



Mithila's philosophy

Actor Mithila Palkar says she likes to fully surrender to the director's vision

LEISURE | **P2**



Sunita Williams retires

After 27 years, 3 missions, 608 days in space, NASA astronaut Sunita Williams calls it quits

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Deepinder resigns

Eternal, the parent entity of Blinkit and Zomato, says Deepinder Goyal will step down as its Group CEO and MD

BUSINESS | **P11**



ICC-BCB row

The ICC rejects the request from the BCB to shift its team's T20 World Cup fixtures to Sri Lanka

SPORTS | **P12**

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 292 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | JANUARY 22, 2026

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

₹ TOUCHES NEW NADIR OF 91.64/\$

Mumbai: The rupee plunged 67 paise to close at an all-time low of 91.64 (provisional) against the American currency Wednesday, pressured by persistent foreign fund outflow amid heightened uncertainty and risk-off sentiment in global markets. The rupee recorded its previous all-time low of 91.14 December 16, 2025, forex traders said, adding that the depreciation can be attributed to heightened geopolitical uncertainty. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.05 and lost ground to touch an intraday low of 91.74 against the greenback.

P11

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We can't be blamed for destruction. Our rise in politics started with demolition

WET LANDING: Indian Air Force personnel inspect a microlight training aircraft after it crashed into a pond during a training exercise, in Prayagraj, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

SUV rams into trailer; 3 dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Jan 21: A major road accident on National Highway 16 between Gangapada and Pitapalli on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar Wednesday evening claimed the lives of three persons on the spot and left one critically injured. According to initial reports, a speeding SUV collided with a slow-moving trailer truck from the rear in the stretch between Gangapada and Pitapalli. The impact was so intense that three of the SUV occupants died instantly on the spot. The fourth person, who sustained serious injuries, was rushed to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar for emergency treatment and is currently in critical condition. Police rushed to the spot, cleared the debris, and diverted traffic as the highway saw temporary disruptions. The bodies of the deceased were shifted to Khurda hospital for post-mortem examination. Though the exact identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained, police said they all belong to Kaimatia area under Infovalley police limits. Police said they have registered a case and recovered the mangled SUV. Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the crash, they added.

‘Will not use force to gain Greenland’

REUTERS

Davos (Switzerland), Jan 21: US President Donald Trump ruled out the use of force in his bid to control Greenland Wednesday, but said in a speech in Davos that no other country can secure the Danish territory.

“People thought I would use force, but I don’t have to use force,” Trump said at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Switzerland. “I don’t want to use force. I won’t use force.”

Trump took a hectoring tone, chastising the United States’ European allies for their insolence, disloyalty and policy missteps in areas ranging from wind power and the environment to immigration and geopolitics.

Trump’s increasing threats to Europe over Greenland have frayed transatlantic ties and worried Europeans, overshadowing a speech that was intended to focus primarily on the US economy.

Calling Denmark “ungrateful,” the Republican US president played down the issue as a

“small ask” over a “piece of ice” and that an acquisition would be no threat to the NATO alliance, which includes Denmark and the United States.

“No nation or group of nations is in any position to be able to secure Greenland other than the United States,” Trump said, adding: “I’m seeking immediate negotiations to once again discuss the acquisition of Greenland by the United States.”

On several occasions during a speech which lasted more than an hour, Trump mistakenly referred to Greenland as Iceland. Trump, who marked the end of a turbulent first year in office Tuesday, is set to overshadow the agenda of the WEF, where global elites chew over economic and political trends.

Sign pledge vowing to keep peace: J&K Police to journalists

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Jan 21: At least two journalists from mainstream English dailies were summoned by Jammu and Kashmir Police and asked to sign a pledge vowing not to disturb peace in the region over their reports on the profiling of mosques and their management committees. The move led to a massive debate with the Editors Guild with several political parties expressing their outrage.

The Indian Express and the Hindustan Times Wednesday carried stories on their correspondents being summoned by the police’s cyber cell last week.

There is also speculation that some other journalists were called to the Cyber Police Station but that could not be immediately confirmed. Senior police officials did not comment on the matter.

Reacting sharply to the reports, the Editors Guild of India (EGI) said in a statement that it noted with grave concern the continued repression of legitimate journalistic activity by the authorities in Kashmir.

It also called on police and other authorities to desist from actions restricting free speech.



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀଙ୍କ
କରକମଳରେ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ମହିଳାମାନଙ୍କ
ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ
ପାଇଁ ତାଲିମ୍



**ଝଲକ୍ଷା
୫୭ ହଜାରରୁ
ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ସୁଭଦ୍ରା**

ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ



ମହିଳାମାନଙ୍କୁ
ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗୀ କରିବା
ପାଇଁ ତାଲିମ୍

୩୧୫ କୋଟିରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଟଙ୍କାର ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ

୨୨ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ୨୦୨୬ | ୧୧ ଘଟିକା | କୃଷି ଶିକ୍ଷା ସଦନ, ଓ.ୟୁ.ଏ.ଟି, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

OIPR-



ପୁଲିସ୍
ହେଲ୍ପଲାଇନ୍



୧୧୨



ତାଲୁକା
ହେଲ୍ପଲାଇନ୍



୧୦୯୮



ମହିଳା
ହେଲ୍ପଲାଇନ୍



୧୧୧



ସୁଭଦ୍ରା
ହେଲ୍ପଲାଇନ୍



୧୪୭୭୮

ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today you will feel like going green, and Ganesha approves. You could plant a sapling, or organise some dustbins to keep the neighbourhood clean. If you wish to make the world a better place to live in, do it but take it step by step.

TAURUS

Much to the disappointment and annoyance of your friends and associates, you are likely to act unduly possessive and self centred about persons and objects, warns Ganesha. Be sure, your overprotective attitude is not likely to amuse anyone. To make matters worse you will possibly ignore their well founded resentment and instead of setting matters right, you will be running after material gains.

GEMINI

You will ponder over religious and cultural values and issues today. You will indulge in a fair amount of discussion with your family members over the issue and present your thoughts and feelings on the subject. These discussions could end up covering topics like law, education, societal concerns, manners and etiquette etc., says Ganesha.

CANCER

The day looks set to be an ordinary day, for both work and play, says Ganesha. Yet, if you are planning to participate in an event or a competition today, march ahead, by all means. There will, practically, be no one who'll be able to compete with you. On other fronts, expect things to be rather calm and mundane, with no significant ups and downs.

LEO

A moment once lost is not going to come back. So, it's about time you realised the value of time, says Ganesha, because time is money. On this day, set everything to a schedule and figure out your tasks right down to the brass tacks. Personal organisers are a good bet, but if you are old school, then maybe you would rather prefer a diary and a calendar. Either of the options work just fine, suggests Ganesha.

VIRGO

Your communication and creative abilities are your best weapons. You will be overflowing with zest for life and will exude cheerfulness. However, Ganesha warns that your creativity will bloom fully only in situations where there is no pressure or strain.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will try to gain in-depth knowledge about new technological inventions in your spare time today. Some of you may have queries regarding higher education that you may be able to take up today and reach a conclusion about.

SCORPIO

Till now you have experienced all the highs. Today you may come across the lows of the professional world. The equation between your boss, colleagues and you may get slightly disturbed. However, you will make it up by evening. Freshers may look for some career opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS

Being a part of all things bright and beautiful will remain the highlight today, says Ganesha. You may don the hat of an activist and fight injustice and discrimination in the right spirits. Even if you are asked to conquer the world, you will be able to do it today, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Today, you will not be in the right mood to work or produce expected results. Mounting work pressure may further dampen your self-confidence, foretells Ganesha. The dullness will vanish in the air by the evening and you will be back to your happy self. Are you wondering who will be responsible for this change? The answer is your friends and family members.

AQUARIUS

You spend a lot of time planning for a better future. Sure, it does minimize the chances of errors as you know possible obstacles in advance. But, the time you spend for calculations takes you away from the reality and you don't fully concentrate on what you have now. Learn to balance, advises Ganesha.

PISCES

You know how important money is and you will think about it all day. You will think less about expenses today and more about prosperity and fame today. Worry about family might increase and in return they will support you, says Ganesha

Mithila's robust work ethics

Mumbai: Actress Mithila Palkar, who is receiving a lot of positive response to her work in the recently released film *Happy Patel: Khatarnak Jasoos*, has said that she is a director's actor, and likes to fully surrender to the director's vision.

The actress spoke with this agency during the promotions of the film, and said that she believes in being in the moment to deliver the best.

She said, "I think that I am a director's actor. I surrender myself to the script, to my directors because it's their vision. And then whatever I can do with it is what I do. But I try to become one with the character. What was

tough was to hurl expletives in the film. But beyond that, I feel like I have never slapped anyone like that ever in life. And I don't think that instinct comes naturally to me at all. So that was very, very challenging. And to slap Vir Das, and then not feel guilty about it immediately because I have to remember that I am playing the character, not Mithila".

IAANS



SABRINA CONFIRMED TO PERFORM AT GRAMMYS

Sabrina Carpenter is the first artist confirmed to be performing at the 2026 Grammy Awards. The Espresso hitmaker received six nods - and will grace the stage at Los Angeles' Crypto.com Arena February 1.



HILARY TALKS ABOUT RETURN TO STAGE

Hollywood actress and singer Hilary Duff has shared an emotional note reflecting on her return to the stage after nearly two decades, describing the experience as overwhelming, grounding, and deeply affirming.



IFFB 2026

FSB's 7-day film fest begins today

The 15th edition of Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar features a retrospective on Dadasaheb Phalke Award winner Adoor Gopalakrishnan

Bhubaneswar, Jan 21: The 15th edition of Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB), organised by the Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB), will kick off from January 22 here at GKCM Odissi Research Centre auditorium. The 7-day festival will showcase 35 films, including the ones which have won critical acclaim in major international film festivals.

This year's festival features a retrospective on Adoor Gopalakrishnan. Adoor, a Dadasaheb Phalke Award recipient, multiple Padma awardee, and 16-time National Award winner, remains one of the most globally respected auteurs of Indian cinema.

The festival will also pay tribute to his legendary mentor Ritwik Ghatak. Two of his landmark films - *Meghe Dhaka Tara* and *Titas Ekti Nodir Naam* will be screened at the festival.

The opening day promises a powerful lineup of films—



Preeti Kanungo's tender rural coming-of-age tale *Malwa Khushan*, to Shefali Jain's hand-drawn stop-motion animation *Every Now* and *Then Girls* adapted from Rajasthan folk tale *Dohri Joon*.

There will be post screening discussions with Praveen Morchhale, Suman Mukhopadhyay, Susant Misra, Nareshkumar Hegde DDMari, Deepankar Prakash,

Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap and Jagdish Mishra.

The festival will run until January 28, inviting cinema lovers, students, and the general public to engage with films that inspire reflection, dialogue, and a deeper understanding of society through the lens of cinema.

OrissaPOST serves as official print media partner of the festival.

Dhoom girl Rimi now a realtor

Mumbai: Remember Rimi Sen — the actor who lit up the screen in early 2000s hits like *Hungama* (2003), *Dhoom* (2004), *Golmaal* (2006), and *Phir Hera Pheri* (2006)? Once one of Bollywood's most familiar faces, even making her Bigg Boss debut in 2015, Rimi has now taken a completely different path. The former actor, who stepped away from films over a decade ago, has built a new career in real estate in Dubai.

According to reports, Rimi claimed that the city's business-friendly environment played a big part in her decision to relocate. She also highlighted how real estate is viewed differently abroad: "In Dubai, property agents are treated like financial consultants, while in India, if you ask for two months' brokerage, people look at you as if you have committed a crime."

Rimi briefly returned to headlines two years ago when her photos resurfaced on social media, sparking rumours that she had undergone plastic surgery. She clarified in an old interview with Hindustan Times, "If people feel that I have had plastic surgery, and if they feel that in a good way, then it's very good for me. Without even getting plastic surgery done, people are still talking. I have only had fillers, botox, and PRP treatment done, nothing else."

