



Rachita's advise

Actor Rachita Ram urges women to stop letting online voices control their minds or self-worth


LEISURE | **P2**



Crewless chopper

Britain's Royal Navy launches full-sized autonomous helicopter, designed to track submarines amid North Atlantic tensions

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Household gold

Indian households see a massive jump in their wealth in 2025, driven mainly by a sharp rise in gold prices

BUSINESS | **P11**



Series decider

India's absolute dominance at home will come under examination when they meet a determined New Zealand in the decisive third ODI

SPORTS | **P12**

Greenland: 10% tariff on 8 nations for not backing US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuuk, Jan 17: US President Donald Trump said Saturday that he would charge a 10 per cent import tax starting in February on goods from eight European nations because of their opposition to American control of Greenland.

Trump said in a social media post that Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Finland would face the tariff and that it would climb to 25 per cent June 1 if a deal is not in place for “the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland” by the United States.

The threat of tariffs was a drastic and potentially dangerous escalation of a showdown between Trump and NATO allies, further straining an alliance that dates to 1949 and provides a collective degree of security to Europe and North America.

Hindu man crushed to death in B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Dhaka, Jan 17: A Hindu man was crushed to death in Bangladesh after he tried to stop a vehicle from leaving a petrol pump without paying for fuel, police said.

It has not been confirmed whether the incident, which took place on Friday in Rajbari district, is related to the recent spate of violence targeting Hindus in Bangladesh. The victim, 30-year-old Ripon Saha, was a fuel station worker, The Daily Star reported Saturday, quoting police officials.

He was working at Karim Filling Station in Goalanda Mor at the time of the incident, it said.

“We will file a murder case. The worker stood in front of the car after they refused to pay for fuel, and they ran him over before fleeing,” Rajbari Sadar Police chief Khondakar Ziaur Rahman was quoted as saying by news portal bdnews24.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

You voted yesterday. Why is the mark still on your finger? Don't you wash your hands?



R-DAY PREP: An official of the Indian Army's Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) handles a bactrian camel during rehearsals for the upcoming Republic Day Parade, amid dense fog on a cold winter morning, at Vijay Chowk, in New Delhi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

ODISHA INVESTORS' MEET, KOLKATA

State secures ₹1L-cr

The Odisha government has secured investment commitments worth ₹1 lakh crore during a two-day investors' meet and roadshow in Kolkata. The state signed 27 MoUs worth ₹81,864 crore and received 19 investment intents valued at ₹18,453 crore, together expected to generate around 90,000 jobs once implemented. Highlighting Odisha's shift towards value-added manufacturing, its financial stability, and port-led industrialisation, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi stressed that execution, not agreements alone, would define success.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday said that Odisha has secured investment commitments worth nearly ₹1 lakh crore and employment potential of about 90,000 jobs following the Odisha Investors' Meet & Roadshow in Kolkata, marking a significant step towards the state's Vision 2036 and India's Vision 2047.

Addressing the roadshow at ITC Sonar, Kolkata, the Chief Minister said eastern India has moved decisively from “potential to performance” and that Odisha is ready to co-anchor the next phase of industrial growth in the region under the Purvodaya vision. He emphasised that growth in the East would be collaborative, with



states complementing each other to build a strong and integrated industrial corridor.

Majhi said Odisha is financially strong and economically secure, and is rapidly transforming from a resource-based economy into a value-added and advanced manufacturing hub driven by speed, scale and sustainability. He highlighted the state's strategic coastline and ports at Paradip, Dhamra and Gopalpur as key enablers of port-led industrialisation serving eastern and central India.

The roadshow featured around 130 high-level one-on-one meetings and four sectoral roundtables covering hosiery and technical textiles, metal ancillaries and engineering goods, plastics and chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, medical devices and biotechnology, reflecting strong industry engagement across sectors.

The engagements resulted in

the signing of 27 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with an investment potential of ₹81,864 crore, expected to generate over 63,000 jobs. In addition, 19 investment intent proposals worth ₹18,453 crore were received, with the potential to create more than 27,500 employment opportunities. The Chief Minister stressed that while MoUs are important, the real measure of success lies in their execution on the ground.

More than 500 industry leaders, business associations and institutional stakeholders participated in the mega roadshow, which showcased Odisha's industrial ecosystem, infrastructure readiness and policy-driven growth model. Majhi outlined his vision for building a “Samruddha Odisha” by 2036 and highlighted opportunities in renewable energy equipment, textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics, IT, data centres and advanced manufacturing. He invited companies, particularly from West Bengal, Jharkhand and the northeastern states, to expand and diversify their operations in Odisha.

Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain said Odisha is emerging as a natural expansion hub for eastern India, citing strong infrastructure, port-led logistics, stable policies, fast project execution, a focus on new-age sectors and skilled manpower development.

Man hires goons to kill brother

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 17: Police have arrested eight persons, including the elder brother of a businessman in connection with the latter's murder. The victim was pushed to death from a bridge in what investigators say was a premeditated killing stemming from a long-standing financial dispute.

Those arrested are Naba Kumar Thanapati, 43; Kshetramohan Suna, 32; Milan Bohidar, 38; Mantu alias Mahadeb Bag, 19; Ranjit Mishra, 25; Sahil Bagarty, 22; Manoj Selma; and Raja Kumbar, 30, all residents of different areas of Bolangir district, police said.



Victim Nataraj Thanapati

Bolangir Superintendent of Police Abhilash G said the crime, initially believed to be a case of suicide, was later established as a murder following scientific, forensic and cyber investigations.

The victim Nataraj Thanapati of Deulgudi village under Tusura police station was found dead beneath the Tel river bridge Jan 2. His death had raised suspicion as it occurred just days before his scheduled wedding, with wedding invitations already distributed.

Police said the prime accused, Naba Kumar Thanapati, the elder brother of the deceased, allegedly conspired to kill Nataraj over a prolonged financial dispute. During the investigation, police found that Naba Kumar paid ₹60,000 in cash in the last week of December 2025 to Kshetramohan Suna to execute the murder.

Flight disruptions: DGCA slaps ₹22.2 crore penalty on IndiGo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 17: Airlines regulator DGCA Saturday slapped penalties totalling ₹22.20 crore for the massive flight disruptions in December, and warned CEO Pieter Elbers and two other senior executives for non-compliance.

It also directed the airline to furnish ₹50-crore bank guarantee to ensure long-term systemic corrections.

Between December 3 and 5, the DGCA said, 2,507 flights were cancelled and 1,852 flights were delayed, impacting over 3 lakh passengers at airports across the country.

Announcing the enforcement

actions after the detailed probe, DGCA cited over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness, along with deficiencies in system software support as among primary reasons for the disruptions.

Shortcomings in management structure and operational control at IndiGo were also blamed. The penalties are one of the biggest imposed by the regulator on any airline for flight disruptions, while other regulatory actions are also unprecedented.

IndiGo, in a statement, said it is “in receipt of the orders of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India” on the flight disruptions.

SEC: PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS LIKELY IN JAN-FEB 2027

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: The Odisha State Election Commission Saturday indicated that the next panchayat elections in the state are likely to be held in January–February next year, as the tenure of the existing panchayat bodies is nearing completion.

Addressing the media, State Election Commissioner Madhusudan Padhi said a preparatory meeting was held to review arrangements and finalise the roadmap for the upcoming panchayat and urban local body elections. He announced that a door-to-door voter survey would be conducted for both rural and municipal polls to ensure updated and accurate electoral rolls. The survey is expected to be completed by March this year, though it may be delayed by about a month due to the ongoing census exercise.

Padhi clarified that the voter survey is unrelated to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and said booth reorganisation would be undertaken wherever necessary to improve voter convenience. The aim, he added, is to locate polling booths as close as possible to voters' residences.

He also said meetings are being held with district collectors, sub-collectors, deputy collectors, district panchayat officers and municipal commissioners as part of the election preparations, with the next meeting scheduled in Chhatrapur January 20.

19 Bills pending in Rajya Sabha, oldest dates back to 1992

WHILE BILLS PENDING IN LOK SABHA LAPSE WHEN THE HOUSE IS DISSOLVED, A BILL PENDING IN RAJYA SABHA NEVER LAPSES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 17: As many as 19 government Bills remain pending in the Rajya Sabha, with the oldest, pertaining to population control, dating back to 1992.

The Rajya Sabha is a permanent House which is never dissolved, with one-third of its members retiring every two years. While the Bills pending in the Lok Sabha lapse when the House is dissolved, a Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha never lapses.

According to a bulletin of the Upper House, there are 19 pending Bills at present, the oldest

being The Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992.

The Bill proposed to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy to provide that the State shall promote population control and the small family norm, and to include promoting and adopting the small family norm in the Fundamental Duties. It also proposed that an MP or an MLA should be disqualified if they have more than two children.

Also among the pending bills is The Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997, which was to amend the Delhi Rent Act, 1995 that aimed to modernise rent control laws, but faced significant



pushback from tenant and landlord groups.

While the government is working on bringing The Seed Bill 2025, among the pending Bills is The Seeds Bill, 2004,

which aimed to regulate the quality of seeds for sale, import and export and to facilitate the production and supply of quality seeds.

Another Bill that remains

pending is The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011, which was introduced when Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was the labour minister.

Other pending Bills which were introduced in the UPA 2 include The Building and Other Construction Workers Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013; The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Amendment Bill, 2013; and The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliamentary and Assem-

bly Constituencies (Third) Bill, 2013.

The pending Bills introduced during the NDA regime include The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019, which aimed to strengthen tribal autonomy in the northeast by enhancing financial and executive powers of Autonomous Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, introducing elected village and municipal councils, and The Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019.

The latest pending Bill, The Pesticide Management Bill, dates back to 2020.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You have decided to give more importance to your inner voice, and Ganesha feels it's a good thing. It supports you to strive for perfection in whatever you do. You will remain your sensible and realistic self. A little adventure will not hurt, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
Touchdown! Ganesha senses a strong possibility that you will achieve an important milestone today. Emotional well-being is important for physical health. You may spend your evening in the company of like-minded people to indulge in some healthy discussions and musings, feels Ganesha.

GEMINI
You will feel that your personal life is much more important than your professional needs today. Therefore you will concentrate more on your family members and their needs. It is a day filled with joy and happiness, says Ganesha.

CANCER
A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesha. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

LEO
It is an auspicious time to undertake journey related to business. Religious and educational pursuits will be amply rewarded. The later half of the day will see you divert your attentions in the correct direction to resolve some issues. You will have to take on a lot of mental labour today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Ganesha warns that you will find yourself in troubled waters as far as your love life is concerned. You will have to exercise great care and caution in everything you do today, more so in the afternoon. If you are betting on money matters, bet wisely. Ganesha says hold your head high and be your own charming self.

LIBRA
Ganesha says there may be issues with your competitors playing around with your emotions and questioning your competency today, but you will be able to defeat them. In your professional field when you may have to face difficult times then these people will come forth to help you. Ganesha says that you have to be careful today as it is a decisive day filled with stress and tensions.

SCORPIO
Everything is fair in love and war, however, make sure your love story does not turn into a cold-war. It may happen that romance may make you altogether a different person. By the end of the day, you may solve the differences that lead to a cold-war between you and your beloved, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Blood will be thicker than water today. And your relatives – near and distant – will bring much pleasure today. But Ganesha portends you being at loggerheads with your colleagues. However, progress will not elude you today.

CAPRICORN
If you do something, you put your heart and soul into it. Such dedication gets you the best. You tend to exert your energies though, says Ganesha, so you will need to learn the art of delegation. It will not only take load off your shoulders but also enhance the quality of final output.

AQUARIUS
You are ambitious. But, flexibility is a virtue you lack and it may hamper your chances to succeed, feels Ganesha. Learn to let go for a larger scheme of life otherwise you may have to regret later on. Consider pros and cones of every situation and proceed ahead with caution.

PISCES
The day will start off on a sour note for you. But as the day progresses you will find your mood elevated. If you wish to progress in life, you need to stop minor setbacks from upsetting you disproportionately. Keeping your emotions in check will be vital for taking critical decisions and in meeting your deadlines today, says Ganesha.



BELLA HADID WANTS MORE ACTING ROLES

Model Bella Hadid is hoping to land more acting roles after making her small screen debut in Ryan Murphy's new TV series *The Beauty* because it's her dream to become an actress.

REASON SARA REFUSED TO DATE CLOONEY

American actress, producer and socialite Sara Foster rejected a date set up with George Clooney by Cindy Crawford and Rande Gerber in her early 20s, admitting she felt "offended" by the age gap. She thought girls going out with guys double their age was so weird, shared Foster on a podcast.



Rachita: It's my body, my life

Bangalore: At a recent media interaction, actress Rachita Ram spoke openly about the growing culture of body shaming and negative comments on social media. Known for her frank opinions, the actor urged people, especially women, to stop letting online voices control their minds or self-worth.

When asked how to deal with negative comments online, Rachita shared a rather simple answer. "Don't. Don't take the trouble. Don't listen to any of that. Don't mess your head with these comments. Just don't give them space," she added. When the issue of people taking extreme steps due to online trolling was brought up, Rachita questioned why negative comments are given so much importance. "Somebody will comment on something. Why should you pay attention to it?" she asked.

"It's my body, my life. I don't give a damn," she says. She then acknowledged that not everyone reacts to negativity the same way. "Everybody's capability to handle such things is different. Not everyone can stay calm," she said, stressing that people shouldn't feel pressured to respond or explain themselves.

she prefers to dance through life instead (sic). "From day one to year twenty five, cheers to my lady who keeps me laughing, guessing and slightly anxious at times! Happy anniversary to us, Tina. 25 years of madness that we both love," the Airlift actor added.

