Karaj, will be executed Wednesday. Authorities had told the family that the death sentence was final, Hengaw reported, citing a source close to the family.

Reuters could not independently confirm the report. State media has not reported any death sentences so far.

The head of Iran's judiciary has said specialized courts have been appointed to deal with protests.

Communications restrictions including an internet blackout have hampered the flow of information. The UN rights office said phone services had been restored but internet links with Iran remained patchy.

# 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.



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.

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

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

statement by the army.

"The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, evaluating regional and global security dynamics, and exploring 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-

ister lauded professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. He also expressed Indonesia's desire to further expand defence ties with Pakistan across multiple domains.

Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fostering strong and enduring defence relationship with Indonesia, based on shared values, mutual respect, and convergence of strategic interests.

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

# 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 rises

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 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.



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



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 | FOUNDER 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 buildup 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.

## Iran unrest hits Indian basmati rice exports



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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 laggards. In contrast, Eternal, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers.

"...fresh selling in heavyweights 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 codes.

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 paisa 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 index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.09 per cent higher at 89.95.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.38 per cent higher at USD 64.75 per barrel in futures trade.

## New Kia Seltos unveiled at Tripti Kia



## 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 India.



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-

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

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 line-up 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.

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

## 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 Nazmul 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 Sukita 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 Amskarun 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.

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



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

## Real Madrid part ways with Xabi after Super Cup loss

Alonso was immediately replaced by B team manager Álvaro 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 Álvaro 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 spats 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 honour 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.

**JUDGE KARO. JUDGE CHUNO.**

**THE GREAT GIFTING FESTIVAL 2026**

**UP TO 55% OFF\***

**JUDGE CLASSIC SS 36 PIECE** ~~₹ 4305.00~~ @ ₹ 2999.00

**INDUCTION COOKTOP AURA 1800W** ~~₹ 2995.00~~ @ ₹ 1595.00

**KETTLE JEA 313** ~~₹ 1265.00~~ @ ₹ 549.00

**ACE NON-STICK 3 PC COOKWARE SET** ~~₹ 3500.00~~ @ ₹ 1499.00

**INSTA AIR FRYER** ~~₹ 4995.00~~ @ ₹ 2695.00

**INDUCTION COOKTOP AURA 1350W** ~~₹ 2495.00~~ @ ₹ 1345.00

**MASALA DABBA BIG SEE THROUGH LID** ~~₹ 1499.00~~ @ ₹ 999.00



CUSTOMER CARE NO  
080-6000 4411

Shop Online on  
[judgeappliances.com](http://judgeappliances.com)

\*Conditions apply. Strike-off prices indicate MRP (incl. taxes); prices below reflect offer prices. Offers not valid on any other promotions, including bank, exchange, or coupon offers. Valid on select models while stocks last, across India. The ACE Non-Stick 3Pc Set includes: Fry Pan 20 cm, Omni Tawa 25 cm, and Kadai with Lid 20 cm. Judge® is a registered trademark of Horwood Homewares Ltd in India. For full T&C, visit your nearest Prestige Xclusive/Dealer outlet. Upto 55% off applies to select products only and subject to availability. Offers valid from 13th Dec 2025 to 20th Jan 2026.