AGENCIES



AJIT NATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL - DAY 1



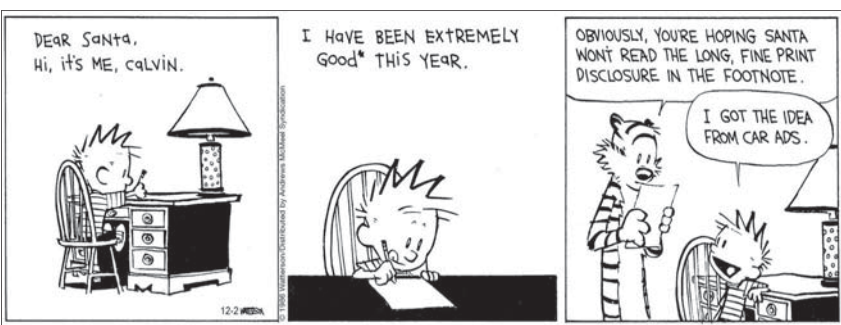
Members of Purbaranga, a Guwahati-based theatre troupe, staged Assamese play *Basavdutta* at Bhanjakala Mandap, Wednesday. The drama, a part of Abhinaya Jagruti Institute of Theatre (AJIT)'s 26th foundation day celebration, was directed by eminent theatre personality Gunakar Dev Goswami. Veteran actor Antaryami Panda was conferred Ajit Natya Samman while KK received Ajit Yuva Natya Samman on the occasion.

PIIC BIKASH NAYAK

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBES

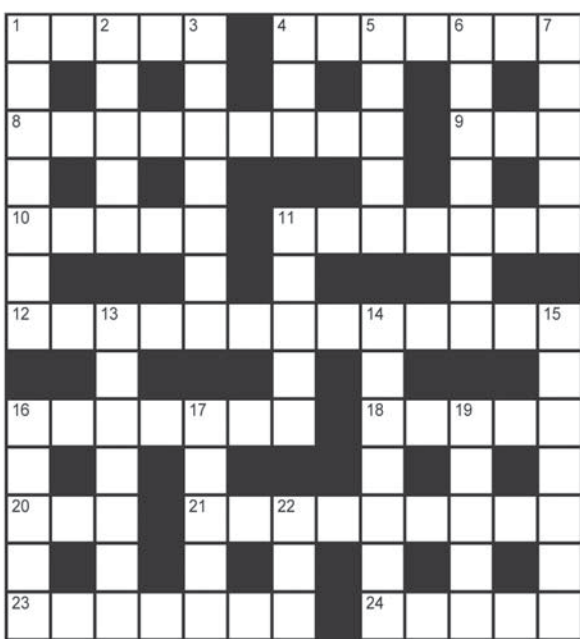


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2026 PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- Merits
- Deodorant type
- Coops
- ET's craft
- Martial arts expert
- Side arms
- Perfume (3,2,8)
- Queen's residence
- They're verboten (2-3)
- Weep

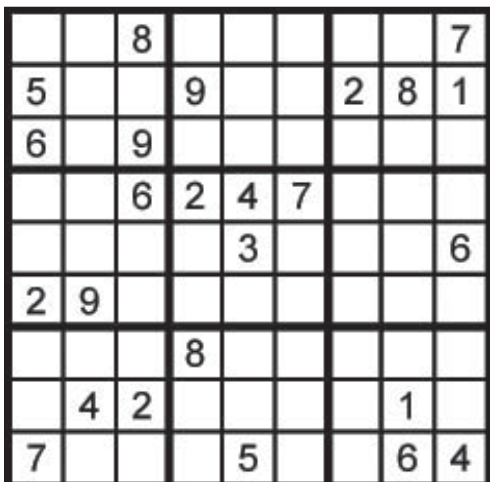
Down

- Elevate
- Fracas (3-2)
- Kind of compartment
- Commercials
- Deceptive maneuvers
- Largest venomous snake (4,5)
- Gave way
- Part of the whole

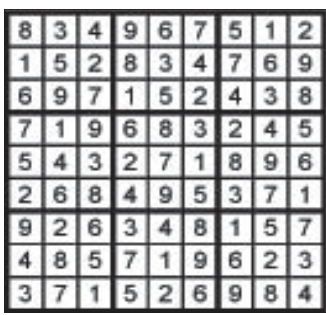
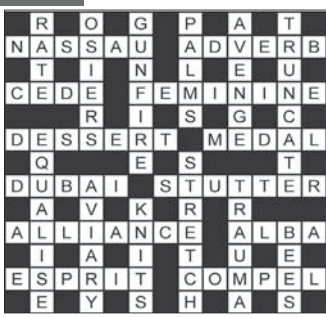
- Ostracise (4,3)
- Crazy birds
- Lying facedown
- Functional
- Camera attachment (4,3)
- Subjugate
- Autocratic
- Annoyed
- Majestic
- Silent assent

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Insurer ordered to pay ₹56.9L relief to policyholder’s family

Cuttack District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission also directed the insurer to pay 6% annual interest on the amount from the date of the policyholder's death till payment, along with ₹10,000 towards litigation costs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 21: The Cuttack District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed an insurance company to pay ₹56.9 lakh as compensation to the family of a policyholder who died after failing to pay a premium while bedridden due to illness.

The commission also ordered the insurer to pay the amount with 6 per cent annual interest from the date of the policyholder's death till payment, along with ₹10,000 towards litigation costs.

The commission said the order must be complied with within 30 days of receipt of the judgment. The ruling came on a complaint filed by Geetanjali Dash of Nuasahi in Cuttack's Bidanasi area, represented by advocate Ramashish Acharya.

The commission held that denial of the claim on the ground of non-payment of a single

THE COMMISSION HELD THAT REJECTION OF THE CLAIM DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF A SINGLE MONTH'S PREMIUM, WHEN THE POLICYHOLDER WAS INCAPACITATED BY ILLNESS, AMOUNTED TO DEFICIENCY IN SERVICE

LEGAL OBSERVERS TERMED THE ORDER SIGNIFICANT, AS IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST SUCH RULING IN ODISHA GRANTING COMPENSATION DESPITE NON-PAYMENT OF ONE MONTH'S INSURANCE PREMIUM UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES

month's premium, when the policyholder was incapacitated due to illness, amounted to deficiency in service. Legal observers said the order is significant, as it is believed to be the first such ruling in Odisha granting compensation despite non-payment of a one-month insurance premium under similar circumstances.

According to case records, the applicant's son, the late Sa-

tyam Kumar Das, purchased a life insurance policy September 18, 2022, and paid the monthly premiums regularly until March 14, 2023.

On March 20, 2023, Das fell seriously ill and became bedridden. Despite undergoing treatment at several hospitals, his condition did not improve. He was later admitted to the ICU of a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, where he died on May 10, 2023.

Following his death, the family applied to the insurance company for settlement of the policy claim. However, as Das was critically ill, he was unable to pay one month's premium. Citing the non-payment, the insurance company rejected the claim.

Challenging the decision, the family approached the Cuttack District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. In its order, Commission President Sibananda Mohanty and member Subhalaxmi Tripathy observed that the insured was not in a condition to pay the premium due to serious illness and paralysis, and that the lapse was not wilful.

The commission further noted that the insurance company failed to produce any evidence to show that it had issued a notice to the family regarding termination of the policy. In the interest of fairness and justice, it held that the family was entitled to receive the insurance amount.



Krushhi Odisha is an annual event organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment every year to showcase the state's progress in the agricultural and allied sectors. This mega event serves as a critical platform to demonstrate the success and evolvement of agrarian practices over the years in sync with modern contemporary agriculture and innovations.

This year, its importance is heightened by focusing on the theme "Building Resilience through Inclusive Agriculture". The theme is self-explanatory and aims to converge all stakeholders for a common cause to bring prosperity and welfare for the farming community by strategizing and developing a robust and equitable farming ecosystem in the state, which is inclusive, gender and nutrition sensitive, and forward-looking for preserving the rich agricultural heritage and biodiversity conservation.

Let me confess to the present scenario of the state's agriculture and its transformation despite challenges and realities that this sector witnessed from a state of sustenance to a surplus and from margin to mainstream. A myriad of science-driven and evidence-based initiatives for driving economic growth & livelihoods, social inclusion & empowerment through empowering marginal groups and policy inclusivity, and building a resilient agriculture future by climate adaptation, preserving heritage, technological modernization, inclusive recognition, and policy dialogue have been the cardinal principles for the overall growth of this sector.

Odisha's agricultural sector has been experiencing significant growth and transformation, driven by strategic policy initiatives, technological adoption, climate-resilient agriculture practices, digitization, and a focus on sustainability. Agriculture sector continues to be the lifeline for the food and nutrition security of a large portion of the state population.

Now, this sector is undergoing a dynamic shift, characterized by record production, strategic investments, and a shift towards an inclusive pathway. The state has significantly increased its budget allocations, innovative schemes, and a focus on an inclusive and whole-of-society approach in the agriculture sector. Odisha has pioneered a revolution in digital agriculture that can be used as a blueprint for similar state-wide transformation. Nearly 49 per cent of the workforce is directly engaged in Agriculture and the allied sector.

Over time, the food grain production has increased at a rate higher than previous years (Odisha Economic Survey-2024-25). Odisha has over 61.80 lakh hectares of cultivable land and a population of about 4.5 crore, with a sizable and dynamic youth working force who are being helped out to become agri-prenuers under Mukyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana(MKUY), generating employment and boosting the rural economy.

The present government is shouldering and focusing on the growth of this livelihood sector by involving all the stakeholders to bring a transformative change in the agriculture scenario of the state. Some forward-looking pragmatic decisions and visionary schematic initiatives have been spearheaded by the present government for an inclusive and sustainable agriculture future in the state to make agriculture more profitable and generate employment for our youth.

The state government had taken a landmark initiative to provide better price to the paddy growing farmers of the State and to bring the farmers into the financial mainstream of the society. Government is procuring paddy from the farmers at ₹3100/ per quintal, providing input assistance over and above the Minimum Support Price from the Kharif Marketing Season 2025.

Shree Anna Abhiyan aims to promote sustainable agriculture and nutritional security by reviving climate-resilient and nutritious millets in farms and on plates. These climate-resilient crops are suitable for the dryland ecosystem of the hinterland districts and have been main driver of the economic wellbeing of the marginalized farmers.

CM-KISAN is a farmers' welfare scheme aimed at promoting agricultural prosperity and empowering farmers in the State. It is progressive and inclusive, supporting both small & marginal farmers and landless agricultural households.

PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) is a flagship income-support scheme of the Government of India aimed at providing assured financial assistance to farmers for meeting agricul-

terized by record production, strategic investments, and a shift towards an inclusive pathway. The state has significantly increased its budget allocations, innovative schemes, and a focus on an inclusive and whole-of-society approach in the agriculture sector. Odisha has pioneered a revolution in digital agriculture that can be used as a blueprint for similar state-wide transformation. Nearly 49 per cent of the workforce is directly engaged in Agriculture and the allied sector.

Over time, the food grain production has increased at a rate higher than previous years (Odisha Economic Survey-2024-25). Odisha has over 61.80 lakh hectares of cultivable land and a population of about 4.5 crore, with a sizable and dynamic youth working force who are being helped out to become agri-prenuers under Mukyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana(MKUY), generating employment and boosting the rural economy.

The present government is shouldering and focusing on the growth of this livelihood sector by involving all the stakeholders to bring a transformative change in the agriculture scenario of the state. Some forward-looking pragmatic decisions and visionary schematic initiatives have been spearheaded by the present government for an inclusive and sustainable agriculture future in the state to make agriculture more profitable and generate employment for our youth.

The state government had taken a landmark initiative to provide better price to the paddy growing farmers of the State and to bring the farmers into the financial mainstream of the society. Government is procuring paddy from the farmers at ₹3100/ per quintal, providing input assistance over and above the Minimum Support Price from the Kharif Marketing Season 2025.