Akshay recalls Dimple's warning

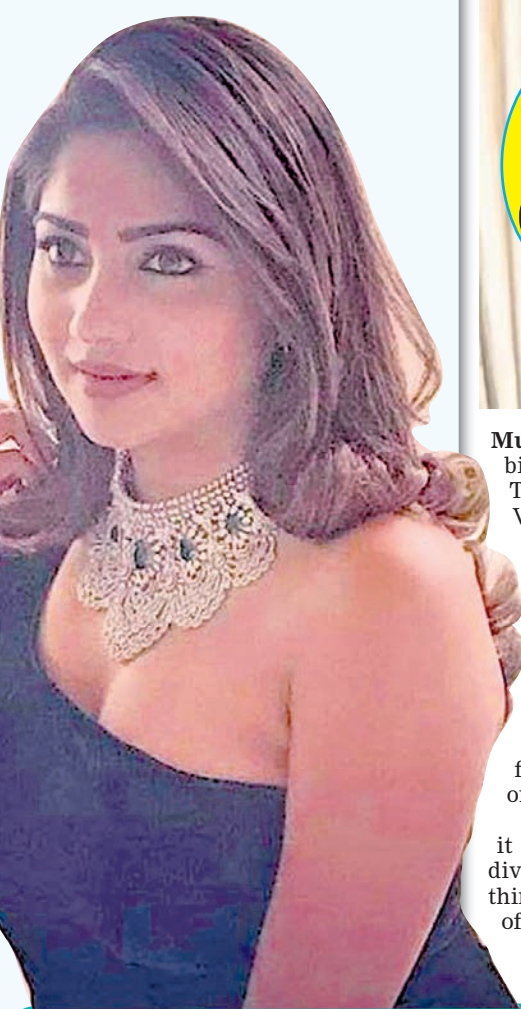
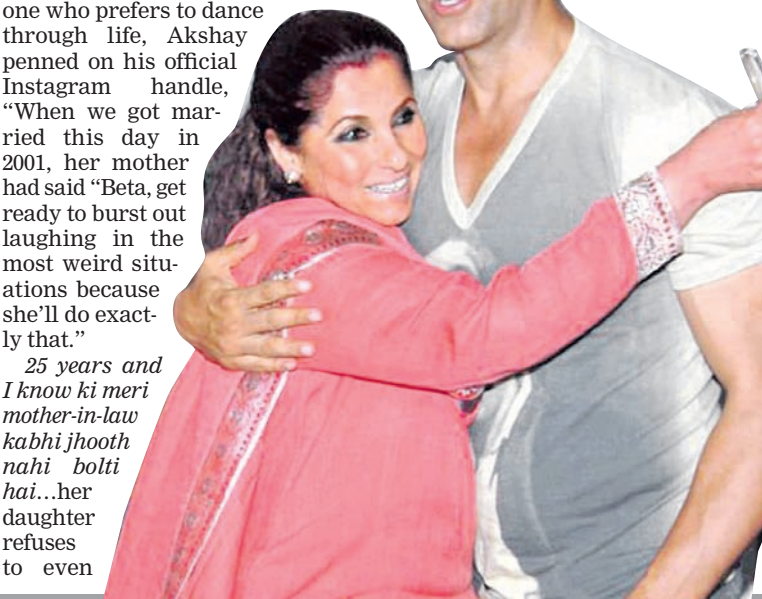
Mumbai: Akshay Kumar recalled his mother-in-law Dimple Kapadia's helpful warning for him as he was getting married to Twinkle Khanna. In his latest social media post, Akshay revealed that back in 2001, when he and Twinkle were getting married, Dimple told Akshay to be ready to laugh at the most weird situations, as it is something Twinkle does not shy away from doing.

Now, after 25 years of being married to the *Mela* actress, Akshay can say with some certainty that his mother-in-law does not lie.

Claiming that Twinkle is someone who prefers to dance through life, Akshay penned on his official Instagram handle, "When we got married this day in 2001, her mother had said "Beta, get ready to burst out laughing in the most weird situations because she'll do exactly that."

25 years and I know ki meri mother-in-law kabhi jhooth nahi bolti hai...her daughter refuses to even

walk straight... she prefers to dance through life instead (sic). "From day one to year twenty five, cheers to my lady who keeps me laughing, guessing and slightly anxious at times! Happy anniversary to us, Tina. 25 years of madness that we both love," the Airlift actor added.



Rahman's Chhaava comment courts controversy



Mumbai: *Chhaava* was one of the biggest box office successes of 2025. The epic historical drama starring Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna was a biopic about Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. AR Rahman composed the songs for the film, which became hits upon release. A year later, the music composer has shared his thoughts on the Laxman Utekar directorial, admitting that the film was 'divisive' and capitalised on that sentiment.

"It is a divisive film. I think it cashed in on divisiveness, but I think the core of it is to

show bravery. I had asked the director. 'Why did he need me for this film? But he said that we need only you for this. It is an enjoyable film, but definitely people are smarter than that. Do you think people are going to get influenced by movies? They have something called internal conscience, which knows what the truth is, and what manipulation is," he said in an interview with *BBC Asian Network*.

When asked how *Chhaava* mentions 'Subhanallah' and 'Alhamdulillah' when something bad is happening in the film, Rahman said, "That is such a cliché. it is cringe. I have great respect for people. They are not that foolish to get influenced by false information. I have great faith in humanity. People have a conscience, heart, love and compassion."

Since then, the comment has been shared heavily on social media. "*Chhaava* is not divisive. It is history. Showing history is not divisive," read a tweet.

Nia holds Shakira responsible for her style choices

Mumbai: Actress Nia Sharma playfully held international pop star Shakira responsible for her unique style choices.

Nia took to her Instagram stories, sharing a video of the "Queen of Latin Music" Shakira performing her 2001 hit "Whenever, Wherever". "Blame this song for how I dress," Nia, who is known for her Gothic glam, captioned the post.

She also shared a screenshot of herself on MTV India's *Splitsvilla*, calling it her "childhood dream" to be part of the channel.

Sharing her excitement about being on *MTV India's Splitsvilla*, Nia wrote, "Is it a crime to trip on yourself coz no one else will. Love you @mtvindia @mtvsplittssvilla — being on MTV was lowkey my childhood dream (sic)."

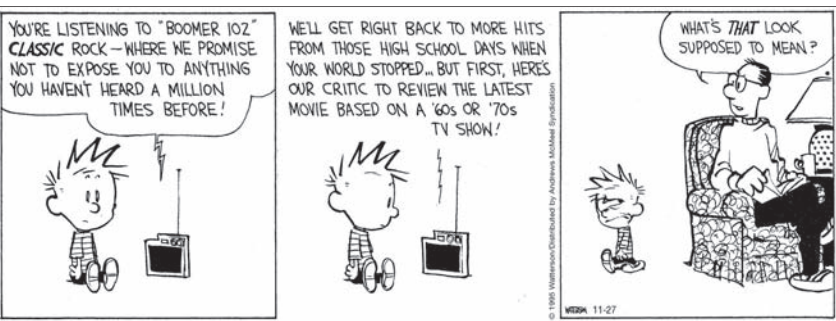
Talking about the actress, Nia was last seen on screen in *Laughter Chefs Fun Unlimited*, which also stars Krushna Abhishek, Rahul Vaidya, Karan Kundrra, Ankita Lokhande, Vicky Jain, Reem Shaikh, Sudesh Lehri, Elvish Yadav, Rubina Dilaik, Aly Goni, Kashmera Shah. It is hosted by Bharti Singh, and judged by chef Harpal Singh Sokhi.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

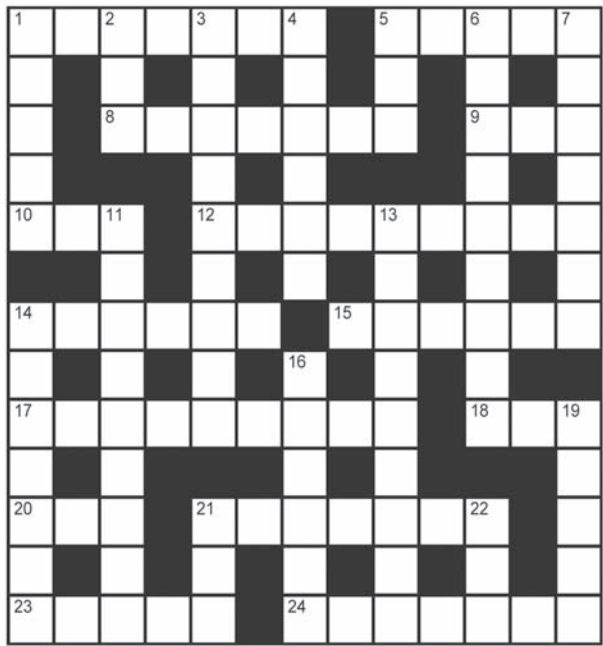


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Crisp flat tortilla
 - Madcap comedy
 - Remove, as a tooth
 - Calendar abbr.
 - Balloon filler
 - Common law example
 - Tame
 - Rifle attachments
 - Aberrant
 - River inlet
 - Seek damages
 - Guise
 - Out of gas
 - Corrode (3,4)
 - Flabbergasted
 - Portly plus
 - Cayenne (3,6)
 - Energises
 - Anecdotalist
 - Top-drawer
 - Gift for a musician (4,3)
 - Gentle wind
 - Test, as ore
 - After lily or launch
 - Wrecker's job
- Down**
- Beauty pageant wear
 - "Get the picture?"
 - Plane's navigational device

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

S	T	O	L	E	P	A	P	A	Y	A
C	A	A	C	U	N	U				
U	N	C	O	U	T	H	D	E	C	O
I	K	D	O	I	I	A				
S	T	Y	X	R	I	P	E	N	E	D
I	F	R	E	N	N	B				
N	E	E	D	L	E	S	C	Y	T	H
E	N	I	O	E	A					
A	V	A	R	I	C	E	A	G	O	G
O	I	T	T	J	R	L				
M	A	O	R	I	E	L	U	S	I	V
A	U	N	T	D	L	S				
R	E	S	I	G	N	J	O	L	L	Y

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



FOR A CAUSE: Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh speaks during an informal conversation on the need for social leadership in present times, in the presence of **Dharitri** and **OrissaPOST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, journalist Satya Prakash Nayak, and members of the editorial and reporting teams, at the newspapers' office in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

State launches 'Nari Adalat'

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: The state government Saturday launched 'Nari Adalat' pilot project to provide amicable resolution of civil, family and dowry-related disputes, aiming to significantly reduce pending litigation and strengthen access to justice at the grassroots level.

The initiative was jointly launched by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida and Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan across 10 panchayats in as many districts of the state.

Supported by Taluka Legal Service Cell Authorities, the project seeks to establish a swift and effective legal framework for women at the village level, the Law Minister said.

The initiative focuses on creating awareness about women's rights and promoting speedy dispute resolution through dialogue and mediation. Matters related to domestic violence, dowry, child protection and property rights will be addressed through this platform, ensuring timely justice at the panchayat level.

Alongside the launch of 'Nari Adalat', the Deputy CM, who also holds the Women and Child Development portfolio, inaugurated the week-long state-wide celebrations of National Girl Child Day 2026 under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme.

CM hails launch of India's 1st Vande Bharat sleeper train

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: The launch of India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train between Howrah and Guwahati marks a significant milestone in the modernisation journey of Indian Railways, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Saturday.

Taking to X, the CM stated, “The state-of-the-art sleeper service, flagged off by Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, reflects the vision of faster, safer, and more comfortable rail travel.” Highlighting that the initiative would enhance both capacity and operational efficiency across the railway network, the CM said it is a significant milestone in the modernisation journey of Indian Railways. He said under the leadership of Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Indian Railways has witnessed unprecedented infrastructure development, induction of modern rolling stock, and implementation of passenger-centric reforms.

Week-long celebrations of National Girl Child Day 2026 launched

'PALNA' (Anganwadi-cum-Crèche) guidelines unveiled

100-bed new building of Utkal Balashram at Jajpur inaugurated

Modern kitchens inaugurated at Utkal Balashrams in Puri and Jajpur

Foundation stone laid for Integrated Vatsalya Sadans in Khurda and Gajapati

As part of the celebrations, awareness rallies, college-level competitions, felicitation of meritorious students, and coordination meetings with allied departments will be organised across all 30 districts of the state. The campaign aims to curb gender-based sex selection, promote gender equality and foster positive societal attitudes towards the girl child.

The operational guidelines of the centrally sponsored 'PALNA' (Anganwadi-cum-Crèche) scheme were unveiled.

Implemented under a 60:40 cost-sharing ratio between the Centre and the state, 'PALNA' aims to provide a safe, nurturing and child-friendly environment for children aged 6 months to 3 years, ensur-

ing nutrition, health, safety and cognitive development. The initiative is also expected to boost workforce participation among working mothers.

In the first phase, 168 Anganwadi centres across 25 districts have been identified and operationalised as 'PALNA' centres. These centres will offer child protection services, supplementary nutrition, safe sleeping facilities, early childhood stimulation, growth monitoring, health check-ups and immunisation support.

Additionally, the Deputy CM virtually inaugurated a 100-bed new building of Utkal Balashram at Jajpur, constructed at a cost of Rs 2.49 crore from the State Budget. Modern kitchen facilities were also inaugurated at the Utkal Balashrams in Puri and Jajpur to ensure hygienic and nutritious food for resident children. The state government plans to extend this facility to other districts in a phased manner.

Parida virtually laid the foundation stone for two Integrated Vatsalya Sadans in Khurda and Gajapati districts, which will house child care institutions, child welfare committees and juvenile justice boards under one roof to provide child-friendly, timely and hassle-free services to children in need of care and protection.

SJTMC okays fresh guidelines for Ratna Bhandar inventory

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Jan 17: The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTMC) Saturday approved revised guidelines for opening the Ratna Bhandar of the 12th-century shrine and conducting a detailed inventory of valuables stored within.

The SJTMC has formulated an 11-page Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which will be submitted to the state government for approval. Following government approval, an auspicious date will be selected for the opening of the Ratna Bhandar, it was learnt.

“Emphasis has been given to strict observance of traditional rituals in accordance with prescribed norms. Devotees will be allowed darshan of the deities from the ‘Baharkatha’ area,” said Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief Arabinda Kumar Padhee after a meeting of the committee.

verification will be conducted under CCTV surveillance, and all valuables will be digitally documented. A new 'Ratna Pallanka' (the ceremonial bed of the deities) has been prepared and will be installed on an auspicious day," he said.

The SJTMC has also cancelled the memorandum of understanding with Birla Foundation regarding the establishment of an 'Adarsh Gurukul' for the children of temple servitors. A fresh pact will be signed with another organisation. Land for the project has already been acquired at Matitota in Puri, temple sources said.

In response to public concern over increased parking fees of Rs 500 at Bhakta Niwas, the Temple managing committee has reduced the amount to Rs 240, effective from Sunday, across all the four lodgings managed by the temple.

Restrictions have been imposed on the use of mobile phones by temple staff and servitors within the temple premises.