Shree Anna Abhiyan aims to promote sustainable agriculture and nutritional security by reviving climate-resilient and nutritious millets in farms and on plates. These climate-resilient crops are suitable for the dryland ecosystem of the hinterland districts and have been main driver of the economic wellbeing of the marginalized farmers.

CM-KISAN is a farmers' welfare scheme aimed at promoting agricultural prosperity and empowering farmers in the State. It is progressive and inclusive, supporting both small & marginal farmers and landless agricultural households.

PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) is a flagship income-support scheme of the Government of India aimed at providing assured financial assistance to farmers for meeting agricul-

tural input costs.

Under Krushi Vidhya Nidhi Yojana, scholarship is being given to the children of CM-KISAN beneficiaries to pursue higher studies in premier institutes of the state as well as National level. For 2025-26, more than 70,000 students have registered under KVNy, showing significant growth and outreach.

The Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana is a groundbreaking government initiative launched to revolutionize Indian agriculture by making it more productive, sustainable, and financially rewarding for farmers. By providing irrigation, storage, loans, training, and modern technology support, PMDDKY seeks to boost farmer incomes, ensure food security, and advance Atmanirbhar Bharat that is self-reliant India. Under this, Odisha needs to be self-reliant in pulses and oil seeds.

Comprehensive Project on Rice Fallow Management (CRFM) is a flagship initiative being implemented as a regenerative agricultural practice and aims to convert vast rice fallow lands into productive areas with growing of short-duration pulses and oilseeds during the Rabi season. This initiative not only helps in improving the soil health, but also the cropping intensity and adds to farmer's income as the Pulses & Oilseeds crops are procured under the Price support scheme.

Promotion of Indigenous Aromatic and Non-Aromatic Paddy with Export Potential/ Local Market aims to rejuvenate and expand the cultivation of Odisha's heritage rice varieties.

The government is keen in promoting organic and chemical free farming through 'Balabhadra Jaivik Chasa Mission' in the state and has taken a historic decision to implement 'Amruta Anna', a component to grow aromatic organic rice in large scale for the preparation of Kotha Bhoga & Mahaprasad in the Shree Jagannath Temple, which will glorify the sanctity of Shree Jagannath Sanskruti.

Digital Crop Survey has been conducted for collecting the correct and real-time data through a mobile App. Through this survey, the actual crop sown area shall be estimated which will help in better dissemination of customized agro advisory services and other related information. This single step will capture the farmer database towards a transparent, crop-specific, and real-time delivery of government assistance for a transformative agriculture in the state.

Special emphasis is being given for popularization of different farm machineries, equipment for reducing cost of cultivation, timely completion

of agricultural activities, and drudgery reduction for farm women and labour. Regional and Sub-Divisional melas are being organized to make available farm machinery to solve the labour force shortage during the cropping seasons.

The State has introduced a new Cold Storage Policy to strengthen cold storage facilities and infrastructure and to establish at least one cold storage in each of the 58 sub-divisions of the State. This will help enhance the income of farmers by providing better market opportunities, value-addition and processing of agriculture, horticulture and allied sector commodities, to reduce post-harvest losses, and to prevent distress sale of harvested crops.

As a significant initiative, the government has taken steps to export fresh fruits and vegetables from Odisha to ten different countries like UAE, Qatar, Italy, Poland, Ireland, England, France, Germany, Sweden and Belgium.

With the involvement of 33 FPOs across 13 districts, a range of produce—including Amrapali and Dasherhi mangoes, dragon fruit, apple ber, okra, pointed gourd, ivy gourd, long beans, bitter gourd, banana, green papaya and drumsticks—has been exported.

This three-day event will showcase the present status of agriculture in Odisha through 12 thematic sessions, which reflect the Vision Odisha @ 2036 and Viksit Bharat @ 2047, with different subject-specific discussions, debates, and discourses to chart out a resilient food system pathway in the state.

More than 15,000 farmers' footfall; about 60 eminent scientists of national and international repute as speakers; display of modern farm machineries and live demonstration; felicitation to lead farmers of agriculture, horticulture, soil conservation, fisheries, animal husbandry, Women Self-help Groups (SHGs), and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO); AI-enabled information dissemination and farmers' facilitation centres; quiz, debate, storytelling and skit have been arranged to make these event more meaningful and attractive for the people of the state.

The outcome of these three days, KRUSHI ODISHA, will pave the way forward for future agricultural innovation, research, and extension to realise the dreams of the bare-foot scientists living across the state and help design a more robust and future-forward resilient agriculture pathway for the people of Odisha.

The author is Odisha's Deputy CM and Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, & Energy

BGU invites applications for MBA in Communication Mgmt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 21: Birla Global University (BGU) has invited applications for the first (2026-28) batch of its MBA in Communication Management programme.

The programme is designed to meet growing industry demand for skilled communication managers across corporate, media, consulting and public policy sectors.

Speaking on the launch, Birla Dean of Communication, (BGU) Shool Shiv Shankar Das said the MBA in Communication Management reflects the university's commitment to addressing the evolving needs of organisations where communication plays a strategic role in leadership, governance and brand building.

University VC Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni said that carrying forward the Birla Group's legacy through Birla Global University, the institution is committed to shaping future-ready leaders capable of thriving in a data-driven and digitally connected world.

Puri hosts dist-level meet on climate-resilient agriculture



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Jan 21: A district-level consultation on the project "Localising Data Science for Climate Change Adaptation" was held Wednesday at the ADO Conference Hall in Puri, bringing together district officials, line departments, technical institutions and development partners to strengthen coordinated efforts towards climate-resilient agriculture.

The consultation was organised under a national initiative jointly supported by UNDP India and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

The project aims to integrate traditional agricultural knowledge with modern data science

tools to develop context-specific, climate-resilient farming practices.

Beyond field-level adaptation, the initiative is designed to inform climate-resilient agricultural planning and policy at state and national levels, while providing strategic support to the Climate Resilience Cell of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Odisha.

Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT), the implementing agency for the project in Gop Block, opened the meeting and outlined the on-ground implementation strategy. HBT highlighted ongoing interventions in two pilot Gram Panchayats—Banakhandi and Simili—where Climate Smart Village models are being demonstrated through participatory planning, community engagement and convergence with government schemes.

Cuttack mishap leaves man critically injured

CUTTACK: A road accident on Cuttack's busy Badambadi Street left Block Technology Manager (BTM) Amalendu Satapathy grievously injured Wednesday morning. He is a resident of CDA, Cuttack. According to reports, Satapathy, currently posted at the Boudh District Agriculture Office, was returning home by bus and reached Badambadi bus stand early Wednesday morning. While disembarking, he was reportedly struck by a speeding bus on the adjacent lane, which fled the scene after the collision. The impact threw Satapathy onto the road, causing a head injury. Passersby, along with his family members, rushed him to a private hospital in the city, where he remains in critical condition.

Six held for brown sugar trade in City

BHUBANESWAR: Six persons have been arrested for selling 10 grams of brown sugar during a raid near the Sabar Sahi water tank area under Laxmisagar police station, police said Wednesday. The accused have been identified as Abhishek Banerjee (30), Archisman Abhishek (30), Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra (30), Nitin Halwasia (31), Amarendra Prasad Rout (28) and Sidharth Pattnaik (30). Acting on reliable intelligence, a special police team conducted the raid, seizing 10 grams of brown sugar, three mobile phones and two motorcycles from the accused. During interrogation, they reportedly confessed to long-term involvement in the illegal brown sugar trade.

BMC, UNICEF ink MoU for child-friendly spaces

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 21: In a move towards child-centric urban development, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNICEF to create child-friendly public spaces across the City.

The MoU was signed at the BMC office by Commissioner Chanchal Rana and UNICEF Odisha Field Office Chief Prasanta Dash, in the presence of Mayor Sulochana Das.

Mayor Das said the initiative would promote healthy social development among children. "This will accelerate social interaction among children. They are the future of our City, and their social development will help build a more disciplined and harmonious Bhubaneswar," she said, appealing to citizens to support the initiative.

BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana said the project would



be implemented at minimal cost with a focus on sustainability. "Along with strengthening tree plantation drives through public participation, these child-friendly spaces will contribute to a greener and more liveable city," he said.

Highlighting the importance of play, Dash said, "Play is not a luxury—it is a child's right. Such spaces encourage children to learn through play, connect with nature and develop a sense of belonging within their communities. UNICEF is proud to support BMC in building a truly child-friendly City."



THEATRE TREAT: A scene from Odia play Janani Janmabhumischa presented by artistes of Dynamic Platform, Bhubaneswar presented Odia play Janani Janmabhumischa at Rabindra Mandap Wednesday, on the third evening of Manana's 47th Foundation Day Drama festival. Written by Nabin Parida, the play was designed and directed by Debabrata Pattanayak.

OP PHOTO

Listed ‘dead’ in Aadhaar, farmer fails to sell paddy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Jan 21: In a bizarre and a striking incident of Aadhaar goof-up, a farmer from Bijepur area in this district was deprived of selling his harvested paddy as his Aadhaar record erroneously showed him as ‘dead’.

According to reports, the incident involves Tankadhar Giri of Pipilipali village under Bijepur block. Due to a serious error in Aadhaar database, Giri’s status was marked “deceased,” rendering his Aadhaar inactive and preventing biometric authentication at the procurement centre, they said.

According to officials and the farmer, Giri had brought 28.86 quintals of paddy to Budapali mandi against his token (296160). However, the transaction failed during the iris scan when the system flagged an Aadhaar-related error, making procurement impossible.

Giri said he is alive and has all valid documents, but the Aadhaar database continues to show his name with a deceased status. As a result, he has been pushed into acute financial and mental distress. Giri alleged that no alternative arrangement was provided to enable



TANKADHAR GIRI

The farmer’s status was marked “deceased,” rendering his Aadhaar inactive and preventing biometric authentication at the paddy procurement centre

him to sell his produce, even as the validity of the token expired January 3.

The case has sparked concern over data integrity in welfare-linked digital systems and their impact on farmers during procurement season.

After verification at Bijepur Aadhaar centre, officials informed the farmer that his Aadhaar had been deactivated due to a “deceased status” entry and advised him to visit it Bhubaneswar. The farmer submitted all required documents to the District Collector and the Aadhaar centre in Bhubaneswar. However, as the issue was not resolved within the stipulated time, he alleged that he was ultimately forced

to take his paddy back home from the mandi.

“The incident has exposed technical flaws in the paddy procurement system, raising questions about who is responsible for the financial losses suffered by farmers,” said Ramesh Mohapatra, adviser to the Sanjukta Krushak Sangathan.

He added that many other farmers are facing similar issues, with their paddy procurement tokens getting stuck due to the government’s faulty centralized system. Mohapatra warned that if the administration does not take immediate corrective steps, farmers will be compelled to launch an agitation.

5,050 bottles of cough syrup seized in Bargarh

Woman, juveniles involved in the illegal trade

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Jan 21: Acting on a tip-off, Town Police in Bargarh seized 5,050 bottles of cough syrup and arrested six persons, including a woman, during a raid at an under-construction building near Bargarh-Katapali Road Wednesday. Two juveniles were also detained for their involvement in the offence, police said.

The accused were identified as Azad Banchhor, 21, of Bhadigaon village under Bhatli police limits; Naimish Behera, 43, of Mulbar village; Umakanta Sahu, 40, of Kanbar village; Sasmita Behera, 27, of Nilibandhapada under Bargarh Town police limits; Achyutananda



Dora, 47, of Ghulipali; and Sunil Kumar Padhi, 39, of Golaknagar (Godbhaga) under Burla police limits in Sambalpur district.

Cash worth ₹76,700 and several vehicles allegedly used in the operation, including two motorcycles (a TVS Rider and an Avenger), a Bullet motorcycle, an auto-rickshaw, a scooter,

a Hero Super Splendor motorcycle, an electric scooter, and seven mobile phones were seized from their possession.

A case (48/26) has been registered with Bargarh Town Police and further investigation is underway, police said.