BENGAL MAN HELD FOR ₹1.94 CRORE FRAUD

Cuttack: Odisha Crime Branch Cyber Police arrested a 60-year-old man from West Bengal in connection with a major online investment fraud involving a fake trading platform in which a victim was cheated of Rs 1.94 crore. The accused was identified as Ajaya Kumar Paul, a resident of West Bengal's Hooghly district. Ajaya first contacted the victim through social media and later added him to a WhatsApp group named "Digital Dynamos". The victim was persuaded to invest money in a fictitious online trading platform called "Globix Vault", which promised high and assured returns. Trusting the false assurances, the victim transferred Rs 1,94,62,310 to multiple bank accounts linked to Ajaya. However, after the victim failed to retrieve the promised return and learning that he was subjected to fraud, he lodged a complaint at the cyber police station. Following analysis of banking transactions and digital evidence, a Crime Branch team conducted a raid in Hooghly district and arrested Ajaya. Several incriminating materials were seized from his possession. Ajaya was produced before the ACJM Court, Hooghly, and after obtaining transit remand, he was brought to Cuttack.

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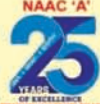


Ranked
51-100
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Category





NAAC 'A'



ଫକୀର ମୋହନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର






~ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନ ଓ ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନରେ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଅଗ୍ରସରତା ~

୧. ସବୁଜ ଓ ସୁସ୍ଥିର ପରିସର : ପରିବେଶ ସୁରକ୍ଷା, ସବୁଜ ଶକ୍ତି ବ୍ୟବହାର, କାର୍ବନ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଡ୍ରାସ, ପରିବେଶ-ମିତ୍ର ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଓ ବ୍ୟାଚେରା ଚାଳିତ ଯାନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରଦୃଷ୍ଟମୂଳକ ଯାଚାଯିତ ।
୨. ଜାତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୀତି - ୨୦୨୦ର ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ରୂପାୟନ : ୨୦୨୪-୨୫ ଶିକ୍ଷାବର୍ଷରୁ NEP-2020 ର ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁୟମନ ସହ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ।
୩. ଭାରତୀୟ ଜ୍ଞାନ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ ଓ ନବୋଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟମୂଳକ ଗବେଷଣା : ଧ୍ୟାନ-ପାନ-ମାନ-ବିଜ୍ଞାନ, ଫକୀର ମୋହନ ଚେତନା, ଭାରତୀୟ ଜ୍ଞାନ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ, ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ-ଐତିହାସିକ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଉପରେ ମୂଳ ଓ ମୂଲ୍ୟମୂଳକ ଗବେଷଣା ।
୪. ବିଶେଷ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଓ ସଂଗ୍ରହାଳୟ ସ୍ଥାପନା : ଭାରତୀୟ ଜ୍ଞାନ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ, ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ସାମ୍ପଦ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି ଓ ଐତିହାସିକ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନ ପାଇଁ ବିଶେଷ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଓ ମ୍ୟୁଜିୟମ୍ ।
୫. ଗବେଷଣା, ନବୋଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଓ ଉଦ୍ୟମଶୀଳତାକୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ : ANRF-PAIR, OMBRIC ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ, ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଫେଲୋସିପ ଓ ବିଭାଗୀୟ ଗବେଷଣା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରାୟୋଗିକ ଓ ସଂସ୍ଥାଗତ ସମର୍ଥନ ।
୬. ଛାତ୍ର-କେନ୍ଦ୍ରିକ ଓ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ବିକାଶ : ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଓ ବିକଶିତ ଭାରତ ଦୃଷ୍ଟି କୋଣରେ ଶିକ୍ଷା, କୌଶଳ ଓ ମୂଲ୍ୟାଧାରିତ ଉନ୍ନତି ।
୭. ମାନସିକ, ଶାରୀରିକ ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ସୁସ୍ଥିତତା : ପରାମର୍ଶ ଓ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା ସହ ମାନସିକ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଆହ୍ୱାନକୁ ସାକାର କରି ଆନେମିଆମୂଳକ ପରସର ପାଇଁ ବିଶେଷ ଉଦ୍ୟମ ।
୮. ଜ୍ଞାତୃ, ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ଓ ସହଯୋଗୀତା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ : ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ଗଠନ ପାଇଁ ବିବିଧ ଜ୍ଞାତୃ ଓ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ । ପ୍ରାକ୍ତନ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗରେ ଆମ କଲେଜ, ଆମ ଗୌରବ କରିଆରେ ଡିଜିଟାଲ ଲାଇବ୍ରେରୀ ଓ ସ୍ପୋର୍ଟସ୍ କମ୍ପ୍ଲେକ୍ସ ନିର୍ମାଣ । 'ଉନ୍ନତରୁମ୍' ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ଓ ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଉତ୍ସବ ।
୯. ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଓ ଗବେଷଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷାଗତ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ : ସେମିନାର, କର୍ମଶାଳା, ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ର, ଅଭିଭିକ୍ତ ଅଧ୍ୟାପନା ଓ ଅନୁଶୀଳନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ।
୧୦. ସୁଶାସନ, ସାମାଜିକ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଓ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ସଂଲଗ୍ନତା : ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍ଗ, ମିତ୍ର ପରିସର, ଲିଙ୍ଗ ସମାନତା POSH (ICC), ଅଭିଯୋଗ ସମାଧାନ, NSS, ଆଉଟ୍ରିଚ୍ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ, ପାଠ୍ୟ ଗ୍ରାମ ଓ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ସମୁଦାୟର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ।

~ Upcoming Mega Events ~

- EAST ZONE YOUTH FESTIVAL (UTSAH - 2026)
- CONVOCATION - 2026
- STATE INTER UNIVERSITY SPORTS & GAMES : 2025 - 26
- EAST ZONE INTER UNIVERSITY KHO - KHO

ନୂତନ ଆଶା ଓ ସମ୍ଭାବନା ସହ ନବବର୍ଷର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା - ଫକୀର ମୋହନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପରିବାର

Odisha Police raids cattle smugglers; 10 arrested



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Keonjhar, Jan 17: Odisha Police Saturday conducted raids at 46 locations across Bhadrak, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Khurda districts in connection with alleged cattle smuggling, a senior police officer said.

The operation against illegal cattle traders was launched in the early morning by multiple police teams comprising two additional superintendents of police, five DSPs, 25 inspectors, 36 sub-inspectors and ASIs, and 18 platoons of force, said the officer.

During the raids till evening, the police teams have seized cash of ₹1.52 crore, gold weighing 1 kg 131 grams, 3.80 kg silver, 23 four-wheelers, 23 two-wheelers, 13 mobile phones, and 21 wristwatches.

“We have apprehended 10 cattle mafias and detected properties including house buildings, bank deposits, lands and other

The early-morning operation was carried out by multiple police teams comprising two Additional SPs, five DSPs, 25 inspectors, 36 SIs and ASIs, and 18 platoons of force

During the raids conducted till evening, police seized ₹1.52 crore in cash, 1.131 kg gold, 3.80 kg silver, 23 four-wheelers, 23 two-wheelers, 13 mobile phones and 21 wristwatches

assets worth approximately ₹50 crore accumulated by the cattle mafias as proceeds of illegal cattle trafficking,” said Keonjhar SP Nitin Kusalkar.

The assets will be confiscated as per the provisions under Section 107 of BNSS. The raids are under progress and will continue till completion, he said.

The arrested persons have been identified by the police as SK Rajan alias Tajudin of

Bhadrak, Tipu Sultan, Kunu Sahu, Arjun Sahu, SK Akbar, Nasir and Sipu Sahu of Keonjhar, and Mrutunjaya Mohapatra, Sujit Mohanty and K Naim of Mayurbhanj district.

“Nearly a year ago, some cow smugglers attacked a police van and ran their vehicle over police officials. So, we had decided to crack down on their network by seizing their properties and arresting them,” the SP said.

In Bhadrak town, a large police team headed by a DSP and comprising three inspectors, six sub-inspectors and two platoons of personnel conducted a raid at the residence of a suspected cattle smuggler and recovered over ₹70 lakh in cash, gold ornaments, two SUVs and other valuables.

Several cases are pending against the cow smugglers in different police stations of Keonjhar, Sudarshan Gangoi, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), Keonjhar Sadar, said.

“We raided the house and found cash, gold ornaments and other valuables. Further search was going on,” he told reporters.

During a raid at Tentoposhi village in Mayurbhanj district, the police team faced strong protests by locals.

When the police team was taking steps to seize a four-wheeler, a large gathering of villagers including women, gheraoed the police team and also removed pressure from the tyres of the vehicle.

Youth poses as owner, steals bike; nabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: A youth was arrested for allegedly stealing a motorcycle from a service centre by posing as its owner in the Gajapati Nagar area, Maitree Vihar police said Saturday.

According to a complaint filed by the service centre manager, the incident occurred around 10 am January 14, when the accused, identified as Manoj Gochayat (22), entered the service centre premises pretending to be the owner of the motorcycle. Taking advantage of the situation, he allegedly decamped with a Yamaha motorcycle, a theft that was later confirmed after examining CCTV footage from the service centre.

During the investigation, CCTV footage showed that Manoj had arrived at the service centre earlier on a black motorcycle and remained inside the premises for over an hour, posing as a genuine customer and introducing himself under a fake name. At around 12.08 pm, he rode away on the stolen motorcycle and fled the spot.

Acting on credible intelligence, police raided an area near Acharya Vihar and caught the accused while attempting to sell the stolen motorcycle. The motorcycle, along with its key, was recovered, and another vehicle used in the crime was also seized.

After gathering sufficient evidence, the accused was arrested and forwarded to court, with further investigation into the case ongoing.

BMC, CGM COLLABORATION

Push to eco-friendly mobility solutions



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: In a significant step towards sustainable, eco-friendly and people-centric urban mobility, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Green Mobility (CGM) to promote non-motorised transport (NMT) across the City.

The signing ceremony was held in presence of BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Commissioner Chanchal Rana, Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo, Deputy Commissioner N Ganesh Babu and other senior officials. The agreement was signed between Rana and CGM chief executive officer Bankim Karla.

The collaboration aims to encourage walking, cycling, and other non-motorised modes of transport, in line with urban development policies and global priorities on climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability. “As a Smart

DPS Kalinga wraps up week-long sports meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: Delhi Public School (DPS) Kalinga successfully concluded the grand finale of its week-long Annual Athletic Competition 2025-26, showcasing enthusiastic participation and excellent sportsmanship.

The meet was inaugurated January 12 by Executive Trustee Sunaina Patro and Principal Suvabrata Mukherjee, while Pro Vice Chairperson Mala Mishra conveyed her best wishes for the event in absentia.



Students from Classes IV to XI competed across Houses—Cauvery, Ganges, Jamuna and Mahanadi—in a range of track and field events, including 100m, 200m and 400m races, 4x100m relay, shot put, discus throw and long jump.

Vice Principal Sanjay Kumar Jena flagged off the march-past, while Vice Principal Swati Nath and Headmaster Mustaque Ahmed distributed prizes and encouraged participants. The school leadership lauded the students’ performance and reaffirmed DPS Kalinga’s commitment to promoting physical education, athletics and true sporting spirit.

Cuttack Stewart School holds annual athletics

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 17: Stewart School, Cuttack organised its Annual Athletic Meet and Prize Distribution Ceremony for the academic year 2025-26 Saturday with great enthusiasm for Nursery and Classes IX to XII.

The programme commenced at 8:30am with an opening prayer by school chairman Rt Rev SK Nanda, followed by welcoming guests and a parade by the students. The school head girl administered the oath, reaffirming the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship. Nursery children impressed the audience with a colourful drill and a series of fun races, including special events for parents, after which prizes were distributed.

Senior students participated in track and field events such as sprint races, slow cycling, shot put, long jump, discus throw, javelin throw, kabad-d, tennis, chess, badminton, football and tug of war. The final tug of war match between the ‘Young’ and the ‘Biggs’ drew loud applause



from the spectators. Joining as chief guest, former cricketer V Venkatram addressed the gathering and encouraged students to pursue sports with discipline, dedication and integrity. Fomer Hockey player Sk Momin joined as guest of honour, along with Samar Pramanik, Rashmi Rekha Senapati and Subhasis Sahu, who encouraged the participants and appreciated the school’s sporting culture.

The ceremony concluded with races for support staff, and teachers, prize distribution in individual and house champions’ category, and the formal closure of the meet with the National Anthem.

Odisha gears up for MDA to eliminate lymphatic filariasis

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: In a major push to meet the national target of eliminating lymphatic filariasis by 2027, the state government will conduct a Mass Drug Administration (MDA) programme from February 10 to 19, across six implementation units in five districts.

At a high-level state coordination committee meeting, chaired by Health and Family Welfare department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathy S, it was decided that the drive will cover two units in Bolangir and one unit each in Dhenkanal, Bargarh, Jajpur and Ganjam.

The meeting was attended by NHM Mission Director Brunda D, OSMCL MD Poma Tudu, Public Health Special Secretary Jitendra Mohan Bortha, senior officials from the Health department, representatives of Women and Child Development, School and Mass Education, Housing and Urban Development, Panchayati



HEALTH DRIVE

Raj and Drinking Water departments, and development partners including WHO, PCI and GHS. Officials from four government medical colleges and ICMR-Bhubaneswar also participated.

Public Health Director Nilakantha Mishra presented the current filariasis situation and outlined the rigorous plan for the February drive, stressing the importance of inter-departmental coordination.

Calling for intensified efforts, Aswathy S said, “Social mobilisation and supervised drug consumption are critical to overcome absenteeism and drug refusal. All departments must work together to ensure maximum coverage.”

Brunda D emphasised strengthened monitoring, especially in high-risk areas with low coverage and high micro-filaria rates. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to prioritise the programme and keep Odisha on track to achieve filariasis elimination by 2027.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Narayan Ghadai, 71 yrs, S/o- Late Jogendra Ghadai, At- Apartipur, P.O.- Matipaka, P.S.- Naikanidihi, Dist.- Bhadrak, Pin- 756125, Odisha do hereby 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 shall be known as Narayan Ghadai (Correct Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No.- 7302, dated 06.10.2025, Narayan Ghadai (Correct name) and Narayan Chandra Ghadai both are same and one identical person. Now onwards I shall be known as Narayan Ghadai, father of Krushna Chandra Ghadai for all future purposes.

Gaur population climbs to 848 in Debrigarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 17: The population of Indian bison, popularly known as gaur (gayala), has recorded a significant and sustained rise in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, with the third census pegging the number at 848, reflecting the impact of focused habitat management and protection measures.