Addressing a presser at Bargarh Town PS, Superin-

Curbs on social media posts in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Jan 21: In view of a recent violence in Balasore, Superintendent of Police Pratyush Diwakar Wednesday imposed restrictions on social media posts and urged the public to cooperate, adhering to the issued guidelines.

The SP appealed to people not to post or share content targeting any community. Citizens have been advised to preserve screenshots or links of objectionable or harmful posts and report them to the police. Police said the step was taken after noticing misuse of various social media platforms, including circulation of misleading, unverified and inappropriate content. Such posts were also being widely shared and commented upon, aggravating the situation, police said. The SP warned that action would be initiated against individuals found posting or sharing misleading information without verification.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Subarnapur, Jan 21: A senior Congress leader in this district died by suicide at his residence late Tuesday night, police said, adding that the exact reason behind the incident is yet to be ascertained.

The deceased was identified as Rajesh Kumar Mishra, 42, alias Raja, treasurer of Subarnapur District Congress Committee. Police said he died after shooting himself with his licensed firearm at his residence in Bhagabatiplot area of Subarnapur town. The incident reportedly occurred after 1:15am. Police recovered the body from the house and launched an investigation.

Rajesh Mishra was known as an active political worker and youth organiser. He had earlier served as president of Sonepur College Students’ Union and was considered a prominent face of the Congress in the district. Police said the motive behind



RAJESH KUMAR MISHRA

the suicide remains unclear. While family discord is being examined, officers said no conclusion has been reached so far.

Following a complaint by the deceased’s father, Binod Bihari Mishra, Sonepur police registered a case of unnatural death. A scientific team examined the spot Wednesday, and the firearm was sent for forensic examination to State Forensic Science Laboratory in Bhubaneswar.

Police said they are awaiting the postmortem and forensic reports to determine the circumstances leading to the death.

tendent of Police PS Meena said police received a tip-off that large quantities of cough syrups were being stored at the under-construction house on Bargarh-Katapali road. Acting on the inputs, a police team conducted a raid around 10:30am and seized at least 5,050 bottles, packed in sacks.

Following the seizure, police arrested the accused linked to the racket and seized the cash, vehicle used in the operation and mobile phones, Meena said.

He said the involvement of two minors was also detected, and they have been detained. Police are investigating the source of the cough syrup and its intended destination. Further inquiries are underway to determine whether others are involved in the operation, Meena said.

Man paraded with footwear garland in Dhenkanal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 21: A man was allegedly assaulted and paraded with a footwear garland through a village in Dhenkanal district, charging him with converting people to another religion, prompting the police to register a case, an officer said Wednesday.

Though the incident occurred January 4 in a village

under Parjang police station limits, it came to light recently after the victim’s wife lodged a police complaint, following which the police initiated an investigation.

According to the complaint, a group of 15 to 20 people armed with bamboo sticks attacked the victim, a Christian, in his house around 11 am when he was praying.

The mob allegedly beat the

man, forcibly smeared him with vermilion, garlanded him with footwear and paraded him in the streets of the village. He was also compelled to bow before a temple, according to the complaint.

Dhenkanal SP Abhinav Sonkar said, “The police have registered a case under various sections of the BNS. Legal actions are likely to be taken against seven people after gathering prima facie evidence.”

Man murders uncle over family feud



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 21: A 60-year-old man was beaten to death by his nephew following a domestic dispute at Tulsinagar under Town police limits here Tuesday night, police said.

The deceased was identified as Jadumani Bagarti and the accused Aju Bishi, who has been arrested.

Police said Aju returned home in an intoxicated condition and began arguing with his wife. During the

altercation, he allegedly assaulted his minor child. Meanwhile, Jadumani, uncle and foster father of the accused, intervened and asked the woman and child to leave the house to avoid further violence.

When Jadumani tried to pacify him, the accused allegedly lost his temper and attacked his uncle with a spade handle. A profusely bleeding Jadumani collapsed outside the house. On being informed, Town Police rushed to the spot and

shifted the injured to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital. However, he succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter.

Following the incident, police detained and later arrested Aju.

A case has been registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the deceased’s nephew, Jyotiprakash Bagarti.

A scientific team visited the crime scene Wednesday and collected forensic evidence. Police seized the instrument used in the assault and other materials from the spot.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Saroj Kumar Upadhyay said preliminary investigation suggests the murder was triggered by a family dispute and aggravated by alcohol consumption. The body was sent for postmortem and later handed over to the family.

The accused was produced before court.

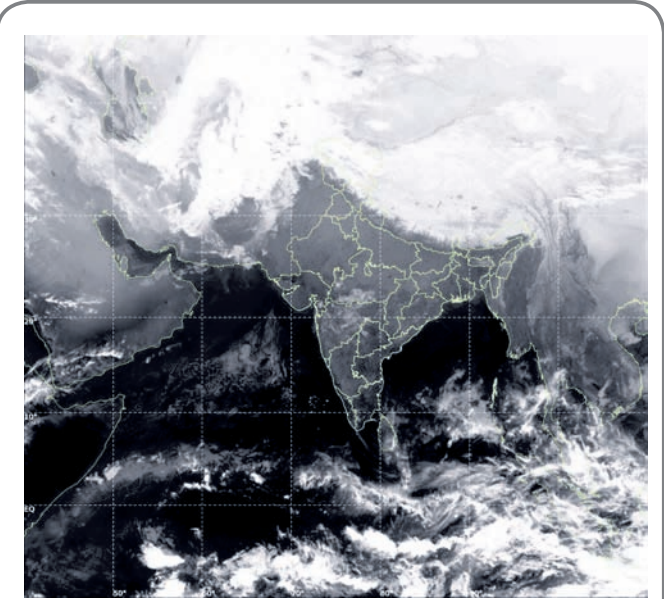
Youth inflicts self injuries

Keonjhar: A 21-year-old youth allegedly inflicted self injuries outside his girlfriend’s house in Sanamasanabila village under Dhenkikote police limits in this district Wednesday afternoon after the girl reportedly ignored him, police said. The youth, identified as Akash Kumar Barik of Joda area, was critically injured and admitted to Ghatagaon hospital. Akash and the woman had been in a relationship for the past four years after coming in contact in Koida area, where the woman was staying at her aunt’s house. Recently, the woman returned to her native village, following which her family allegedly restricted her movements and communication. He arrived at the girl’s village Wednesday to meet the girl. When he was unable to do so, he allegedly injured himself using a sharp object in front of her house. A case (27/26) has been registered against Akash for stalking the woman, and investigation is underway.

Motorcycle crash kills 2

Malkangiri: Two persons, reportedly friends, were killed when their motorcycle rammed into a tree near Kamarguda village under Padia block in Malkangiri district Tuesday, police said. The deceased were identified as Sameer Hantal, 29, son of Brundaban Hantal, and Deepak Kumar Lima, 28, son of Dilip Lima, both residents of Padia village. According to police, the two were travelling on a motorcycle (AP 31 CM 1222) Monday to Kalimela for some work. While returning to their village Tuesday, the rider reportedly lost control of the vehicle on Padia-Kalimela main road near Kamarguda village, causing the motorcycle to crash into a tree. Local residents rushed to the spot and attempted to rescue the victims, but both were found dead at the scene.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	91.67 ▲ 0.67	SENSEX	81909.63 ▼ 270.84	GOLD ₹154,620	▲ ₹4055
EURO	107.3850 ▲ 0.64	NIFTY	25157.50 ▼ 75	SILVER ₹319,555	▼ ₹4117



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.3°	28.8°	Fog or Mist in the morning and Mainly Clear Sky later
Min Temp	13.2°	12.8°	
Humidity	77%	77%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	



यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Regional Office: Sambalpur

1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768004

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public that inspite of repeated reminders the following gold loan borrowers have not repaid their loan. If they do not repay their outstanding debts before the auction, their gold ornaments will be auctioned at the premises of our Concerned Branches on **30.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** The Bank will not be liable for any inconvenience or loss to the borrowers and the Bank will take legal action against them if the Bank loses where necessary. Borrowers can take their Jewellery by repaying the outstanding debt before the auction take place.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Gold Loan Account No.	Outstanding	Net Weight (in Gram)
 BRAJRAJNAGAR BRANCH (41380), AT/PO: MAIN ROAD, BRAJRAJNAGAR, DIST.: JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA, PIN-768216 / 413806540000070			
1.	Dipali Patra, H. No. 92, Ward No. 11, Lamtibahal, Brajrajnagar, Odisha, PIN-768216 / 413806540000070	₹ 60,119.50 + interest	10.60
2.	Upendra Ray, At: Mirzapur, Jagan Chapra Saran, Bihar-841419 / 413806630000037	₹ 65,839.00 + interest	14.15
 SUNDARGARH BRANCH (71780), AT/PO: MEGHA MALHAR BUILDING, SUNDARGARH, HOSPITAL ROAD (MISSION ROAD), DIST.: SUNDARGARH, ODISHA, PIN-770001, MOB. NO.: 6396700439			
1.	Md Wasim, At: Dengibhad, PO: Rajnagar, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770001 / 717806540000065	₹ 11,307.00 + interest	2.50
2.	Rebati Behera, At: Gailo, PO: Ranpur, PS: Jalsar, Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770014 / 717806540000129	₹ 12,178.00 + interest	2.50

Person willing to participate in the auction should obey the following rules:

- Person willing to participate in the auction must deposit ₹1,000/- in the form of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) two hours before the scheduled auction time.
- After depositing the EMD, person who willing to participate in the auction can inspect the ornaments.
- Auction for another account will begin only after the auction and amount deposit of one account have been completed.
- The Bank is not Bound to accept any auction calls. The Bank may cancel the auction without assigning any reason therefor.
- Union Bank of India will not held responsible in any manner for the quality, weight and purity of the ornaments pledged for auction.
- Bank will forfeit the EMD Deposit Amount if any person does not obey the above rules.
- The successful bidder shall pay the entire bid amount at once and take delivery of the ornaments at his/her absolute risk and responsibility and the said bidder shall not have any recourse to our Bank for any reason whatsoever.
- If the successful bidder does not clear the bid amount and/or does anything which may give rise to a necessity of adjourning/postponing/holding fresh auction sale, he/she shall be liable to indemnify the Bank to the extent of loss, if any, caused on account of his/her lapses which may come in the way of completing the auction.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 21.01.2026 **Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

भारत सरकार
कार्पोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आइ.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल,
प्लॉट P-6, 7, 8, सी-5,
आइ.एम.डी. मनेसर,
गुडगांव, हरियाणा - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated
Corporate Exit (C-PACE),
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P- 6, 7, 8, Sector-5,
IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Form No. STK - 6
PUBLIC NOTICE
[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]
Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1780 **Date: 14/01/2026**
Reference: In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (3) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC1137763	U68200OD2024PTC044779	JLG SHREE MAHAVIR INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC09233004	U27109OR2021PTC036846	PATITAPABAN MINERALS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AB9509143	U45309OR2016PTC025945	CHIRANJILAL PROJECT PRIVATE LIMITED

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

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

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

Irkan Tirkey,
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0618/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 57-KUR-TRD-OT-2025-26

Name of the Work: PROVISION OF SAFETY ITEMS FOR MAINTENANCE DEPOTS AND STATIONS IN KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION.

Advertised Value ₹ 12,59,642.88, EMD: ₹ 25,200/-, Period of Completion: 180 days.

Bidding start date: 23.01.2026, Tender closing date & time at: 1300 hrs. of 06.02.2026.

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

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-1037/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-LPS-KUR-536, Dt: 15.01.2026

Name of the Work: PROVISION OF LIGHTENING AND SURGE PROTECTION DEVICE WITH EARTHING FOR SIGNALLING EQUIPMENT AT ANGUL, BUDHAPAKK, RAJATGARH, KEREJANGA, TAGRIAPAL, TONKA, SAGADAPATA, KHALIKOT, KAIPADAR ROAD, DHANMANDAL AND NIRAARPUR STATION UNDER THE PROJECT "SOLUTION FOR SURGE AND LIGHTENING PROTECTION FOR SIGNAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT".