The third gaur census, conducted from January 5 to 7, covered the entire 353 sq km Sanctuary through 73 census units. The exercise recorded 848 gaurs across 69 herds, marking an increase of 189 animals compared to the first census in November 2024, when 659 gaurs in 52 herds were counted.

Officials noted that around 30 per cent of the population (235 individuals) comprised juveniles below two years of age, indicating a healthy breeding trend and a stable population structure.

The census was carried out using the direct count method, involving 155 personnel who worked from 5am to 5pm over three consecutive days. To strengthen accuracy and monitoring, teams also deployed 213 Pressure Impression Pads (PIPs) and 103 camera traps across the sanctuary.

The gaur population has



shown a steady upward trajectory over the last three surveys:

First census in November 12-13, 2024 recorded 659 gaurs in 52 herds. Similarly second census in May 11 to 13, 2025 recorded 788 gaurs in 60 herd.

In the Safari Zone, a 50 sq km tourism area within the sanctuary, officials recorded 98 gaurs in eight herds. These herds are regularly sighted by tourists, enhancing Debrigarh’s reputation as a prime wildlife tourism destination.

Forest officials attribute the rising numbers to species-specific habitat management, especially tailored to the feeding and behavioural needs of the gaur, a Schedule-I protected species with an average weight ranging between 600 and 800kg.

Hirakud Forest Division

DFO Anshu Pragyan Das said the steady increase reflects sustained conservation planning on the ground. “The consistent rise in the Gaur population is a clear outcome of species-specific habitat management, strict protection, and continuous monitoring. Development of grasslands and bamboo brakes suited to the feeding behaviour of Gaur has significantly improved habitat quality. The high proportion of juveniles further indicates a healthy and stable population,” Das said.

At Debrigarh, meadows interspersed with bamboo brakes have been developed to support grazing and browsing, with emphasis on grassland species such as Heteropogon, Dichanthium, Cynodon, and Themeda, ensuring year-round food avail-

ability. Das said the six-monthly census exercise was introduced to closely monitor the breeding pattern of the gaur, the flagship species of Debrigarh, which supports one of the healthiest gaur densities in India.

Since November 2024, the sanctuary has been conducting the census every six months to scientifically track population dynamics. The steady rise—129 animals added between the first and second census and another 60 in the third—indicates that gaurs in Debrigarh are breeding throughout the year.

This trend is significant, officials noted, as gaur breeding in several other parts of India tends to be seasonal, whereas Debrigarh shows round-the-year breeding, reflecting highly favourable habitat conditions. To further strengthen monitoring, each range of the sanctuary maintains a monthly register documenting newly born gaurs, enabling continuous population assessment beyond the census period.

Das said the latest census reinforces Debrigarh’s status as a stronghold for Indian Bison in eastern India and highlights the success of long-term conservation efforts backed by scientific management and vigilant field protection.

Outfit protests rising mob lynching incidents in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: A sharp rise in incidents of mob violence and lynching has raised serious concerns over law and order in Odisha. Reflecting this concern, members of Manabata Banchao Abhiyan (MBA) Saturday staged a protest at the City’s Master Canteen Square, condemning such acts and demanding special legislation and stringent punishment for those involved.

The protest follows recent incidents, including one reported January 14, 2026, in Balasore district, where Sheikh Makandar Mohammad was allegedly beaten to death near Sahada village under Balasore Sadar police limits by suspected cow vigilantes.

During the protest, the activists expressed solidarity with victims of mob violence and targeted the state government, al-

leging a lack of accountability in protecting minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

“In recent times, incidents of violence against Dalits, minorities, backward communities and women have reportedly increased. Attacks carried out in the name of cow protection, religion and caste have become more frequent,” the agitators alleged, claiming administrative inaction and political patronage.

The protesters sought fulfillment of four key demands, including the enactment of a specific law against mob lynching, implementation of police guidelines issued by the Director General of Police in 2018 in line with Supreme Court directives, award of life imprisonment to those convicted in mob lynching cases, and compensation of ₹50 lakh to the next of kin of victims who die in such incidents.



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.2°	26.2°	Cold wave conditions to prevail
Min Temp	10.7°	10.2°	
Humidity	74%	83%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Youth dies in assault by elder brother

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Jan 17: A youth died after allegedly being assaulted by his elder brother in Dalanga village under Turumunga police limits of Keonjhar district Saturday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Jitendra Mohanta, son of Haradhan Mohanta. According to police, an altercation broke out between the two brothers over an unspecified issue. During the argument, the elder brother, Satyanand Mohanta, allegedly lost his temper and assaulted Jitendra with punches and blows.

Jitendra sustained serious injuries and was rushed to the district headquarters hospital in Keonjhar, where doctors declared him dead.

On being informed, Turumunga police reached the spot. Champua Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Rashmi Ranjan Sahu also visited the village and supervised the investigation. Police have detained Satyanand at the Turumunga police station for questioning. Further investigation is underway.

Crucial CAG input led to ED raids on illicit sand mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Jan 17: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) unearthed illegal mining of minor minerals in Ganjam district based on the reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), sources confirmed. The ED had been monitoring the activities of the mafias for a long time.

The officials have reportedly seized cash worth more than ₹2.5 crore during searches covering at least 25 locations. Several property papers including multiple luxury vehicles were also seized. The ED officials recovered cash from country-made liquor units by establishing links between the mafias and the illegal liquor manufacturers. These links have exposed criminal conspiracies between the liquor manufacturers and the sand miners.

During the raids, the ED found that extracted sand was transported to Andhra Pradesh through fake Form-Y from Odisha, a pass that is used as interstate transit permit. The suspected role of all the hired sand contractors will also be verified, the officials said.

The officials are said to have taken hold of several incriminating documents during the course of raids in two crusher units, suspecting assets were purchased from the proceeds of crime.

The sources said that the persons are allegedly involved in several illegal mining cases registered against them and the teams have recovered various mining related documents from the possession of Krupasindhu Muduli, who is said to be the mastermind of various illegal mining scams.

The ED has now mobilised teams across six states trying to investigate and establish any sort of forward and backward linkages of the businessmen and mafias, indicating more such raids in future, sources said.

Aircraft crash landing: One critical passenger succumbs

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Jan 17: One passenger, who was seriously injured in the crash landing of a small aircraft near Rourkela city, died at JP Hospital Saturday while being shifted to the airport for airlifting to Mumbai, an officer said.

The deceased passenger was identified as Susanta Biswal (47), a native of Manikapatana village in Aul block of Kendrapara district and had been living with his family at Naditola under Brahmanitarang police limits. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

According to family members, Biswal had earlier been ill and was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. As he was unfit to travel by bus, he was returning to Rourkela by the aircraft along with his sister, Anita Sahu, on the day of the crash.

Biswal was undergoing treatment at the JP Hospital after the crash, the state's Directorate of Civil Aviation said in a statement this evening.

However, the health condition of Biswal's sister Anita Sahoo, who was also injured in the crash, has remained stable,



officials said.

At least six people, including two pilots, were injured when a nine-seater aircraft of India-One made an emergency crash landing near Rourkela January 10 afternoon.

Out of the six injured, two were airlifted to a hospital in Mumbai on their personal wish, while the other four, including two pilots and Biswal, have been under treatment at JP Hospital in Rourkela city.

Despite timely medical intervention and continuous monitoring, his condition remained critical due to pre-existing heart failure and renal failure. Subsequently, he developed a severe lung infection, which

led to further deterioration of his health, it said.

Considering the seriousness of his condition, the government planned to shift the patient to Mumbai for tertiary-level treatment through air evacuation to ensure better medical outcomes.

"However, while being transferred to the air ambulance, the patient suffered a massive cardiac arrest and collapsed. Despite the best efforts of the attending medical team, he could not be revived and was declared dead at 4:23pm Saturday," the directorate said.

A relative of the patient accompanied him throughout the entire treatment and evacuation process. "In this moment of deep grief, we stand in solidarity with the bereaved family," the statement said.

The airline concerned has assured compensation to the next of kin as per applicable norms. All prescribed medical protocols and emergency procedures were duly followed, it said.

Meanwhile, a team from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) conducted an investigation into the crash and will submit the report to their authority, the officials said.

Woman held for killing husband, staging accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Jan 17: Police in Patana area of Keonjhar district Saturday arrested a woman for allegedly killing her husband and attempting to pass off the murder as a road accident.

The accused has been identified as Paneswari Majhi, 38, of Godhinali village under Digaposi panchayat in Saharapada block. She was produced before a court after her arrest.

According to police, Paneswari had an argument with her husband Arjun Majhi Monday night over cooking fish curry. During the altercation, she allegedly struck him on the head with a bamboo stick, causing serious injuries.

To conceal the crime, the woman later claimed that her husband had suffered a head injury in a road accident near the Bhaladiha field area, police said.

Arjun Majhi was admitted to the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital, where he died Tuesday morning while undergoing treatment.

Based on eyewitness accounts, circumstantial evidence, witness statements and the post-mortem report, police arrested the woman, Saharapada outpost officer Partha Oram said.

A case has been registered at Patna police station in connection with the incident.

6 arrested for group clash in Sundargarh

PNN & AGENCIES

Sundargarh/Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: Six people were arrested Saturday for their alleged involvement in a group clash in Sundargarh town two days ago, a senior officer said.

Efforts are underway to identify others involved in the violence, Sundargarh Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Nirmal Mohapatra said.

"The situation is now normal, and we're closely monitoring. We urge the people of Sundargarh to remain calm. Six people have so far been arrested from the Sundargarh district," he said.

The clash broke out Thursday

following an altercation between two groups over alleged sale of beef at the Regent market in Sundagarh town. At least 12 people, including some police personnel, were injured in the violence.

Following the clash, the local administration had imposed prohibitory orders and suspended internet services in the town. However, the restrictions were lifted Friday evening as the situation had improved in the area. Shops, other commercial establishments and educational institutions remained open Saturday, he said. However, as a preventive measure, about 20 platoons of police force continue to be deployed in the town.

Government of Odisha

No.O-2059

e-Procurement Notice

E.Mail : rw_boudh@yahoo.co.in

Bid Identification No. Online tender/17/S.E.RW BOUDH/2025-26

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the work : Building works - 17 Nos

1. Estimated cost : Rs. 68.50 lakhs to 76.41 lakh (approximately)

2. Period of completion : 09 Calendar months

3. Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal : From 21.01.2026, 10.00 A.M. to 30.01.2026, 5.00 P.M.

4. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 30.01.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.

5. Last date / Time for seeking of Tender clarification : 29.01.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.

6. Date & Time of opening of Tender Bid Technical & Financial : 31.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M. & 03.02.2026 at 11 A.M.

7. Name & Address of the officer inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, R.W Division, Boudh

Further details, corrigendum (s) etc can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R.W. Division, Boudh

OIPIR-

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH

Email : rd_bgh@yahoo.co.in, Gmail : rwd.bgh@gmail.com

No.O-2066

e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH- 25 OF 2025-26

1 Name of the Work : Road works during 2025-26 in the district of Bargarh

2 EMD : @1% of the estimated cost put to tender

3 Other details : As per DTCN

Procurement Officer

Bid Identification No.

Availability of Tender online for bidding

Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification

Date & Time of opening of tender

1

2

3

4

5

6

Executive Engineer,
Rural Works
Division, Bargarh

ONLINE-BGH-25
OF 2025-26

20.01.2026
at 11.00 A.M.

28.01.2026
upto 5.00 P.M.

28.01.2026
upto 4.00 P.M.

29.01.2026
at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R.W. Division, Bargarh

OIPIR-

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-CCTV-PMS-KUR-535 Dt: 09.01.2026

Name of the Work: PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF 47 CCTVs AT 9 PMS (PARCEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM) LOCATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Tender Value: ₹ 24,43,618.33, EMD: ₹ 48,900/-

Bidding start date: 19.01.2026, Date & Time of closing of Tender at 1100 hrs. of 02.02.2026.

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

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

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

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)/
PR-1021/Q/25-26
Khurda Road

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR

E-mail : eeroads.khr@rediffmail.com

No. 437 Date : 16.01.2026

Invitation For Bids

Bid Identification No. SER&BKHR - 20/2025-26

1 The Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division. Khariar on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate composite (Civil/EI+PH) bids in Double Cover system in ONLINE MODE only. The Office Memorandum of Govt. of Works Department No.07764600022025-173/W Bhubaneswar Dt.03.01.2026 of Principal Secretary to Govt. Sub-Amendment of Codal & Contractual Provisions to be followed scrupulously

2 Nature of work : Development of Tourism Infrastructure at Pataliganga, Boden Block

3 No. of work : 01 No. work

4 Tender Paper cost : As specified in the notices for the respective Work, to be remitted online only

5 Class of Contractor : As specified in the notice for the respective Work

6 Availability of Bid documents in the website : 10.00 hours of 21.01.2026 to 17.00 hours of 04.02.2026

7 Date of opening of Technical Bid : Dt. 05.02.2026 at 11:00 hours

8 EMD/Bid Security : As specified in the notice to be remitted online only

9 The Bidders shall have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason therefor.

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

OIPIR-

Mid-winter wetland bird survey to be held at Bhitarkanika today

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Jan 17: The mid-winter status survey of wetland birds will be conducted across five forest and wildlife ranges of Bhitarkanika National Park January 18, according to Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Rajnagar Mangrove Forest and Wildlife Division, Vardaraj Gaonkar.

The survey will be carried out Sunday in the Kanika, Gahirmatha, Rajnagar, Mahakalapara, and Kujang ranges within the national park. A total of 18 enumerator teams will be engaged in this year's mid-winter wetland migratory bird census.

Forest officials, along with renowned ornithologists and wildlife researchers, will undertake the bird count at several locations including

Dangamala, Khola, Chinchiri Mouth, Jaudia, Bhitarkanika Mouth, Rajgarh, Satabhaya, Raitapatia, Barunei Mouth, Chataka, Praharajpur Jaudia, Ekakula, Nasi, Nasi-1, Nasi-2, Jatadhar Tanda, Hawakhana, Bandar, Devi River Mouth, and other parts of the park.

During the survey, forest officials will count avian species using the traditional "direct sighting" method, while researchers and ornithologists will employ VHF handsets, binoculars, and GPS devices for accurate enumeration.

2 Maoists killed in gunfight with security forces

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Jan 17: Two Maoists were killed Saturday during a fierce gunbattle with security forces near the Malkangiri border in Chhattisgarh, officials said.