Tender Value: ₹ 4,08,75,227.50, EMD: ₹ 3,54,400/-.

Bidding Start Date: 23.01.2026, Date & Time of closing of tender at: 1100 hrs. of 06.02.2026.

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-1036/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Auction Catalogue No. SBP-CATG-T-9-26

Sl. No. 1: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (GMU) AT MAHASAMUD STATION "D" CATEGORY (MSMDI) PLATFORM-01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 2: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (GMU) AT NAWAPARA STATION "D" CATEGORY (NPD) PLATFORM-01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 3: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (GMU) AT JHARSUGUDA ROAD STATION "E" CATEGORY (JSGR) / PLATFORM-02 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 4: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU-0BC) SAMBALPUR CITY STATION "D" CATEGORY (SBP END) RAILWAY STATION / PLATFORM-2-3, SAMBALPUR CITY END FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 5: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU-MINORITY) AT JUNAGARH ROAD STATION "D" CATEGORY (JNRD) PLATFORM-01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 6: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (OBC-WOMEN) AT RAIRAKHOL STATION "D" CATEGORY (RAIR) / PLATFORM-01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 7: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU-ST) AT HARI SHANKAR ROAD STATION "D" CATEGORY (HSK) / PLATFORM-01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 8: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU-ST) AT SAMBALPUR STATION "A" CATEGORY (SBP) / PLATFORM-02 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Sl. No. 9: ASSETS DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU-SC) AT BOINDA STATION "D" CATEGORY (BONA) / PLATFORM-01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

Auction Start Date & Time: at 1100 hrs. of 27.01.2026 (for all Sl. Nos.), Auction Close Date & Time: at 1250 hrs. of 27.01.2026 (for all Sl. Nos.).

Complete details available at www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PR-1029/Q/25-26 Sambalpur

There is no greater courage than that of recognizing one's own mistakes.



THE MOTHER

When Paid Work Goes

What we typically refer to as “artificial intelligence” is, in practice, a set of data-based systems (DS). These technologies are already transforming nearly every aspect of human life, giving rise to innovative business models and reordering entire economies. Over time, they promise to create new jobs, boost productivity, and provide tools that extend cognitive capabilities, ultimately redefining the meaning of work itself.

But alongside these undeniable benefits, the digital revolution and rapid spread of DS are disrupting labour markets, education, and professional training. The consequences are increasingly evident: precarious working conditions determined by algorithm-driven platforms, sustained downward pressure on wages, and a structural mismatch between what economies need and what workers are trained to do.

This raises a critical question: Will the growing use of DS render paid professional work obsolete? Every technological leap, we are often reminded, has sparked fears of mass unemployment, and each time those fears have proven unfounded. But the historical pattern may no longer hold.

Past transformative technologies were largely designed to make human labour more efficient or less physically demanding. DS, by contrast, are often built explicitly to remove humans from the value chain altogether. And unlike earlier technological revolutions, these systems are not confined to routine or low-skilled work. They are moving into areas once viewed as exclusive to humans: medical diagnosis and surgery, legal analysis, and cultural production.

The breadth and speed of today’s DS call into question the familiar reassurance that technological innovation has always created more jobs than it destroyed. In reality, no historical law guarantees that technological change must always generate more paid work for humans. On the contrary, the emerging evidence suggests that data-based systems (DS) are eliminating entire professions faster than new ones can emerge.

To be sure, fewer working hours and more free time are not necessarily a bad thing. A society liberated from excessive labour could, in fact, be more humane. The danger lies not in the loss of work itself, but in what disappears along with it: wages, the tax base that supports public goods, and the non-economic roles that paid employment plays in people’s lives, such as providing a source of purpose, identity, and camaraderie.

With fewer and fewer people needed to generate economic value, policymakers must acknowledge the labour-market impact of DS. At stake is nothing less than countries’ longstanding commitment to maximizing employment. Urging workers to retrain and upskill for a job market that may no longer exist holds individuals responsible for changes they cannot control, when what is needed is a policy framework that matches the scale of the disruption.

In a new book, I propose a concrete framework for realizing the ethical opportunities of the current technological transformation while limiting its risks. At its core, the Society-, Entrepreneurship-, and Research-Time (SERT) model seeks to decouple income from work without making that separation unconditional.

The SERT model rests on five pillars. The first is a basic income financed by taxes, designed to meet the requirements of physical survival while preserving a dignified life and respect for human rights.

The second pillar is a conditional decoupling of income from work. In exchange for a basic income, each person would contribute a set amount of “society time” or socially valuable work. Much like the Swiss Civilian Service, which has operated successfully for nearly three decades as an alternative to military service, individuals would be free to choose from a wide range of activities. The administration of SERT would be largely digital, drawing on DS and, where appropriate, blockchain technology, to document each person’s engagement in society time.

Third, during their society time, individuals must be able to experience some or all of the non-economic functions provided by paid work, such as social recognition, daily structure, and a sense of purpose.

Fourth, the SERT model creates strong incentives for education, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Commitments in these areas would reduce the required amount of society time or, in some cases, exempt individuals from it altogether.

Lastly, as value creation becomes more efficient and produces growing wealth, the central issue becomes how those gains are shared. Securing dignity for all depends not on overcoming scarcity, but on distributing resources fairly. This would require coordinated global taxation that shifts the burden from labour to capital by taxing data flows, data volume, and the use of DS.

Allowing DS to displace human workers without a collective response would exacerbate inequality and entrench injustice, risking political unrest and undermining social cohesion. SERT, if adopted, offers a path toward shared prosperity and a more stable, peaceful future.

The writer, Professor of Ethics and Director of the Institute of Social Ethics ISE at the University of Lucerne, is a visiting professor at ETH Zurich.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- No one is free, even the birds are chained to the sky.

BOB DYLAN
- Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.

JOHN LENNON
- The good times of today, are the sad thoughts of tomorrow.

BOB MARLEY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1905:

On what was later known as Bloody Sunday, Russian workers marching on St. Petersburg were fired on by Russian troops.
- 1943:

During World War II, all Japanese resistance in Papua, on the island of New Guinea—which was the site of an important Allied base at Port Moresby—ceased.
- 1984:

Apple releases its famous “1984” ad. On this day in 1984, Apple Computer aired an ominous new commercial during Super Bowl XVIII. The 60-second ad, which was directed by Ridley Scott and drew inspiration from George Orwell’s dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty-four, was Apple’s promise that its new computer would help consumers avoid a dark age of technology.

FOCUS

GEOPOLITICS

INDIA AT A CROSSROADS



Multilateralism is weakening, protectionism is resurging, and economic interdependence is being deliberately dismantled. For an emerging economy like India this shift is profoundly destabilising



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

UNLIKE TRADITIONAL ARMED CONFLICT, GEOECONOMIC WARFARE DOES NOT RESPECT BORDERS

The Global Risks Report 2026, the 21st edition of the World Economic Forum’s flagship publication, arrives in the middle of what is shaping up to be one of the most volatile decades of the modern era. Its message is unmistakably sobering. The world is no longer facing isolated threats that can be managed independently; instead, it is grappling with a tightly interwoven web of economic, geopolitical, technological and social risks. For India, the report serves not merely as an academic assessment but as a strategic warning.

The report underscores a fundamental shift in the nature of global instability. Economic weapons now inflict deeper damage than conventional arms, digital vulnerabilities disrupt societies faster than bombs, and inequality corrodes nations more steadily than recessions. Uncertainty has become the defining feature of the global outlook. For India, this uncertainty manifests as a complex convergence of external shocks and internal fragilities. The country finds itself at a decisive juncture where policy choices made today will shape its resilience—or vulnerability—in years to come.

Drawing on insights from more than 1,300 experts worldwide through the Global Risks Perception Survey, the report evaluates threats across three-time horizons: the immediate term in 2026, the short to medium term up to 2028, and the longer-term outlook to 2036. A pervasive pessimism runs through the findings. Nearly half of respondents expect a turbulent global environment over the next two years, a figure that rises to 57% over the coming decade. This melancholy outlook reflects the erosion of multilateral institutions, declining trust in global governance, and intensifying rivalry among major powers.

Trade barriers, sanctions, technology controls, supply-chain disruptions and financial coercion are no longer exceptional responses to crises; they have become routine instruments of statecraft. Multilateralism is weakening, protectionism is resurging, and economic interdependence is being deliberately dismantled. For an emerging economy like India—deeply enmeshed in global trade, capital markets and energy flows—this shift is profoundly destabilising.

Unlike traditional armed conflict, geoeconomic warfare does not respect borders. Inflation, currency volatility, capital flight and growth shocks transmit instantly across economies. Financial markets now react more swiftly and decisively than battlefields. While India may benefit from supply-chain diversification, geopolitical realignments and the search for reliable economic partners, heightened rivalry also threatens its export competitiveness, access to critical technologies and investment inflows. Navigating this environment while sustaining high growth will demand careful economic diplomacy, policy agility and strategic autonomy.

Yet the report makes clear that India’s most immediate and dangerous vulnerability does not lie along its borders, but within its digital architecture. Cyber insecurity is identified as

India’s single most critical risk in 2026. This reflects the paradox of India’s extraordinary digital transformation. In less than a decade, the country has built one of the world’s most ambitious digital public infrastructures, encompassing Aadhaar-based governance, UPI-driven payments, fintech ecosystems and platform-based public service delivery. This transformation has dramatically improved efficiency and inclusion—but it has also created systemic exposure.

In 2025 alone, India reportedly experienced hundreds of millions of malware incidents, including Trojans, infectors, mobile malware and adware. Cybercrime has evolved from amateur hacking into a sophisticated, commercialised and geopolitically motivated enterprise.

Closely linked to digital vulnerability is the persistent challenge of income and wealth inequality. For the second consecutive year, the report identifies inequality as the most interconnected global risk. While official metrics may portray India as relatively egalitarian, structural realities reveal a more troubling picture. Wealth and income concentration is rising, with a small elite capturing a disproportionate share of economic gains. Large segments of society remain excluded from the ben-

efits of growth. High inequality amplifies the impact of economic shocks, weakens social cohesion and fuels political polarisation.

India’s vulnerability is further compounded by gaps in public services and social protection. Despite progress, public health expenditure remains modest by global standards. Social security, pensions, urban infrastructure and welfare systems lag behind the needs of a rapidly urbanising and ageing population. These deficiencies reduce shock-absorption capacity, allowing external disruptions to escalate quickly into domestic governance challenges.

Economic uncertainty adds yet another layer of risk. Globally, concerns about economic downturns, inflation, debt sustainability and asset bubbles have climbed sharply in the rankings. Although India’s macroeconomic outlook remains relatively strong, it is far from insulated from global headwinds. Volatile capital flows, tightening financial conditions and slow-downs in advanced economies ripple through exports, investment and employment.

While environmental risks appear less prominent in the report’s short-term outlook, their long-term severity is unmistakable. For India, climate change is not a distant threat; it is already reshaping agriculture, water availability, public health and livelihoods. The danger lies in postponing environmental action under pressure from immediate economic or geopolitical concerns, thereby magnifying future vulnerabilities.

Taken together, the Global Risks Report 2026 paints a stark picture of a fractured and volatile global order. For India, the message is clear. The country stands at a decisive moment. The crossroads is real, and the direction chosen will shape India’s trajectory for decades to come.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

SPECTRUM PUBLIC HEALTH

If water is poisoned, development is eye wash



Charudutta Panigrahi

THE GOVERNMENT MUST ACT DECISIVELY: REGULATE INDUSTRIES, CLEAN WATER SOURCES, AND PROTECT PEOPLE

Odisha today stands at a dangerous crossroads. While policymakers and investors celebrate rising GDP figures and the promise of “smart cities,” a silent epidemic is eroding the very foundation of the state’s future: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The numbers are stark, the causes are preventable, and the consequences—if ignored—will be catastrophic.