The exchange of fire broke out after a joint team of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) launched a joint combining operation based on intelligence reports of rebel movement in the forest.

Security forces recovered the bodies of two insurgents following the encounter. Preliminary reports suggest that one of the deceased is Maoist leader Papa Rao, a high-ranking Maoist leader.

"The rebels fled into the deep forest after a prolonged shootout," a spokesperson for the Bijapur police said. "During the subsequent search of the area, we recovered a significant cache of weapons, including AK-47 rifles and other materials."

Search operations remain underway in the dense terrain. Police officials stated that a comprehensive report will be released once the operation is fully concluded.

Cotton factory gutted in fire

Balasore: A cotton processing factory was gutted in a fire in Balasore district Saturday, an official said. Cotton to the tune of lakhs of rupees and machinery were destroyed in the factory at Haldipada area, due to the blaze that erupted in the afternoon, he said. However, there were no reports of any injury or fatality, the official said. Fire tenders from Basta and Rupsa area were pressed into service to douse the flames. The cause of the blaze is yet to be ascertained, though short-circuit could be a possibility, the official added.

Auto driver burnt alive in car crash

Phulbani: An auto-rickshaw driver burnt to death after his vehicle and a car collided head-on and went ablaze near Datapaju under Sadar police limits in this district headquarters town Saturday evening, police said. The victim was identified as Barun Mallik, 20, of Miniakathi village in Datapaju panchayat under Khajuripada block. He was trapped inside the auto-rickshaw and burnt alive as flames engulfed both the vehicles. Local residents rushed to the scene and rescued two other occupants of the auto-rickshaw and one person from the car. They were taken to the district headquarters hospital. The car's driver fled the scene, police said. Among the injured are the victim's brother, Babula, and Shailendra Kanhar of Singapada village under Dadaki panchayat. Both suffered severe burns over more than half of their bodies. After initial treatment at a local hospital, they were referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. According to police, Barun was driving the auto-rickshaw from Phulbani to his village Saturday evening, with Babula seated inside. Near Datapaju, the auto collided head-on with a car coming from the Boudh side, causing both vehicles to catch fire. Fire services reached the spot and brought the blaze under control, but Barun had already succumbed to burn injuries. Phulbani Sadar police have launched an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the crash.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

BOI

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Zonal Office : Sambalpur Zone, Near Sarlakani Chowk, P.O.: Dhanakauda, Dist.: Sambalpur - 768006 (Odisha)

E-Auction

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the Symbolic/Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of India, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on 10.02.2026, for recovery of the below mentioned amount due to the Bank of India ,respective branch, from the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s).The Reserve Price, EMD amount and Property details are as mentioned here under:

Date & Time of E-Auction: 10.02.2026

From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 5 (Five) minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded

Last date for submission of EMD & Documents: 10.02.2026 upto 4.30 P.M.

Date & Time of Inspection of Property: 09.02.2026 upto 4.00 P.M.

For inspection please contact the Respective Branch Head or Recovery Department, Zonal Office, Sambalpur (Mrs. Lilima Panda, Mob.: 8144002101, Mr. Sujit Kumar Badhai Mob.: 7004717984)

Sl. No.

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantor / Total Dues

Description of the Properties

Reserve Price / EMD / Type of Possession/Prop. ID

1.

MAIN ROAD BRANCH, ROURKELA / Branch Head: Gagan Raj Thapa - 9178221168 (M) Borrower: Mrs. Sana Arju / Co-Borrower: Mr. MD Irfan Ekhlauque, Both are Resident of At: Flat No.: 1-B, 1st Floor, Al-Sattar Palace, Behind Old Razak Talkies, Main Road, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh-769001 / Total Dues: ₹30,04,000/- as on 17.01.2025 plus further interest, costs and incidental expenses thereon.

All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Flat Bearing No.: 1-B in 1st Floor of the residential Apartment of "AL-SATTAR PALACE" with super-built up area 862 sqft. Constructed on Plot No.: 511/2598, having an area of proportionate undivided Share Ac. 0.004 dec. out of total area of Ac. 0.05 dec. in Khata No.: 492/401 in Mouza: RTU 35 Rourkela, P.S.: Plant Site, Tahasil: Rourkela(Panposh), within the registration Sub-Registrar Office Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha, standing in the name of Mrs. Sana Arju.

₹45,50,000/- / ₹45,50,000/- / Symbolic / BKID0000144

2.

ROURKELA BRANCH, ROURKELA / Branch Head: Upendra Meher- 8917440362 (M) Borrower: Mrs. Rinku Sahu, Resident of At/PO: Kuarmunda, PS: Birmiritapur, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha-769004 / Total Dues:₹14,62,995.93 as on 12.05.2025 Plus Further Interest, Costs and Incidental Expenses.

All the part & parcel of land & building situated over Plot No.: 1239/5047, Khata No.: 6/102, Mouza: Kuarmunda, PS: Birmiritapur, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha, Area: Ac. 0.05 Dec, KISSAM: Gharbari recorded in the name of Mrs. Rinku Sahu, Bounded by North: Road to Kuarmunda Panchayat, South: Mr. Umesh Chandra Mistry, East: Road, West: Mr. Amulya Jena.

₹29,35,800/- / ₹2,93,580/- / Symbolic / BKID0000145

Terms and conditions of E-Auction:

To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The E-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the property before submission of the bid.Particulars specified in the schedule above have been stated to the best of information of the Authorised Officer / Bank. Authorised Officer and / or Bank will not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this public notice. The auction will be online E-Auction Sale/Bidding and shall be done only through "Online Electronic Bidding" process through the website: <https://banknet.com>.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofindia.co.in/tenders>

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 17.01.2026

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

बैंक ऑफ बरौदा

Bank of Baroda

Regional Office : Cuttack

2nd Floor, Chalachitra Bhawan, Buxibazar, Cuttack, Odisha-753001

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under sub section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA, Bonth Chhak Bhadrak Branch** for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

BONTH CHHAK BHADRAK BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower

Description of the Immovable Property

Demand/ Possession Notice Date

Outstanding Amount

Borrower: Shri Ajay Kumar Behera, S/o- Basudev Behera, At: Arasa, PO: Tihidi, PS: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, Odisha

All that part and parcel of the property consisting Khata No.: 1031/73, Plot No.: 3138, Total Area: Ac.0.120dec., Mouza: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Tahasil: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of **Ajay Kumar Behera**, S/o- Basudev Behera, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 3137, South: 3163, East: Plot No.: 3139, 3140, West: Plot No.: 3363-Road

14.10.2025 / 15.01.2026

₹16,84,766.78 as on 08.10.2025 and with further interest thereon from 09.10.2025 at the contractual rate plus cost, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Cuttack

Date: 17.01.2026

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



Shattered Illusions

My generation (I am 56) grew up on the expectation that India would compete with China and become one of the world’s great powers in our lifetime. This confidence was felt by us, it was spoken about in politics and it was written about by the world’s journalists. All through the 1990s, and the 2000s, for two decades, this sentiment remained.

Yes, India was growing a little slower, and yes, India was not industrialising as China was, but it was only a matter of time before it caught up. One famous writer compared the two nations’ futures and said China’s road to development was smooth but with one giant bump on the horizon, which was the transition to democracy. India’s road was pot-holed but it had no major obstacles to development. This turned out to be both simplistic and totally wrong.

At some point, I think this happened in the last decade or so though it could be a little later, it was realised that all the forecasting was off. India would not rival China as an economic power or a great power, meaning one that is able to influence the world. We would not follow the path of other Asian nations like Japan, Korea, Singapore and China into prosperity for our citizens.

We would continue as many nations do, with the majority remaining poor by the standards of the world (India’s per capita GDP is one fourth of the world’s average). The ambition fell away from my generation, which spent more than 30 years of adulthood in ‘post liberalisation’ and was in the position to arrive at conclusions based on our lived reality. The ambition fell away from politics as well, and we can see that India has returned to competing with Pakistan and Bangladesh, and this is where we are most comfortable and where our nationalism really blooms.

The writers of the world also realised that we were not comparable to China and the cover stories that put the two nations on the covers and feature stories of The Economist and The Wall Street Journal no longer appear.

There is a second realisation that dawned on those who observe India and this has also come in the last decade. All this time, it was assumed that while it may be the case that India was not delivering the expected economic miracle, it was still democratic and because of that fact it was distinct.

The second realisation was that India has moved away from democracy and individual liberty towards a mix of electoral autocracy and straight-up authoritarianism. As an activist and a liberal it may be expected that I would say such things and so it is important to look at it from the perspective of those who study and classify states.

Four years ago, the government of India took offence when an American think-tank classified India as being ‘partly free’ and Kashmir, which it classified separately, as ‘not free’.

The government’s response was to put out a press release which said: ‘Many states in India under its federal structure are ruled by parties other than the one at the national level, through an election process which is free and fair and which is conducted by an independent election body. This reflects the working of a vibrant democracy, which gives space to those who hold varying views.’

This was dishonest. The report had two parts. The first, which was given 40 per cent weightage, was on political rights. Here India got a score of 34/40, including full marks for free and fair elections, election commission impartiality, freedom to start political parties and opportunities for the Opposition to increase their power. In this part, India did not get full marks on whether voting was unhampered by violence and unaffected by communal tension. This is hardly arguable. In fact, the government even got 3/4 on transparency, which was probably overgenerous. The government response was therefore merely repeating what had anyway been conceded.

Where India’s rating was hurt was in the other 60 per cent, for civil liberties, which are also a part of freedom. Here it performed poorly (33/60). On the issues of freedom of expression, freedom of religion, academic freedom, freedom of assembly, freedom for NGOs to work (the report named the government’s attack on my organisation Amnesty International India specifically), rule of law, independence of judiciary and due process by police, India’s rating was poor. But the scores merely reflected the reality.

When another report, this time by The Economist Intelligence Unit, downgraded India to a ‘flawed democracy’, the government sought details of the parameters though the report itself clearly says that the ‘primary cause was an erosion of civil liberties’ and introduction of religion into citizenship.

It should be noted that these reports are from a few years ago. After them has come the era of bulldozer justice and the current disenfranchising crusade mounted by the Election Commission of India. Current assessments of India as a democracy under rule of law will be worse than the ones the government took objection to.

On the other hand the government no longer objects or even responds to such reports. It has become inured to criticism from outside, as it has become to criticism from inside. Like the realisation on the failure of development, we have also internalised the failure on democracy. It is what it is, as those of us who are old enough know.

WISDOM CORNER

There is no greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth.

LEO TOLSTOY

We always question the bonafides of the man who tells us unpleasant facts.

RK NARAYAN

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.

CHARLES DICKENS

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1871:** The German Empire was founded by Otto von Bismarck in the aftermath of three successful wars by the state of Prussia.
- 1882:** A.A. Milne—who originated the immensely popular stories of Christopher Robin and his toy bear, Winnie-the-Pooh—was born in London.
- 1912:** British explorer Robert Falcon Scott and four members of his expedition reached the South Pole, only to discover that Roald Amundsen had preceded them by a month; Scott and his men subsequently died trying to return to their base camp.

power post

FOCUS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

EUROPE’S SLOP WAR

When the Economist and Merriam-Webster announced “slop” as their word of the year, Microsoft’s Satya Nadella complained, but few were surprised. The past 18 months have been characterized by an unrelenting flood of brain-rot slop, political slop, scam slop, and, above all, porn slop. Recent estimates suggest Elon Musk’s Grok AI posts one nonconsensual pornographic image of a woman per minute on the social-media platform X (formerly Twitter).

Not so long ago, social-media companies billed themselves as tools for connecting with real people and keeping up with the news. They have long since abandoned that promise. Having untethered their platforms from reality, tech barons like Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg and X owner Elon Musk now exercise near-monopoly control over our screens. They use that power to feed users a steady diet of manipulative, dangerous, and outright illegal AI-generated junk. Grok has produced sexual-abuse images of children as young as four.

Fortunately, after years of inaction, regulators are stepping in. The European Union just opened an investigation into the spread of child sexual abuse material on Grok. This follows its first enforcement action in December, when it fined X \$140 million under the Digital Services Act (DSA). While this hardly makes a dent in Musk’s vast fortune, the fine is not the point. More important is what the EU ordered X to do: redesign its scam-ridden blue-check system, tackle ad fraud, and restore researcher access so the public can understand the platform’s effects on the information landscape.

These probes set the stage for a confrontation. US President Donald Trump’s new National Security Strategy illustrates the stakes of the coming slop war. Released on the same day the X fine was an-



Having untethered their platforms from reality, tech barons like Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg and X owner Elon Musk now exercise near-monopoly control over our screens. They use that power to feed users a steady diet of manipulative, dangerous, and outright illegal AI-generated junk

nounced, the NSS makes clear the administration’s intention: to back social-media moguls as they spread lies, amplify hate, bolster authoritarians, and destabilize Europe from within.

Despite the predictable protests from Musk and Trump, the EU’s regulatory actions have nothing to do with attacking “free speech.”(The fine targeted economic scams; the probe targets child abuse.) Instead, these measures mark the start of what is likely to become a bitter struggle to rein in Xand, more broadly, to curb the spread of AI-driven slop.What Musk and Trump portray as a fight over who has the right to speak is really a fight over who has the power to force others to listen.

The conflict raises stark questions for policymakers. What will Europe do once X inevitably refuses to comply? Will the European Commission impose stiffer penalties or suspend the company’s access to the single market? Child sexual abuse material is illegal; yet X’s leadership has allowed it to be generated and spread. And why, for that matter, are European leaders still active on X at all, given that Musk has already signaled

his defiance by blocking the EU’s advertising account on the platform?

The EU’s first, limited enforcement action against X has already caused Trump to retaliate. In late December, the administration barred five Europeans, including Thierry Breton, the bloc’s former internal market commissioner, from entering the US, citing Europe’s “egregious acts of extraterritorial censorship.” More will follow. Even so, European leaders should stay the course.

Brazil offers a useful precedent. In 2024, after Musk defied a court order to suspend certain X accounts, the Brazilian judiciary shut down the platform nationwide and moved to seize Musk’s assets. Musk soon folded. This was a show of strength the EU would do well to emulate.

It’s important to remember that Europe has faced information warfare before. During World War II, Nazi Germany broadcast propaganda into European and British living rooms in flawless English. “Lord Haw-Haw,” as one broadcaster was dubbed, used radio to sap Allied morale until his capture in 1945. Eighty years

later, unfettered by geography or spectrum limits, Musk and Zuckerberg are dripping micro-targeted poison into billions of personalized feeds.