Recent government data reveal the scale of the crisis: 15,752 CKD patients and 4,648 deaths in Odisha in just three years. The epidemic is not evenly spread; it clusters in hotspots where contaminated water and industrial negligence converge. i) Sambalpur: 3,114 cases, 744 deaths – fluoride and heavy metals in groundwater; ii) Cuttack: 2,657 cases, 778 deaths – urban waste mismanagement compounding contamination; iii) Koraput: 918 cases, 266 deaths – tribal communities disproportionately affected; iv) Bolangir, Bargarh, Angul: Rising cases linked to mining effluents and poor regulation.

These are not isolated tragedies. They represent a systemic failure to protect the most basic human right: safe drinking water.

ter. CKDs are not just a health crisis—they are an economic time bomb. Dialysis costs Rs 12,000–Rs 20,000 per month, while transplants exceed Rs 5–7 lakh. For rural families earning less than Rs 10,000 a month, CKDs mean catastrophic health expenditure and lifelong debt.

A working-age patient loses 3–4 workdays weekly to dialysis. The elderly, too, are incapacitated, draining household resources. Odisha risks losing billions in productivity and healthcare costs, undermining every claim of growth. Economic growth without healthy citizens is a hollow victory. If water is poisoned, development is an illusion.

The government’s recent move to establish a CKD registry is praiseworthy. It promises to bring transparency, track incidence, and strengthen referrals. A registry can ensure that patients detected at the periphery are quickly referred to higher centres, reducing delays in treatment. It can also help doctors in rural and tribal areas become more sensitised to early warning signs, ensuring CKDs are not dismissed as vague fatigue or weakness.

But a registry is only as strong

as the action that follows. Who will be responsible for answering on CKD prevalence? How will the registry translate into accountability for contaminated water sources? Without clear ownership—from the health department to local governance—the registry risks becoming another statistic-gathering exercise rather than a life-saving intervention.

The evidence is clear: CKD hotspots overlap with areas of fluoridation, heavy metal, and waste contamination in groundwater. Mining, real estate, and construction industries are primary culprits, while rapid urbanisation has broken down waste management systems. Investment in clean water infrastructure, strict regulation of mining effluents, and urban waste management will save thousands of lives and billions in healthcare costs.

Odisha is not alone in facing this crisis—but others have acted. In Andhra Pradesh, safe drinking water schemes reduced CKD prevalence. In Sri Lanka, government interventions in water purification slowed CKD hotspots linked to agrochemicals. Bangladesh tackled arsenic contamination through community water filters and strict monitoring, sav-

ing millions. Odisha must learn that economic growth without clean water is a mirage.

There are policy imperatives such as i) mining regulation – enforce strict groundwater protection norms and penalize violators; ii) real estate & construction-mandate waste treatment and groundwater recharge systems; iii) urban waste management – smart cities must prioritize sewage treatment and landfill regulation before boasting of “smartness”; iv) water purification – statewide installation of fluoride and heavy-metal removal plants; and v) CKD registry action plan – use registry data to strengthen referrals, train peripheral doctors, and hold officials accountable for prevalence figures.

Odisha cannot afford to celebrate GDP growth while its people die of preventable kidney diseases. If water is poisoned, development is an eye wash. The government must act decisively: regulate industries, clean water sources, and protect people. Otherwise, every promise of “smart cities” and “investment corridors” is nothing but a cruel joke.

The writer is an author and a social advocate.

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



B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Divided NATO

Sir, Former NATO leaders have warned that global peace is at greater risk due to the unpredictability and unilateral style of US President Donald Trump’s approach to alliances. The danger is not immediate war, but the weakening of trust within NATO, which is key to collective security. Questioning alliance commitments publicly undermines deterrence, as rivals judge both military strength and political will. This uncertainty benefits countries like Russia, which can exploit divisions to pursue their goals without direct conflict. A hesitant or divided NATO makes it easier for adversaries to use cyberattacks, pressure tactics, and regional influence. Globally, this weakens the rules-based order and encourages power-driven diplomacy over cooperation. For India, this highlights the need for strategic autonomy. While a fragmented West may offer diplomatic opportunities, it also increases instability in trade, energy, and global governance, making diversified partnerships essential.

New Delhi wary

Sir, US President Trump’s proposal for a “Board of Peace,” unveiled at Davos, may be framed as an innovative platform for global conflict resolution, but from an Indian perspective, it invites careful scrutiny rather than enthusiasm. Initially conceived to oversee Gaza’s post-war reconstruction, the initiative reflects Washington’s preference for flexible, leader-driven coalitions outside established multilateral systems. Yet the lack of clarity on authority, mandate, and enforcement raises doubts about whether the board is designed to deliver peace or merely manage perception. For India, participation is not a procedural decision but a strategic calculation. New Delhi has traditionally supported peacebuilding through the United Nations and development diplomacy, while maintaining distance from externally engineered conflict frameworks. India’s caution deepens with reports that Pakistan has also been invited to join the proposed body. Given Islamabad’s long record of leveraging international platforms to deflect scrutiny from its own role in cross-border terrorism, New Delhi remains wary of any forum that risks moral equivalence between victims and perpetrators of violence.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

of the day

quote

Those were the years when Kashmiri Pandits had to face displacement - a tragedy that tore apart a social fabric built over centuries. Yet it was always said quietly but firmly that Kashmir's plural soul was wounded, not lost, and that it would one day find its way back to itself

MIRWAIZ UMAR FAROOQ | MODERATE KASHMIRI SEPARATIST LEADER

Six drains from Haryana account for 33 per cent of the total contaminated water in Najafgarh, while four major drains from Uttar Pradesh discharge into the Shahdara Drain, accounting for approximately 40 per cent of the total contaminated water

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

The BJP is breaking these traditions. Seers and shankaracharyas are being deliberately insulted. The BJP government has misbehaved with Shankaracharyas and seers through its officials

AKHILESH YADAV | SP SUPREMO

X

POST

OF THE DAY

Everyone is buying gold, except for the US. Why? The US already has roughly 8133 tonnes of Gold on its reserve. For context this is >> gold reserves held by India, Russia, China, Italy combined. Why isn't the US buying more? They are very well hedged. The other countries are in the process of hedging their risks. US would now focus on:-
1) Re-industrializing their economy; manufacturing.
2) Grabbing more resources like Oil, Rare Earth.
3) Winning the AI race.
4) Giving weak currency guys an option to save in USDT (digital version of USD).
5) Building a payment layer for partners. And, allowing them access to the US market. Aggregating gold gives an alternate payment system. Stronger economy would be built by: creating useful end products that can be bought with gold/digital gold/USD/USDT/BTC.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Student dies after taking borax

Madurai (Tamil Nadu): A first-year college student has died after taking a substance called 'venkaaram' (borax) bought from a local shop, as suggested by a social media video, police said. Slightly overweight, she was often on the lookout for weight loss tips. Last week, she watched a video on the YouTube channel titled 'Venkaaram to melt fat and slim body', and January 16, she bought the substance from a native medicine shop near Thermutti, Keezhamasai Street, according to police.

Water contamination: Rickshaw driver dies

Indore: A 50-year-old e-rickshaw driver has died in Indore, with his family blaming it on the outbreak of diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water in the Bhagirathpura area. While local residents have claimed that the outbreak has claimed 25 lives so far, a status report submitted by the Madhya Pradesh government to the Indore bench of the High Court January 15 mentioned seven deaths, including that of a five-month-old boy. As the funeral procession of 50-year-old Hemant Gaikwad left his house in Bhagirathpura Wednesday morning, the mourners struggled to console his mother, wife, and four daughters.

Face ‘corrupt power’ with courage: Rahul

Addressing the District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents from the two states (Haryana and Uttarakhand), Rahul said, “You have been entrusted with the responsibility of the districts. You have to fulfil it fearlessly and with dedication. You are the warriors of the Congress and you must work like warriors”

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kurukshetra (Hry), Jan 21: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told the party's district unit chiefs from Haryana and Uttarakhand Wednesday that the “corrupt” regime in power presents major challenges, but they must face those fearlessly.

Addressing the District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents from the two states, Gandhi said, “You have been entrusted with the responsibility of the districts. You have to fulfil it fearlessly and with dedication. You are the warriors of the Congress and you must work like warriors.”

He added that the “corrupt” regime in power poses major challenges, but the party workers must face those fearlessly and further strengthen the organisation. The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha was on a daylong visit to Haryana's Kurukshetra to address a training camp for the DCC chiefs from the two states. A statement issued by the Haryana Congress said to boost the morale of the party workers, Gandhi said,



“No one can suppress your voice, because a strong organisation like the Congress stands with you.”

He said the party will periodically evaluate their progress and provide necessary guidance and support. Congress general secretary in-charge for Haryana B K Hariprasad told PTI that Gandhi told the DCC chiefs to take the party's policies and programmes to people and also raise their issues. The former Congress chief also told them to go to people and explain to them what the Narendra Modi government has done to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre has replaced the MGNREGA with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, triggering protests from opposition parties. Gandhi asked the DCC chiefs to caution people about those who try to divide them on the basis of religion and caste. "We will have to uphold unity in diversity at the ground level.... Being Congress workers, everyone is equal to us, we should respect every religion and there is no disparity," Hariprasad quoted Gandhi as saying.

The camp for the DCC chiefs

is being held here from January 13 to 22 as part of the Congress's "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan".

Haryana Congress president Rao Narender Singh said Gandhi also told the district unit chiefs to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

He explained in detail to all the district presidents about the history, ideology and future strategy of the Congress, sources said.

Gandhi urged the DCC chiefs to work with complete dedication, enthusiasm and passion to take the party forward.

He also held separate discussions with some of the top party leaders from Haryana and obtained detailed information about the political activities in the state.

On his arrival here, Gandhi interacted with the families of the DCC chiefs from Haryana and Uttarakhand, before attending the closed-door training sessions, the sources said.

Singh said Gandhi had lunch with the DCC presidents during which their families, the Congress Legislature Party leaders, party chiefs and general secretaries in-charge for Haryana and Uttarakhand were also present.

While Hariprasad is the party's in-charge for Haryana, Kumar Selja, the MP from Haryana's Sirsa, is the general secretary in-charge for Uttarakhand.

According to the sources, Gandhi addressed the training camp in a hall inside the Punjabi Dharamshala, where entry was strictly restricted to those authorised to attend the event.

Police had made tight security arrangements around the venue. Barricades were erected at three places on the approach road to the Punjabi Dharamshala. Gandhi landed in Ambala in the morning and headed to Kurukshetra by road.



Heavy rush of passengers inside a train at the Patna railway station, Bihar



PEACE MEETING HELD IN VIOLENCE-HIT KOKRAJHAR

Army conducted a flag march and a peace meeting was held in the presence of two Assam ministers Wednesday to ensure that the situation returned to normal in violence-hit Kokrajhar district, where two persons were killed in mob violence, leading to arson and clashes between Bodos and Adivasis, officials said

India yet to decide on joining Trump’s Board of Peace

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 21: India is yet to take a call on United States President Donald Trump's invitation to be part of the 'Board of Peace' that will work towards bringing lasting peace to Gaza and possibly resolve global conflicts, people familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among the numerous global leaders that the US President has invited to join the Board that was unveiled under the second phase of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Trump is set to host a ceremony on the margins of the annual World Economic Forum in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos Thursday to announce the broad contours of the 'Board of Peace' and its charter.

It is learnt that India is considering various aspects as the initiative involves sensitive issues, people familiar with the matter said.

The countries which have accepted Trump's invitation are Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Egypt, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

A number of countries, including China, Germany, Italy, Paraguay, Russia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine, have remained non-committal on the invitation.

NEW INTERNATIONAL BODY UNDER TRUMP'S LEADERSHIP

Trump's 'Board of Peace' is being projected by Washington, DC as a new international body to usher in peace and stability in Gaza and beyond, triggering speculation that it could throw a challenge to the United Nations.

Originally, the new body was



to be tasked to oversee governance and coordinate funding for Gaza's redevelopment as the strip was devastated during the two years of Israeli military offensive.

The Financial Times, quoting from the 'charter' of the Board, said this week that it is 'an international organisation that seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict'.