Even those who scoff at disinformation can see how the slopification of public discourse has made truth almost impossible for ordinary citizens to discern. Regulated media are no firewall, as authoritarians increasingly exploit such outlets to steer people toward unregulated platforms hosting more extreme messages. In the United Kingdom, for example, the hard-right channel GB News recently used YouTube to broadcast a call for the removal of non-white membersof Parliament—content it could not lawfully air on television.

Taken together, these developments herald a widening conflict over Europe’s information space. While tech moguls like Musk will cry censorship, this should be dismissed as the bad-faith claim it is. Others will frame it as a civilizational clash between Europeans and Americans. That, too, is wrong. Many Americans are fighting to defend their democracy and their children from slop, too, and Europe can play an important role in resisting the same authoritarian tech.

Contrary to what authoritarians like Trump may claim, this is a battle pitting parents, honest merchants, and citizens who value freedom against the plutocrats, slop pornographers, pension scammers, crypto-bribers, and would-be dictators who happily subvert democratic institutions for power and profit. Trump and his tech allies have shown us which side they are on and the world they want. It is up to us to stop them.

The writer is Executive Director of the Future of Technology Institute.

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SPECTRUM

NOSTALGIA

Analogue hearts, digital beats

People born in the early 1960s carry a rare depth.

They stand between two eras. They witnessed the slowest rhythm of life and now observe the fastest phase in human history. This shift is not a concept for them. It is a lived memory. They have watched the world move from an analog flow to a digital pulse. This makes them a true bridge generation, a generation that understands both patience and speed.

Their childhood belonged to a quieter world. Walking long distances was common and respectful. Bullock carts carried families across villages.

Bicycles covered miles. A train journey felt like a celebration. Letters took days and weeks to reach. News travelled gently. Life had pauses, and that pace carried a certain beauty. Everything felt grounded. Everything felt real.

Their professional lives also began in this unhurried era. Work was done on paper. Editing meant working by hand. Typewriters demanded

accuracy with every mistake requiring a white fluid to correct. Then computers arrived. They learned them. They adapted. Later came the internet, smartphones, and now AI.

In one lifetime, they have ridden every technological wave without losing their balance. Fortunately, I belong to this rare tribe, and I’m proud of it.

This is why people from the 1960s hold a special value in society. They have seen landlines and now hold smartphones that run the world. They listened to vinyl records and now stream endless music.

They lived in a time of limited information and now navigate an ocean of content. They worked without digital tools and now use AI to enhance their productivity. Such a long-time arc cannot be repeated. No future generation will ever witness that kind of slow beginning followed by such rapid acceleration.

This generation also carries an extraordinary adaptability. They survived political shifts,

cultural changes, economic transitions, and social transformation. They rebuilt lives more than once.

They adjusted quietly and steadily. They did not learn this adaptability at a workshop. It is a life-earned skill, shaped by decades of constant change.

Along with adaptability comes clarity. When people experience long phases of life, they naturally understand the difference between noise and value. They learn where to invest their energy and what to ignore.

This clarity becomes their strength. It makes them natural mentors. It allows them to guide younger minds with wisdom that comes from seeing life from both sides.

Many individuals from this generation have also lived through difficult times. Illnesses, uncertainties, and the COVID years tested families across the country. Those who survived found a renewed purpose. Many embraced healthier lifestyles, quiet mornings,

and simple practices that restore peace, clarity, and inner balance.

For this generation, documentation has become important. They have crossed the longest bridges of change. They have seen worlds that no longer exist. Today’s children in cities and villages grow up with screens, conveniences, and technology, unaware of how life once unfolded. If the bridge generation does not record its experiences, a valuable part of human history will disappear.

This is why their stories matter. Their memories hold lessons for the future. Their experiences explain how societies evolve. Their journeys reveal how resilience grows. They are a living archive of change. People born in the 1960s are precious. They are living libraries. They are bridges. And their stories must live on.

The writer is the founder of BlissMedia. Views are personal.



Narvijay Yadav

PEOPLE BORN IN THE 1960s ARE PRECIOUS, A LIVING ARCHIVE OF CHANGE

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

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgargh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

ECI’s highhandedness

Sir, The Election Commission of India is showing its highhandedness while implementing rules for SIR exercise in Bengal. The refusal of admit card as proof of birth of electorates is a case in point. There can be no better document than admit card to prove the date of birth. The pertinent question arises as to whether the ECI has sweeping powers to frame rules arbitrarily with no regard for the law of the land intending to devour the fundamental rights of the people? If the government remains silent, the ECI is likely to perpetuate this illegality. This will cause untold hardship to electorates.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Puri: Harbinger of hope

Sir, At a time when people fall seriously ill and succumb to contaminated drinking water, Odisha’s Puri has turned a harbinger of hope as this pilgrim and tourist city has become India’s first city to provide tap water that is safe for direct consumption. According to authentic reports the tap water supplied meets all standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) making it a major achievement in public health, environmental protection and urban management. Despite progress in urban development, access to clean and safe drinking water remains a challenge in most cities in India. The recent Indore water disaster is an example of this. Most of the urbanites in India usually boil water or depend on filters and RO systems for safe drinking. Puri’s direct tap water consumption has been achieved under the ‘Drink From Tap’ (DFT) mission implemented as part of Odisha’s Sujal scheme, an initiative that was launched in 2020 and by the end of 2025 Puri became the first city to provide drinkable tap water. The project ensures that every household receives clean, safe drinking water round the clock, matching international quality standards thus making Puri as India’s first city where people can confidently consume water straight from the tap. This is indeed an achievement and a project worth emulating.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Ranchi: The Jharkhand Health department has issued an advisory, directing all district civil surgeons to step up measures against Nipah virus in the wake of two confirmed cases in neighbouring West Bengal, an official said. Though no confirmed case has been reported in Jharkhand so far, the movement of people from affected areas poses a potential risk, he said. Nipah virus is a zoonotic disease primarily transmitted from bats to humans and animals.

The state's energy transition strategy is rooted in responsi-

“Through its engagements at Davos and in the United Kingdom, Jharkhand will present

have historically depended on conventional energy sectors, it said. "Jharkhand's model places strong emphasis on worker transition, skill development, and community participation, ensuring that the shift toward cleaner energy strengthens, rather than disrupts, social

Jharkhand's mineral endowment, including materials critical for renewable energy systems, batteries, transmission infrastructure and clean manufacturing, also positions it as a "strategic partner in the global energy transition," it said.

He will be the first CM from India to address the institution, one of the world's leading schools of public policy and governance, an official said.

OIPR- **Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)**
Agril. Enng Division, Rayachota

OIPR- **Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer**
Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife)
Rainagar

It will now be possible to provide simple, prompt, and effective

“Until today, matters related to Defence Estates connected with Jharkhand were handled from Dhanapur in Bihar. Due to excessive distance and inability to achieve better coordination, the processes used to become complicated. People had to face many problems. Now, with a Jharkhand office at the local level, faster and effective decision-making will become possible,” Seth said. He added the Narendra Modi government has a clear focus on decentralisation, transparency, and administrative efficiency. “The opening of this office in Ranchi is an example of a technology-based, accountable, and results-oriented governance system.”

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in its report July 18 last year said the water quality parameters of Deepor Beel were beyond prescribed norms, includ-

The matter has been listed for further hearing March 23, the order stated.

The General Manager
DICGC, Complaint Redressal Cell,
Reserve Bank of India, 2nd Floor,
Opp. Mumbai Central Railway Station,
Byculla, Mumbai – 400008
E-mail: dicgc.complaints@rbi.org.in
Contact No. 022-223019645

of the day **quote**

Please protect the Constitution, democracy, judiciary, history and geography of the country from disaster. You (the CJI) are the guardian of our Constitution, we are under your legal guardianship. Please protect the people

MAMATA BANERJEE | CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

Kashi today is witnessing unprecedented development. Projects worth over Rs 55,000 crore have already been implemented on the ground, writing a new chapter of development

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH

Himachal Pradesh is known not only as Devbhoomi but also as Veerbhoomi. Almost every village reflects a proud tradition of military service, which is part of our culture and values

SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA | GOVERNOR, HIMACHAL PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

Ex-min Bheemanna Khandre dies at 102
Bidar (Karnataka): Former minister Bheemanna Khandre has died at the age of 102, due to age-related issues, his son and Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said. A freedom fighter, veteran Congress leader, and a cooperative stalwart from the Kalyana Karnataka region has died late Friday at his residence. He is survived by two sons, including Eshwar Khandre and four daughters. A tall Veerashaiva Lingayat community leader, Bheemanna Khandre, had served as the state's transport minister in Veerappa Moily's cabinet. He was suffering from age-related ailments and respiratory problems for the last 10-12 days and was admitted to a private hospital in Bidar. Later, treatment was continued at his home in Bhalki, Eshwar Khandre said in a statement. As a freedom fighter and a fighter for the liberation of Hyderabad, he protested the atrocities of the Razakars and worked hard to keep Bidar district in Karnataka during the unification.

4.1 magnitude quake hits Gujarat's Kutch
Ahmedabad: An earthquake of 4.1 magnitude shook Gujarat's Kutch district in the wee hours of Saturday, causing panic among locals, though no casualties were reported, officials said. The quake was recorded at 1.22 am with its epicentre about 55 km north northeast (NNE) from Ghavda in the district, the Gandhinagar-based Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. No casualty or damage to property was reported, a district disaster management official said.

Acid attack on minor girl; neighbour held
Wayanad (Kerala): A 14-year-old girl suffered severe burns after her neighbour allegedly attacked her with acid in this district, police said Saturday. The accused Raju Jose (53), a resident of Priyadarshi Unathi, Marakavu, Pulpalli, has been arrested. According to police, the incident occurred Friday evening when Jose allegedly poured acid on Mahalakshmi, an eighth standard student living in the neighbourhood. Police said there were multiple issues between the neighbours that led to the incident.

Indians return from protest-hit Iran

Poignant scenes of relief and reunion unfolded at the Delhi airport on early Saturday as families embraced their loved ones who returned from Iran amid the worsening security situation there

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

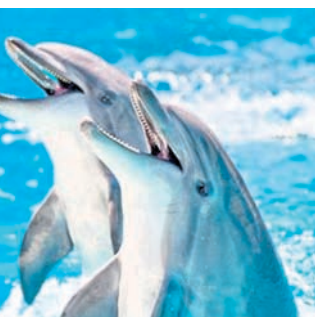
New Delhi, Jan 17: Several Indians, including students, have arrived here in commercial flights from Iran amid widespread protests in the Islamic nation and Tehran's crackdown that has so far killed more than 2,500 people. The flights arrived at the Delhi airport late Friday night. It was not immediately known how many Indians had arrived in these commercial flights. While some welcomed their children with flower garlands, a father held his daughter to his chest, smiling as tears welled up in his eyes -- a moving image capturing the tumult of emotions these families endured while their children were stranded amid the political unrest in Iran. Upon arriving at the airport



It's my dream to install a Shiv Sena (UBT) mayor in Mumbai, and if God is willing, this dream will be realised
UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

here, Ali Naqui, who was a part of a group of 12 to 13 travellers, was asked if they faced any difficulty in Iran. "We didn't face any problem," he replied. "We have returned from Tehran. Earlier, we were in Iraq, then we travelled to Iran. After an eight-day stay there, we have returned to India," he told PTI. A young woman, who is studying at a medical college in Shiraz, said, "The Internet was not working. So, we didn't exactly know what was happening around the country." The student said the situation in the city she was in was "fine". "We have come back on our own in a commercial flight, and not on the arrangement of the Indian government." Late Friday night, many people arrived at the airport to receive their relatives arriving from Iran. While many seemed to be gripped by a sense of anxiety, they said that the Indian Embassy in Tehran has been reassuring all Indian nationals there, through whatever means of communication available. Abbas Qazmi, whose mother and aunt returned from Iran, said, "There was definitely some anxiety because it was a global issue, and when the Internet was shut, we were quite worried." "But as soon as communication resumed, we realised that

DOLPHIN RECOUNTING BEGINS
The Union Environment Ministry Saturday rolled out the second range-wide estimation of riverine and estuarine dolphins under Project Dolphin from Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. The survey commenced with 26 researchers in three boats, recording ecological and habitat parameters, and using technologies such as hydrophones for underwater acoustic monitoring, an official statement said



Mamata intends to turn Bengal into B'desh: BJP



Patra alleged that Banerjee is trying to stop the Special Intensive Review (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal in an unconstitutional manner 'through violence' to protect Bangladeshis and Rohingya infiltrators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 17: Terming the situation in West Bengal as reminiscent of 'Bang Bhang', the 1905 partition of Bengal by the British, the BJP Saturday alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is trying to separate the state from India by inciting violence to stop SIR and protect Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators, and called upon the people of the state to "wake up" and unite against it. "To keep India united, we must be united. 'Ek hain to safe hain' (If we are together, we are safe)," BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said at a press conference at the party headquarters here. He said that to appease certain groups, the British had tried to divide Bengal, and claimed a similar situation prevails in West Bengal under the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress, accusing the chief minister of trying to turn West Bengal into Bangladesh. "Given the prevailing scenario, sometimes it even feels as if Bengal is a separate part of India. Is Bengal distant from India? Is Bengal even a part of India anymore?" he said. "The kind of governance that Mamata Banerjee has established in West Bengal has cre-

ated a situation in the state today that is similar to the 'Bang Bhang', the nefarious attempt made by the British in 1905 to divide Bengal. The British also wanted to appease certain groups and therefore wanted to divide Bengal into two parts," the BJP MP said. Patra alleged that Banerjee is trying to stop the Special Intensive Review (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal in an unconstitutional manner "through violence" to protect Bangladeshis and Rohingya infiltrators. "Violence is currently happening in Murshidabad. NH 12 has been blocked, and all train services have been suspended. Trains are being burnt and Mamata Banerjee is justifying it, saying it's happening due to the minorities' anger. Abhishek Banerjee says protests will happen when names are removed (from the voter list)," he said. Patra alleged that Banerjee and her government "attack" all constitutional processes in the country, including those in West Bengal. "There are 72 sensitive points along the border from where Bangladeshis are entering. Letters are written and the BSF holds meetings repeatedly, but Mamata Banerjee does not provide land for fencing at these 72 points," he charged. Patra said the demography of several districts has changed due to illegal infiltration. "Whether it is Murshidabad or Uttar Dinajpur districts, there has been a demographic change there between 2011 and 2019 due to illegal immigration. In some places, the Muslim population has increased by 70 per cent, while in others, by more than 50 per cent," Patra claimed.