"Durable peace requires pragmatic judgment, common sense solutions, and the courage to depart from approaches and institutions that have too often failed."

The top level of the Board will consist 'exclusively' of heads of state under Trump's leadership, the newspaper quoted a White House official as saying.

The Trump administration has already announced that the 'Board of Peace' will play an essential role in fulfilling Trump's 20-point plan of providing strategic oversight, mobilising international resources and ensuring accountability as 'Gaza transitions from conflict to peace and development'.

The 20-point plan includes making Gaza a deradicalised terror-free zone that does not pose a threat to its neighbours and redeveloping it for the benefit of the people of the strip.

The White House last week announced forming a founding executive board to operationalise the Board of Peace's vision.

K’taka Guv refuses to address joint session of legislature Jan 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Jan 21: Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot has refused to address the joint sitting of the state legislature January 22, with the government deciding to reach out to him following his decision.

The grounds for the Governor's refusal are not clear. However, alleged references to the Centre in the address is said to be the reason, according to sources. The development comes a day after controversies erupted over Governors' addresses to the Assemblies in neighbouring Kerala and Tamil Nadu, both non-BJP ruled states like Karnataka.

A high-level delegation led by Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil is set to meet the Governor at Lok Bhavan in this regard.

Lancet report sets citizen-centred healthcare guidelines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 21: A new Lancet Commission report outlines a path for a rights-based, citizen-centred health system for India involving innovative financing, regulation and community engagement that delivers accessible, equitable and high-quality care.

Aligning with the country's broader vision of 'Viksit Bharat', a developed and inclusive nation by 2047, the reforms described in the report promote community participation, transparency and equity -- key principles of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) -- aimed at ensuring high-quality, affordable care for all.

An international team of authors, including those from the US' Harvard Medical School and the Population Foundation

of India, a Delhi-based NGO, emphasise the urgent need to strengthen India's public healthcare by integrating services across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, increasing government investments, and harnessing digital technologies.

Author Poonam Muttreja, executive director, Population Foundation of India, said, "Recognising people as partners rather than merely patients is essential to bringing the public into public health. Health systems become more responsive, equitable, and compassionate when citizens participate in the planning, delivery, and accountability of services."

Healthcare reforms driven by decentralisation, multi-stakeholder collaboration and continuous learning are required to cater to India's vast diversity, the team said.



Improvements to the country's health system must go beyond technical fixes, which requires a strong political will and leadership to ensure accountability, it added.

"Our clarion call is for an integrated, citizen-centred healthcare delivery system that is publicly

financed and publicly provided as the primary vehicle for UHC, while shaping the private sector to leverage its strengths," the authors wrote.

Established in December 2020, the Lancet Commission on a citizen-centred health system for India identifies reforms

The Lancet Commissions new report charts a rights-based, citizen-centred roadmap for Universal Health Coverage in India, aligning with Viksit Bharat 2047

It calls for innovative financing, stronger public healthcare and digital integration

needed to realise the vision.

A diverse range of expertise and existing and new research were drawn upon for arriving at recommendations, the team said.

The first reform action suggested involves a meaningful citizen engagement and people's participation, including an access to adequate and timely information about entitlements, health system's performance, how and where to seek care, the researchers said.

Citizens should also be made aware of available recourse when rights are denied, they added.

Shyamal Santra, associate director of healthcare and nutrition at Transform Rural India, a New Delhi-based non-profit, said, "The Lancet Commission's call for citizen-centred health system, rightly argues a reimagining of public health system in rural India."

Muttreja said, "Rebuilding trust and making sure public health genuinely benefits the public would not be possible without first hearing what people have to say."

Other reform actions recommended in the report included engaging the private sector to align with goals of UHC and investing in and scaling up diverse technologies to catalyse reforms needed for UHC.

of the day

quote

India has stopped buying oil from Russia after US President Donald Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on countries purchasing oil from Moscow



SCOTT BESSENT | TREASURY SECRETARY, US

China has always been committed to true multilateralism, and will firmly safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core



GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

US President Donald Trump's threats to annex Greenland and slap tariffs on its backers pose a challenge to Europe's security, principles and prosperity



ANTONIO COSTA | EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Putin scheduled to meet Witkoff

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to meet his US counterpart Donald Trump's Special Envoy Steve Witkoff Thursday, the Kremlin confirmed Wednesday. Amid reports of "highly constructive" two-hour-long negotiations between Russian Special Envoy on Ukraine Kirill Dmitriyev in Davos with Witkoff and President Trump's son-in-law Jarred Kushner Tuesday, the US envoy is heading for Moscow to meet President Putin. "Yes, we expect such a meeting tomorrow; it's on the president's schedule," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying by the state-run TASS news agency.

Drone attacks shock city in central Sudan

El Obeid: Drone strikes have intensified in and around al-Obeid in central Sudan as the country's devastating civil war closes in on the army-controlled city, causing significant civilian deaths in at least two cases, residents say. The city is one of Sudan's most important and the capital of North Kordofan state, part of the wider Kordofan region that stands between the RSF's Darfur stronghold and the army-controlled eastern half of the country. After the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) tightened their grip on the westernmost Darfur region in late October, they shifted their focus to Kordofan and drones have struck weekly in and around al-Obeid, residents say.

Fukushima nuclear plant operator restarts reactor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Jan 21: The world's largest nuclear power plant restarted Wednesday in north-central Japan for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown, as resource-poor Japan accelerates atomic power use to meet soaring electricity needs.

The first steps in energy production at the No 6 reactor of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant are important because the operator is Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings,

the same utility that runs the ruined Fukushima Daiichi plant. TEPCO's past safety issues at Fukushima have led to public worries about operations at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant, which also sits in an isolated, quake-prone region.

TEPCO said staff at the No 6 reactor's control room turned on a button Wednesday evening to start a nuclear chain reaction toward achieving criticality - a stage when a reactor reaches a self-sustaining nuclear reaction. The move was delayed a day



due to a faulty alarm setting found over the weekend.

All seven reactors at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa have been

dormant for a year after the Fukushima Daiichi plant on Japan's northeastern coast was hit by a massive quake and tsunami in March 2011 and suffered meltdowns that contaminated the surrounding land with radioactive fallout so severe that some areas are still unlivable.

TEPCO is still trying to recover from the hit to its image, even as it works on a cleanup at Fukushima Daiichi that's estimated to cost 22 trillion yen (\$139 billion). Government and independent investigations

blamed the Fukushima debacle on TEPCO's bad safety culture and criticised it for collusion with safety authorities.

Fourteen other nuclear reactors have restarted across Japan since 2011, but this is the first TEPCO-run unit to resume production.

Residents near the plant welcome the potential economic and employment benefits but worry about nuclear safety and the feasibility of evacuation plans, especially after a major quake in the nearby Noto region two years ago.



TWIN PANDAS TO RETURN TO CHINA

Twin pandas loved by the Japanese public are due to be sent back to their Chinese habitat next week amid the Beijing-Tokyo diplomatic spat, even as China Wednesday hinted that it is unlikely to send replacements. Based on the agreement between China and Japan, giant pandas Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei, living in Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, will return to China as scheduled before February

Britain will not yield to pressure from Trump on Greenland: Starmer



REUTERS

London, Jan 21: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he would not yield to Donald Trump on his opposition to US demands to acquire Greenland, adding that the US president had reversed his prior support for a Chagos Islands deal to put pressure on Britain.

Starmer has called for "calm discussion" on Greenland and indicated Monday he did not wish to escalate a trade war, after Trump threatened tariffs on Britain and other European countries unless he was allowed to buy Greenland.

The next day Trump said Britain had been stupid and weak to agree a deal to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean in order to secure the future of a US-UK air base there. When the deal was announced, Trump's administration expressed support for it.

Starmer has sought close ties with Trump in order to preserve trade and security ties, but in some of his sharpest criticism of Trump, Starmer said he would not be bullied into changing his view that the future of Greenland should be decided by its people and by Denmark.

'FOOLHARDY' TO RIP UP RELATIONSHIP WITH US

"I will not yield, Britain will not yield, on our principles and values about the future of Greenland under threats of tariffs, and that is my clear position," Starmer told lawmakers, adding the Danish prime minister would visit London Thursday.

Starmer said that Trump's criticism of the Chagos Islands deal with Mauritius was because "he wants me to yield on my position, and I'm not going to do so".

"President Trump deployed words on Chagos yesterday that were different from his previous words of welcome and support," Starmer said. "He deployed those words yesterday for the express purpose of putting pressure on me and Britain in relation to my values and principles on the future of Greenland."

In response to questions from lawmakers urging Starmer to go further in standing against Trump, Starmer said it was still important to work with the US on issues such as Ukraine.

"That does not mean we agree with the US on everything," he said. "But it is foolhardy to think that we should rip up our relationship with the US, abandon Ukraine and so many other things that are important to our defence, security and intelligence."

Astronaut Sunita Williams retires

WILLIAMS, 60, A FORMER NAVY CAPTAIN, SPENT MORE THAN 27 YEARS AT NASA, LOGGING 608 DAYS IN SPACE OVER THREE STATION MISSIONS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Canaveral, Jan 21: NASA's Sunita Williams - one of two astronauts stuck for months at the International Space Station - has retired.

The space agency announced the news Tuesday, saying her retirement took effect at the end of December.

Williams' crewmate on Boeing's ill-fated capsule test flight, Butch Wilmore, left NASA last summer.

The pair was launched to the space station in 2024, the first people to fly Boeing's new Starliner crew capsule. Their mission should have lasted just a week, but stretched to more than nine months because of



Starliner trouble. In the end, they caught a ride home last

Israeli fire kills 11 Palestinians in Gaza

REUTERS

Cairo, Jan 21: Israeli fire killed 11 Palestinians including two boys and three journalists in separate incidents in Gaza Wednesday, local medics said, in the latest violence to undermine a three-month-old ceasefire in the war-shattered enclave.

Palestinian health officials said an Israeli airstrike killed three Palestinian journalists travelling in a car on assignment to film a displaced persons camp in central Gaza.

In another incident, medics said three people, including a 10-year-old boy, were killed by Israeli tank shelling in central Gaza. Two others, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed in two Israeli shooting incidents in Khan Younis in the south, medics said.

A further three Palestinians were killed in other Israeli attacks across Gaza, bringing the day's death toll to at least 11, the Gaza health ministry said.

Commenting on the incident involving the journalists, Israel's military said troops identified "several suspects who operated a drone affiliated with Hamas" in central Gaza.

4 EX-PMS IN FRAY FOR MAR 5 POLLS IN NEPAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Jan 21: Months after the Gen Z protests in Nepal, as many as four former prime ministers have filed their nomination papers from different constituencies for the March 5 general elections.

Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) chair and deposed Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, is contesting from Jhapa-5 while former prime minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) has filed nomination from Rukum East.

Two other former prime ministers Madhav Kumar Nepal of Nepali Communist Party and Baburam Bhattarai representing Pragatisheel Lokatantrik Party have filed nominations from Rautahat-1 and Gorkha-2 constituencies respectively.

However, two former prime ministers, Nepali Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba and senior leader of Nepali Communist Party Jhala Nath Khanal are not in the race.



The general elections in Nepal were necessitated after Oli resigned as prime minister September 9, following violent protests by the youth-led Gen Z group.

"One of the main reasons why the Gen Z youths revolted in September last year was that over the last 15 years, the three top leaders, Deuba, Prachanda and Oli, grabbed the prime minister's post turn by turn akin to a musical chair game," said Pralhad Rijal, senior journalist and editor of Aarthik dainik.

"The Gen Z youth wanted change and also indicated that they are fed up with old leadership. Despite which, we have these four leaders who are all 70-plus," Rijal added.

Oli is 74, Prachanda and Bhattarai both 71 and Madhav Kumar Nepal is 72.

Of the two former prime ministers who are not contesting this time, Khanal has voluntarily chosen to remain away from the race but Deuba was forced to remain out because of the rebellion of young leaders in his own party.