Prayagraj: People take a holy dip at the Sangam ahead of 'Mauni Amavasya', during the ongoing 'Magh Mela' festival, in Prayagraj, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

NIA chargesheets 5 for propagating ideologies of banned terror outfit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 17: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday chargesheeted five persons, including a woman, in a case relating to online radicalisation of vulnerable youth by terror group Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) in Gujarat. The accused -- identified as Mohammad Fardeen, Kureshi Sefulla, Mohammad Faique, Zeeshan Ali and Shama Parveen -- have been named in the charge sheet filed before a special NIA court in Ahmedabad, officials said. NIA's investigation in the case had revealed that the accused used social media platforms for propagating, supporting and disseminating the an-

ti-India ideologies of the banned AQIS, a statement issued by the probe agency said. They posted provocative posts, including videos, audios and photos, through various social media accounts, it said. NIA further found that, through these posts, the accused had called for armed revolt against the democratically elected Indian government, and for the establishment of the Caliphate based on the Sharia law, the statement alleged. They also promoted the extremist ideologies of other proscribed terror organisations to radicalise gullible youth, it said. The NIA, during investigation, further traced the digital footprints and identified incriminating posts strengthening evidence against the accused.

India skips South Africa-led naval exercise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 17: India Saturday said it skipped a South Africa-initiated multilateral naval wargame featuring a number of BRICS countries as the exercise was not an institutional activity under the grouping. The exercise held in South African waters comprised the navies of China, Russia Iran, Egypt, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) among others. The week-long military wargame took place amid increasing tensions in Iran over possible military strikes on the country over its crackdown on anti-government protesters. "We clarify that the exercise in question was entirely a South African initiative in which some BRICS members



took part," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "It was not a regular or institutionalised BRICS activity, nor did all BRICS members

take part in it," he said. Jaiswal was responding to media queries on India's absence from the so-called "BRICS naval exercise". The MEA spokesperson said

CJI lays foundation of integrated court complexes in UP

Court complexes will come up in six districts- Chandauli, Mahoba, Amethi, Shamli, Hathras and Auraiya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandauli (UP), Jan 17: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant laid the foundation of integrated court complexes for six districts in Uttar Pradesh Saturday amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and said the step will set a benchmark for the

entire country. The six districts are Chandauli, Mahoba, Amethi, Shamli, Hathras and Auraiya. Addressing a gathering on the occasion, the CJI said, "Once these (integrated court complexes) are built, I feel that Uttar Pradesh will set an example for entire India. These complexes will become a benchmark for the entire nation." "I can proudly say that the 10 integrated court complexes that the chief minister has announced in Uttar Pradesh and the construction of six that has begun today are a significant achievement. Whichever state



I go to, I will cite the example of Uttar Pradesh with pride and happiness. I will urge and appeal to state governments and high

courts that such facilities be also provided there," he added. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also pres-

A separate room of the bar should be built for women in every district court where our daughters and sisters practise law. I would also request the chief minister that a primary health centre be established in this complex, wherever possible
SURYA KANT | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

ent on the occasion. Justice Kant said these integrated court complexes, to be equipped with all kinds of facilities, will successfully meet the needs of lawyers and common people seeking justice for at least the next 50 years. He said the district judiciary

has been accorded significant importance in the Constitution. A strong district judiciary is key to fulfilling the country's dream of access to justice, the CJI said. People would have access to courts closer to their homes and if they are deprived of any of their legal rights, they would be able to fight for those rights in their local courts, he added. "A separate room of the bar should be built for women in every district court where our daughters and sisters practise law. I would also request the chief minister that a primary health centre be established in this complex, wherever possible," Justice Kant said.

of the day

quote

I am ready to restart US mediation between Egypt and Ethiopia to responsibly resolve the question of 'The Nile Water Sharing' once and for all

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

Tomorrow in Asuncion, we will make history by creating one of the world's largest free trade areas, bringing together some 720 million people and a GDP of over \$22 trillion

LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA | PRESIDENT, BRAZIL

For Canada to build its own competitive EV sector, we will need to learn from innovative partners, access their supply chains, and increase local demand

MARK CARNEY | PM, CANADA

SHORT TAKES

China cuts its US debt holdings to a 17-yr low

Beijing: China has reduced its US Treasury holdings to a 17-year low as part of the continued diversification of its forex reserves towards gold and overseas equity investments amid unsettling ties with Washington. China's holdings of US treasuries fell to USD 682.6 billion in November last year, down from USD 688.7 billion in October, the lowest since 2008, according to data released by the US Department of the Treasury Thursday. Beijing's move to trim its US holdings came as the foreign ownership of the US debt hit a record high, with Japan and the UK scaling up their holdings, according to the data. Japan's holdings rose by USD 2.6 billion to USD 1.2 trillion, while the UK's pool rose by USD 10.6 billion to USD 888.5 billion.

Child killed after live grenade detonates

Peshawar: A child was killed while another was critically injured after a live grenade detonated near a garbage dump in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan Saturday, police said. The incident occurred in Matta tehsil of Swat district, when the children playing near the garbage dump accidentally hit an unexploded grenade, triggering the blast. According to police, a seven-year-old boy was killed on the spot while an eight-year-old girl sustained severe injuries. Rescue and police officials reached the site and shifted the deceased child's body and the injured girl to a hospital at the tehsil headquarters.

EU, Mercosur seal historic trade deal



REUTERS

Asuncion, Jan 17: Top officials from the EU and the South American bloc Mercosur signed a free trade agreement Saturday in Paraguay, paving the way for the European Union's largest ever trade accord after 25 years of negotiations. The agreement, designed to lower tariffs and boost trade between the two regions, must now gain the consent of the European Parliament and be ratified by legislatures of Mercosur members Argentina, Brazil,

RISEING ATTACKS

Dhaka, Jan 17: Journalists, editors and owners of media outlets in Bangladesh Saturday demanded that authorities protect them following recent attacks on two leading national dailies by mobs.

They said the media industry in the South Asian country is being systematically targeted in the interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus. They said the administration failed to prevent attacks on the Daily Star, the country's leading English-language daily, and the Prothom Alo, the largest Bengali-language newspaper, both based in Dhaka, the capital.

In December, angry mobs stormed the offices of the two newspapers and set fire to the buildings, trapping journalists and other staff inside, shortly

The weaponisation of public anger against journalists and artists is dangerous at any time, and especially now as the country prepares for elections. It could have a chilling effect on media freedom, minority voices and dissenting views with serious consequences for democracy

IRENE KHAN | LAWYER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, BANGLADESH

after the death of a prominent Islamist activist.

The newspaper authorities blamed the authorities under the interim government for failing to adequately respond to the incidents despite repeated requests for help to disperse the mobs. Hours later, the trapped journalists who took shelter on the roof of the Daily Star newspaper were rescued. The buildings were looted. A leader of the Editors Council, an independent body of newspaper



editors, was manhandled by the attackers when he arrived at the scene. On the same day, liberal cultural centres were also attacked in Dhaka.

It was not clear why the protesters attacked the newspapers, whose editors are known to be closely connected with Yunus. Protests had been organised in recent months outside the offices of the dailies by Islamists who accused the newspapers of links with India.

On Saturday, the Editors



We consider the US president criminal for the casualties, damages and slander he inflicted on the Iranian nation

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

NATIONAL GUARD STAYS IN DC

National Guard troops will be on the streets of Washington, D C, until the end of the year, according to a memo reviewed by The Associated Press. The memo, signed by Army Secretary Dan Driscoll and dated Wednesday, said "the conditions of the mission" warranted an extension past the end of next month to continue supporting President Donald Trump's "ongoing efforts to restore law and order"



Lanka unveils 'biggest' rare purple star sapphire



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colombo, Jan 17: A Purple Star Sapphire weighing 3,563 carats which is claimed to be the world's biggest of its kind was unveiled Saturday in the Sri Lankan capital by the owners, who are ready to sell the precious stone which is estimated to be worth at least \$300 million.

The round shaped gem named "Star of Pure Land" is the world's largest documented natural purple star sapphire, said Ashan Amarasinghe, a consultant gemologist.

"This is the largest purple star sapphire of its kind," he told the media, adding that the gem "shows a well-defined asterism. It has six rays asterism. "That's something special out of all the other stones."

The gem, which has been polished, is owned by the Star of Pure Land Team, who want to remain anonymous for security reasons.

One of the owners said the gem was found in a gem pit near the remote Sri Lankan town of Rathnapura, known as the "city of gems," in 2023.

It was purchased together with other gems in 2023 and about two years later, the owners found that it was a special stone. They then got it certified by two laboratories.

Amarasinghe said the value of the stone has been estimated at \$300 million to \$400 million by international valuers. Sri Lankan sapphires are renowned for their unique colour, clarity and shimmer.

FRESH FIGHTING

Syrian troops clash with Kurdish forces

REUTERS

Deir Hafer, Jan 17: Syrian troops swept through towns in the country's north Saturday after an agreed withdrawal by Kurdish fighters there, but clashes erupted when the army kept up its advance deeper into Kurdish-held territory.

For days, Syrian troops had amassed around a cluster of villages that lie just west of the winding Euphrates River and had called on the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces stationed there to redeploy their forces on the opposite bank of the river.

Overnight, SDF head Mazloum Abdi said his forces would withdraw early Saturday morning as a gesture of goodwill, leaving the river as a frontline between Syrian government troops to its west and Kurdish forces to its east.

But clashes broke out in some towns and oil fields Saturday as the SDF and Syria's army accused each other of violating the agreement, with Kurdish authorities saying Syrian troops were pushing into towns not included in the withdrawal deal.

ARAB RESIDENTS REJOICE AT TROOPS' ARRIVAL

Syrian troops moved relatively smoothly into the main town of Deir Hafer and surrounding villages whose residents are predominantly Arab, according to statements from the military.

Some residents had left in recent days through a humanitarian corridor set up by Syria's army but those who didn't celebrated the army's arrival.

"It happened with the least amount of losses. There's been



enough blood in this country, Syria. We have sacrificed and lost enough - people are tired of it," Hussein al-Khalaf, a resident of Deir Hafer, told Reuters.

SDF forces had withdrawn east, some on foot, towards the flashpoint town of Tabqa -- downstream but still on the western side of the river, according to a Reuters reporter in the area.

But when Syria's army announced it was aiming to capture Tabqa next, the SDF said it wasn't part of the original deal and that it would fight to keep the town, as well as oil fields in its vicinity.

Syria's army said four of its troops had been killed in attacks by Kurdish militants, and the SDF said some of its own fighters had been killed, but did not give a number.

US-led coalition planes flew over the flashpoint towns, releasing warning flares, according to a Syrian security source.

In a bid to end the fighting, US envoy Tom Barrack trav-

eled to Erbil in northern Iraq Saturday to meet with both Abdi and Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani, according to two Kurdish sources. There was no immediate comment from Barrack's spokesperson.

DEEPENING DIVIDES

Weeks of tensions between Syrian troops and the SDF have deepened the faultline between the government of President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who has vowed to reunify the fractured country after 14 years of war, and local Kurdish authorities wary of his Islamist-led administration.

The two sides engaged in months of talks last year to integrate Kurdish-run military and civilian bodies into Syrian state institutions by the end of 2025, insisting repeatedly that they wanted to resolve disputes diplomatically.

But after the deadline passed with , clashes broke out earlier this month in the northern city of Aleppo and ended with a withdrawal of Kurdish fighters.

Aircraft with 11 onboard goes missing in Indonesia

REUTERS

Jakarta, Jan 17: Indonesian rescuers were searching Saturday for an ATR 42-500 fisheries surveillance aircraft that went missing with 11 people on board, officials said.

The Indonesia Air Transport plane lost contact with air traffic control at about 1:30 pm (0530 GMT) around Maros region in South Sulawesi province, Andi Sultan, an official at the local rescue agency, told Reuters.

The aircraft had been heading to Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi, after departing from Yogyakarta province before contact was lost, Sultan said.

There were eight crew and three passengers on board, he added. Around 400 personnel, including military and police units, were deployed to search for the plane and those on board, though the effort was being hampered by bad weather,



er, Sultan said. "We suspect the plane came down near the peak of Mount Bulusaraung. We have deployed our personnel there," he said. The plane had been chartered by Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, ministry official Pung Nugroho Saksono said.

The ATR 42-500 is a regional turboprop aircraft capable of carrying between 42 and 50 passengers. According to unconfirmed Flightradar24 data, an aircraft matching the description was flying eastward over the Java Sea at about 11,000 feet before rapidly losing altitude and dropping off tracking systems.



People take part in the "Hands Off Greenland" protest, held under the slogans "Hands Off Greenland" and "Greenland for Greenlanders", after the White House said that the US was considering a range of options to acquire Greenland, including the use of military force, in Copenhagen, Denmark Saturday

REUTERS

UK navy launches new crewless helicopter

The British navy said the helicopter, named Proteus, had successfully completed a short test routine

REUTERS

London, Jan 17: Britain's Royal Navy said Friday its first full-sized autonomous helicopter, designed to track submarines and carry out other high-risk missions amid rising North Atlantic tensions, had completed its maiden flight.

Europe's defence sector has been reshaped since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, as governments increase spending on defence and plan to

NORTH ATLANTIC GUARD



boost their military ranks. US interest in acquiring Greenland is in part to expand its ability to monitor waters used by Russian vessels and submarines, including any activity in the waters between Greenland, Iceland and Britain. Russia says talk of Moscow and Beijing being a threat to Greenland is a myth.

The British navy said the

helicopter, named Proteus, had successfully completed a short test routine.

Developed under a 60 million-pound (\$80.46 million) programme, it was key to defending Britain and NATO allies against what it called "evolving threats" in the North Atlantic.

Royal Navy helicopter makes history with first autonomous flight

Designed and built by defence and aerospace group Leonardo, Proteus relies on sensors and computer systems powered by software that allows it to interpret its environment and make decisions, the navy said.

The navy said it was designed for anti-submarine warfare, sea patrols, and underwater vessel tracking.

"Proteus represents a step-change in how maritime aviation can deliver persistence, adaptability and reach - conducting the dull, dirty and dangerous missions in challenging environments without putting human operators at risk," said Nigel Colman, UK managing director of Leonardo Helicopters.

The navy already operates several drones, including a small surveillance helicopter, but Proteus is bigger and more sophisticated.

Men in Blue look to protect ODI record

BLACK CAPS EYE HISTORIC FIRST SERIES WIN IN INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Jan 17: India's absolute dominance at home will come under examination when they meet a determined New Zealand in the decisive third ODI at the high-scoring Holkar Stadium here Sunday, with the three-match series locked at 1-1. India have not lost a bilateral ODI series at home since March 2019, when Australia overturned a 0-2 deficit to win 3-2, including the decider in Delhi. But that history is now firmly on the line. For New Zealand, the context is equally compelling.

The Black Caps have toured India for bilateral ODIs since 1989 but have never won a series in India and this is arguably their best opportunity to break that barren run.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir would not like another tumbling at home under his regime after getting a number of unwanted firsts. India lost five Tests at home under Gambhir apart from losing an ODI series in Sri Lanka for the first time.

India's defeat in the second ODI at Rajkot was shaped less by one extraordinary innings than by how New Zealand seized control of the middle overs.

Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten century was built on calculated aggression, particularly against spin, an area where India have been struggling of late.

Indore, with its short boundaries and minimal assistance for bowlers, offers even less margin for error.

India's ability to tackle spin has raised questions. Despite depth and power, the side has



continued to show discomfort against spin in the middle overs. Strike rotation has stalled at key phases, forcing batters into high-risk options rather than controlled accumulation.

On a ground where totals can quickly spiral beyond 350, those quiet overs can decisively tilt the momentum.

Much of the spotlight will be on Rohit Sharma, who is enduring a lean run in this series. His ultra-aggressive approach at the top has been a defining feature of India's recent ODI philosophy, but repeated early dismiss-

als has added a bit of pressure.

Virat Kohli, meanwhile, remains the fulcrum around which India's ODI batting revolves. With India's next 50-over assignment for senior players likely to come in July during the tour of England, the fans would hope for another RoKo show.

For Shubman Gill and his side, the challenge is not just to win a series, but to demonstrate tactical flexibility and situational awareness - traits that define successful teams when margins are thin and pressure is real.

HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE

Lancers dominate in home opener

Kalinga Lancers extend their unbeaten streak to five matches with a 6-1 win against SG Pipers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: Table-toppers Vedanta Kalinga Lancers opened the Bhubaneswar leg of the men's Hockey India League (HIL) with a commanding 6-1 victory over SG Pipers here Saturday.

The Lancers extended their winning streak to five matches. Bobby Singh Dhami was named player of the match for a brilliant play-making performance that kept the Pipers' defence on the back foot all evening.

Cooper Burns (8th, 23rd minutes) and Alexander Hendrickx (39th, 56th) scored twice each, while Craig Marais (10th) and Angad Singh (54th) added one goal apiece to complete the rout.

KY Williot scored the solitary goal for the Pipers.

In the first match of the day, Hyderabad Toofans registered a dominating 6-0 win over Shrachi Bengal Tigers.

Zachary Wallace (2nd, 17th, 30th minutes) and Tim Brand (12th, 39th, 46th) scored a hat-trick each for Hyderabad Toofans.

Hyderabad Toofans opened the scoring in the second minute of the first quarter itself as Talwinder Singh did well to hold and protect the ball inside the circle and passed it on to Wallace who finished the chance with ease.



In the seventh minute, Sukhjeet Singh won a penalty corner for Shrachi Bengal Tigers but Tom Grambusch's drag-flick went inches away from the goal.

The very next minute, the Tigers won another penalty corner and this time, Grambusch's attempt was saved by Hyderabad Toofans goalkeeper Jean-Paul Danneberg.

In the 12th minute, Hyderabad Toofans won their first penalty corner of the evening and although Amandeep Lakra's drag-flick was saved initially by the Tigers, Brand was quick to react on the rebound and slotted the ball into the net to extend the lead.

Hyderabad Toofans continued their scoring streak in the second quarter as Wallace was given too much time and space in the 16th minute. He dribbled

down the middle into the circle and unleashed a low-driven shot, to sneak the ball past the goalkeeper and into the bottom-right corner of the goal.

In the 19th minute, Abhishek created a good opportunity for Shrachi Bengal Tigers as he took a strong shot on goal but it was stopped by Hyderabad Toofans' goalkeeper Bikramjit Singh.

Moments later, the Tigers came close again as Ketan Kushwaha played a strong pass into the circle from the left flank but Abhishek's deflection towards goal went narrowly wide off-target.

With 20 seconds left in the first half, Hyderabad Toofans found another goal, this time Wallace dribbled from the right flank and struck the ball towards goal, and it took a deflection and went over the

Tigers' goalkeeper.

The third quarter started off with a tight contest between the two sides. However, it didn't take long for Hyderabad Toofans to score their fifth goal.

In the 39th minute, Arshdeep Singh showed incredible 3D skills along the baseline as he beat multiple defenders and played it in the centre of the circle for Brand, who slotted the ball into the goalpost with ease.

In the first minute of the fourth quarter, Hyderabad Toofans scored their sixth goal, courtesy of Brand again as he completed his hat-trick.

Jacob Anderson took the initial shot on goal and although it was saved by the Tigers' goalkeeper, Brand pounced on the rebound again and finished the ball into the net.

Odisha eves clinch bronze

Bihar triumph over Maharashtra in repeat of last year's final

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 17: The 10th Sub-Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship concluded at the Kalinga Stadium Saturday with a thrilling final day of knockout action, showcasing India's top Under-15 girls' rugby talent.

Bihar edged past this edition's defending champions Maharashtra, while host state Odisha claimed a convincing third-place victory in front of an enthusiastic home crowd.

On day two of the competition, the knockout stages saw teams vie for ranking and top-ranked teams battle for a place in the semifinals. In the Quarterfinals, Bihar continued their dominant run with a 43-7 victory over Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (DNHDD), while Odisha overpowered Karnataka 55-0.

In the semifinals, Bihar maintained their momentum with a commanding 35-0 win over Rajasthan, while Maharashtra came from behind to defeat host state Odisha 17-14 in a nail-biting encounter that had the home crowd on the edge of their seats.

The bronze medal playoff saw Odisha bounce back strongly, dominating Rajasthan 47-5 to claim third place on home turf,



showcasing the depth of their squad and disciplined play.

The final was a rematch of last year's title showdown. Bihar and Maharashtra faced off once again, with Bihar emerging victorious this time; pulling off a commanding 34-7 win, avenging their previous year's defeat and claiming their fifth title win in the last six years in this category.

The closing ceremony was graced by Sachin R Jadhav, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of Odisha; Yeddula Vijay, IAS, Director - Sports, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of Odisha; and Bijaya

Kumar Swain, OAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of Odisha.

Also present to distribute the accolades were Rahul Bose, President, Rugby India; Gerald Prabhu, Secretary, Rugby India; Priyadarshi Mishra, President, Odisha Rugby Football Association; and Upendra Kumar Mohanty, Vice President, Odisha Rugby Football Association.

With the girls' U-15 tournament concluded, attention now turns to the upcoming boys U-15 championship, scheduled to be held January 20 and 21 promising another two days of exciting youth rugby action.

U19 WC: India trump B'desh via DLS method

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), Jan 17: Off-spinner Vihaan Malhotra produced a sensational spell of 4 for 14 to trigger a dramatic Bangladesh batting collapse as India pulled off an 18-run victory via the DLS method in a rain-hit Under-19 World Cup match here Saturday.

Bangladesh, who bowled out India for 238 in a reduced 49-over contest, were firmly in control of the chase before losing eight wickets for 40 runs to lose the match from a winning position. It was India's second consecutive victory in the tournament.

Bangladesh were bowled out for 146 in 28.3 overs, well short of the revised target of 165 from 29 overs.

Players from both sides were seen exchanging handshakes and pleasantries on the field at the end of the match after both the captains avoided the customary gesture at the toss.

Cricket Board (BCB) said in a statement later in the day that "the absence of a handshake with the opposition captain was completely unintentional and resulted from a momentary lapse in concentration."

231-YR-OLD RECORD

Pak TV team defends lowest first-class total

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Jan 17: A 232-year-old record has been shattered in the ongoing Presidents Trophy here, where Pakistan TV (PTV) pulled off the lowest successful defence in the history of first-class cricket. PTV defended a target of 40 runs against Sui Northern Gas to etch their name in the record books. PTV won the match by just two runs and broke a 232-year-old record when the Old-field team had successfully defended a total of 41 runs against MCC at Lord's back in 1794, winning the game by six runs.

On Saturday, PTV's left-arm spinner, Ali Usman finished with figures of 6 for 9 to cause the main damage and help his team create history as Sui Northern were bowled out for only 37 runs. In the four day game, PTV were skittled out for just 166 runs in their first innings and Sui took a 72-run lead by totalling 238 runs.

SHORT TAKES

B'desh asks ICC to swap group with Ireland

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saturday asked the ICC to swap its national team with Ireland in Group C during the upcoming T20 World Cup in order to play in Sri Lanka instead of India. Bangladesh are currently placed in Group C along with the West Indies, Italy, England and Nepal and are scheduled to play their matches in Kolkata and Mumbai. Ireland are in Group B alongside Sri Lanka, Australia, Oman and Zimbabwe and their matches are scheduled in Colombo and Pallekele. The two-member ICC team, consisting of Gaurav Saxena, General Manager, Events and Corporate Communications, and Andrew Ephgrave, General Manager, Integrity Unit, was in Dhaka to convince BCB about the security arrangements in India and to follow the original schedule. "The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) today held a meeting with representatives of the International Cricket Council (ICC) to discuss matters relating to Bangladesh's participation in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026," said the BCB in a release after the meeting with ICC delegates.

Vijender appointed to Asian Boxing Council

New Delhi: Indian boxing icon Vijender Singh has been appointed as a member of the Asian Boxing Council, marking another significant milestone in his journey from an elite athlete to global sports administrator. Vijender, India's first Olympic medallist in boxing, brings with him nearly two decades of experience at the highest level of the sport, both in amateur and professional boxing. His appointment to the Asian Boxing Council reflects his deep understanding of the sport and his continued commitment to its growth across the continent. Speaking on the development, Vijender said, "I am honoured to be appointed as a member of the Asian Boxing Council. I would like to thank the Boxing Federation of India and its leadership for entrusting me with this responsibility. I hope to fulfil this role to the best of my ability at the international level. Just as we created history in Beijing, I am committed to working for the growth of Asian boxing, with a strong focus on Indian boxers, and helping our athletes achieve even greater success in the future."

FINALE FIGHT

Morocco, Senegal clash for Africa Cup glory

Rabat (Morocco): Morocco hosts Senegal in the final of the Africa Cup of Nations Sunday, ending a four-week tournament that showcased the continent's best soccer. Morocco will hope it also provided the best playing facilities, stadiums and infrastructure for a tournament on the continent as it continues its preparations to be a 2030 World Cup co-host. It's likely it will get another dry run before the global showpiece as host of the 2028 Africa Cup, brought forward a year to allow the Confederation of African Football to switch the competition to a four-year cycle that brings it in line with FIFA's calendar. A win in the men's showpiece Sunday would end a 50-year wait for the kingdom's second Africa Cup title and bring validation of sorts for the huge spending spree.



Saurashtra, Vidarbha in battle of equals

Bangalore: A fascinating battle of equals is on cards as a closely-matching Saurashtra and Vidarbha vie for their third and maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title respectively here at the BCCI Centre of Excellence grounds Sunday. Unlike in the past, both Saurashtra and Vidarbha do not have any superstars in their line-up. But their batters and bowlers have so far performed like a well-oiled machine in this edition of the tournament, helping them humble some more fancied teams en route to the final. Saurashtra have been served well by the likes of skipper Harvik Desai, their top run-getter with 561 runs, and Vishvaraj Jadeja, who fashioned their semifinal win over Punjab with a blistering hundred. On the other hand, Vidarbha's batting has been propped up by Aman Mokhad, the tournament's highest run accumulator with 781 runs, and Dhruv Shorey (515 runs).



Global sports face challenges from ‘AI slop’ misinformation

REUTERS

Washington, Jan 17: A study by AI risk management platform Alethea into the surge in artificial intelligence-generated fake content, dubbed "AI slop," has warned sports teams, leagues and fans of the risks posed by increasingly sophisticated digital misinformation.

Retired NFL player Jason Kelce never said 2026 Super Bowl halftime singer Bad Bunny's critics were "a bad fit for America's future".

San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle never ranted about slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk and politics in football. However, thousands of people believed they did and that is the problem.

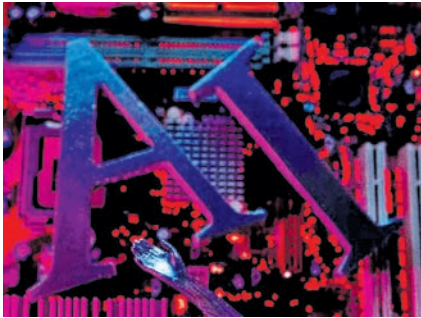
"Teams and players are suddenly being accused of things that are completely fabricated," Lisa Kaplan, founder and CEO of Alethea, told Reuters Friday,

adding that the evolution of AI tools has made fake news a more daunting challenge.

"Before, fake news often relied on human labour to repetitively copy and paste content. Today, AI can impersonate brands and create engaging images that mimic genuine announcements."

Kaplan noted that this wave of AI-generated misinformation has disrupted the traditional monetisation model of sports media. "These networks drive engagement to questionable websites, skew advertising metrics, and can even create scenarios that could manipulate betting markets," she added.

C Shawn Eib, Alethea's Head of Investigations, described how these networks use tactics such as making multiple disjointed announcements, like the conflicting claims that former Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh



Content now looks real and is produced at a volume that makes it hard for the average person to determine if it's authentic
LISA KAPLAN | FOUNDER AND CEO, ALETHEA

had been hired by multiple teams at the same time.

"When a single figure appears to be linked with several teams at the same time, it quickly becomes clear that an AI system is behind the creation of these images," Eib explained.

- Sports organisations urged to manage digital safety, educate fans
- AI-generated misinformation disrupts sports media monetisation
- Fake content includes game updates, celebrity feuds, politicised quotes

AI DECEPTION CAN EXPLOIT 'RAGE BAIT'

The content follows a formula: fake game updates, nonexistent celebrity feuds, manufactured scandals, and politicised quotes falsely attributed to star players. The fabricated Kelce and Kittle quotes are prime examples. Both