"Deuba had desired to contest polls for the eighth time from his Dadeldhura constituency but the newly elected president of the party Gagan Thapa finally convinced him to remain away from the polls keeping with the Gen Z sentiments," said Dhananjaya Sharma, academician and political analyst.

Pitch drop experiment keeps the world waiting

DESPITE DECADES OF ANTICIPATION, NO HUMAN HAS EVER WITNESSED A DROP FALL IN REAL TIME

AGENCIES

Brisbane, Jan 21: In a world obsessed with speed, one experiment dares to move at its own glacial pace. The world's longest-running laboratory experiment has been quietly dripping—almost imperceptibly—for nearly a century, redefining patience in the name of science.

The legendary Pitch Drop Experiment, housed at the University of Queensland, began in 1927 when physicist Thomas Parnell poured pitch, an extremely viscous tar derivative, into a sealed glass funnel. At first glance, pitch appears solid. In reality, it is a fluid so thick it flows about 100 billion times more slowly than water.

Parnell waited three years before cutting the funnel's stem in 1930, ceremonially launching the experiment. What followed was not a gush, but a test of human endurance. It took eight



long years for the first drop to finally fall into the beaker below.

Since then, the pitch has continued its agonisingly slow descent, dripping roughly

once every eight years. The pace slowed even further after air conditioning was installed in the building in the 1980s. Nearly 96 years later, only nine drops have fallen. The most re-

cent appeared in 2014.

The next drop? Scientists believe it could happen any time in the 2020s—but no one is holding their breath.

Despite decades of antici-

tion, no human has ever witnessed a drop fall in real time. Cameras and live streams have been set up to capture the historic moment, but fate has intervened repeatedly. In 2000, a thunderstorm knocked out the live feed just as a drop fell. Earlier custodians missed their moments as well.

Parnell never saw a drop fall before his death. His successor, John Mainstone, watched over the experiment for 52 years, only to pass away months before the 2014 drop. Today, physicist Andrew White stands as the third custodian, patiently keeping watch for the elusive tenth drop.

The Pitch Drop Experiment may be nearing its 100th anniversary, but in scientific terms, it has barely begun. It remains a powerful reminder that nature operates on its own schedule, and that sometimes, the most profound lessons come not in breakthroughs, but in drips.

Social media mobilises to find survivor dog Boro

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Jan 21: Blanket draped over her shoulders and a bandage on her cheek, Ana Garcia issued a desperate plea: she needed help finding her dog, Boro.

Hours earlier, 26-year-old Garcia and her pregnant sister had been travelling by high-speed train from Malaga, their hometown in southern Spain, to the capital Madrid. The tail of their train car jumped the rails for reasons that remain unclear, then was smashed into by a train coming in the opposite direction, and that tumbled down an adjacent slope.

At least 42 people died in the crash, and more than 150 were injured, including some right in front of Garcia. Rescue crews helped her and her sister out of the tilted train car.

Garcia saw Boro briefly,

then he bolted. After receiving medical treatment, a limping Garcia told reporters she was going back to find him.

"Please, if you can help, look for the animals," she said, choked up and holding back tears. "We were coming back from a family weekend with the little dog, whose family, too."

In the aftermath of one of Spain's worst railway disasters, Spaniards on social media rallied to find Boro and major Spanish media outlets have reported on the search for the missing mutt.

Thousands amplified Garcia's call, sharing video of her interview. Photos of Boro, a medium-sized black dog with white eyebrows and a tuft of white fur on his chest, went viral alongside phone numbers for Garcia and her family. The Associated Press was not able to reach anyone through these numbers.

business

of the day quote

As digitalisation is increasing in India, the usage of these platforms will grow. Pesticide is a regulated industry, and the entire supply chain should follow the regulatory framework

ANKUR AGGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, CROPLIFE

Consumers no longer want fragmented financial journeys. A loan from one provider, insurance from another, payments through a third, it's cumbersome

CHANDAN KHAITAN | CEO, MUTHOOT FINCORP ONE

The 5-star safety ratings awarded to VF 6 and VF 7 by Bharat NCAP mark an important milestone, underscoring the quality and high safety standards of VinFast's electric vehicles in India, one of the world's largest automotive markets

Q3 RESULTS

Bol profit rises 7.5%

New Delhi: Bank of India (BoI) Wednesday reported a 7.5 per cent growth in net profit to ₹2,705 crore for the third quarter ended December 2025. The public sector bank had a standalone net profit of ₹2,517 crore in the October-December quarter of 2024-25. Its total income rose to ₹21,205 crore during the third quarter of the current fiscal against ₹19,957 crore in the same quarter of FY25. Its gross non-performing assets (NPA) of BoI improved to 2.26 per cent of gross loans in Q3 of FY26 from 3.69 per cent in the year-ago period.

JSL profit grows 26%

New Delhi: Jindal Stainless Wednesday posted 26 per cent year-on-year growth in consolidated net profit to ₹828 crore in December quarter FY26, driven by increased sales. In a statement, the company said it was able to maintain a steady momentum in the domestic market, underpinned by consistent demand from key sectors such as automotive, ornamental pipes and tubes, railways & metro, and white goods. Growing focus on infrastructure expansion, efficient vertical transportation, and strengthened transit networks contributed to the growth, Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) said. Consolidated net revenue was at ₹10,518 crore, up 6.2 per cent year-on-year. EBITDA rose 16.6 per cent to ₹1,408 crore in the third quarter of FY26.

Tata Comm net up 55%

New Delhi: Tata Communications Wednesday posted 55 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹365.28 crore for December quarter FY26, mainly on account of improvement in margin. The company had logged a profit of ₹235.96 crore, attributable to equity holders of the parent, in the same period a year ago. The company profit margin improved to 5.9 per cent from 4.4 per cent a year ago. Income from operations increased to ₹6,188.97 crore during the quarter from ₹5,798.07 crore a year ago.

Dr Reddy's net drops

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Wednesday said its consolidated profit after tax declined 14 per cent to ₹1,210 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025, hit by lower sales in the US market. The Hyderabad-based drug major posted a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹1,413 crore a year ago. Revenue increased to ₹8,727 crore in the period under review from ₹8,357 crore a year ago, the company said in a statement.



The cost of power supply needs to become affordable ... We need to introspect and optimise our cost of supply

PANKAJ AGARWAL | POWER SECRETARY

REGULATOR TELCOS PRICING ROW

Regulator Trai is examining the pricing issue that telecom operators are facing for deploying network in and around Adani Group-backed Navi Mumbai International Airport, a top official said Wednesday. Trai Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said industry body COAI has approached it for intervention, and the regulator has sought more details around the price that telecom operators have paid in the past for setting up networks



Deepinder steps down as Eternal CEO, MD

Quick commerce arm Blinkit's Dhindsa to take over

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 21: Food delivery and quick commerce firm Eternal Wednesday said Deepinder Goyal will step down as Group CEO and Managing Director with Blinkit CEO Albinder Dhindsa set to succeed him as Group CEO from February 1.

In a letter to shareholders, Goyal said he is stepping down from his current position to pursue new ideas and transition to the role of Vice

Chairman.

Eternal, which owns the Zomato and Blinkit brands, informed exchanges that the appointment of Goyal as Vice Chairman & Director on the board will be effective upon shareholders' approval for a five-year term.

In the letter, Goyal explained the reason behind him stepping down as the Group CEO and MD.

"Of late, I have found myself drawn to a set of new ideas that involve significantly higher-risk exploration and experimentation. These are the kinds of ideas that are better pursued outside a public company like Eternal. If



these ideas belonged inside Eternal's strategic scope, I would have pursued them within the company. They do not. Eternal deserves to remain focused, and disciplined,

Of late, I have found myself drawn to a set of new ideas that involve significantly higher-risk exploration and experimentation. These are the kinds of ideas that are better pursued outside a public company like Eternal

DEEPIKAR GOYAL | CEO, ETERNAL

while exploring new areas of growth that are relevant to its current line of business," Goyal stated.

He further said the transition allows Eternal to remain

sharply focused, while giving him the space to explore ideas that do not fit Eternal's risk profile.

"The centre of gravity for operating decisions moves to Albi. As Group CEO, he will own day-to-day execution, operating priorities, and business decisions. Blinkit's journey from acquisition to break-even happened under his leadership," Goyal said.

Eternal also reported 72.88 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹102 crore for December quarter FY26 Wednesday. In the year-ago period, the company logged a profit of ₹59 crore.

Changes effective from Feb 1
Goyal to become vice chairman

₹ at new nadir

Rupee plunges to record low of 91.64 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

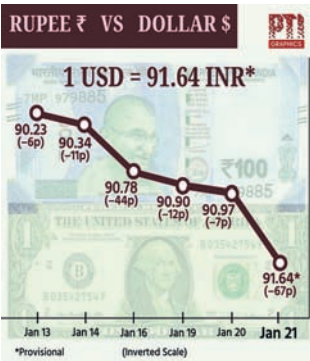
Mumbai, Jan 21: The rupee plunged 67 paise to close at an all-time low of 91.64 (provisional) against the American currency Wednesday, pressured by persistent foreign fund outflow amid heightened uncertainty and risk-off sentiment in global markets.

The rupee recorded its previous all-time low of 91.14 December 16, 2025, and so far this month, the local unit has fallen by 1.50 per cent, forex traders said, adding that the depreciation can be attributed to heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

Rising tensions in Europe over the Greenland issue and potential tariffs, along with a negative trend in the domestic market, further dented investor sentiment, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.05 and lost ground to touch an intraday low of 91.74 against the greenback. The domestic unit settled for the day at an all-time low of 91.64 (provisional), registering a decline of 67 paise from its previous close.

According to Dilip Parmar,



Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, this is the biggest single day fall after November 21, 2025

On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 90.97 against the US dollar.

"Emerging economies like India are facing pressure from volatile capital flows," Abhishek Bisen, Head-Fixed Income, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said.

Besides, geopolitical tensions, including the Greenland dispute that has strained US-Europe relations (which is a risk of NATO breakdown) and also the control of Venezuela's oil reserves by the US, are creating ripple effects across the global trade, he said.

Bisen further noted that for India, the pending trade agreement with the US remains a key stabilising factor, as its conclu-

The currency remains under severe pressure from heightening global geopolitical uncertainties. The pace of this depreciation has been so aggressive that intermittent central bank interventions have struggled to provide a meaningful floor

DILIP PARMAR | RESEARCH ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

sion could boost confidence and bilateral commerce.

"Also, until the geopolitical risk eases and the trade deal materialises, the rupee is likely to remain vulnerable to external shocks. However, given the strong forex reserves, the Reserve Bank of India can manage the situation as the depreciation has made INR relatively cheaper on REER basis, which shall help shore up exports," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.02 per cent lower at 98.61.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.88 per cent down at USD 63.70 per barrel in futures trade.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth ₹2,938.33 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

CMPDI SIGNS MOA WITH HLL MANAGEMENT ACADEMY



Ranchi: CMPDI signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with HLL Management Academy, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, for the implementation of the CSR project 'Anibhrit' in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand at its headquarters here. The project aims to promote healthy menstrual hygiene practices among adolescent girls in 85 government schools in Ramgarh, ensure access to sanitation facilities, and encourage safe disposal methods. The MoA was signed by Shishir Dutta, General Manager (HRD/CSR), CMPDI, and Shannath Shamsudheen, Deputy Vice President, HLL Management Academy. Under the initiative, CMPDI will facilitate the installation of sanitary napkin vending machines and incinerators in the identified schools, distribute 1,71,824 sanitary napkin packs to approximately 21,478 students, and organise menstrual health awareness sessions. Training of school staff and students, along with regular monitoring, will also be ensured to enable effective and sustainable implementation of the project. Through the 'Anibhrit' initiative, CMPDI reiterates its commitment to community health, gender equality, and sustainable development in its operational areas.



The all-new Tata Sierra and Punch were launched at Lankeswari Motors, Sambalpur Wednesday. The unveiling ceremony was attended by Nauri Nayak, ex-MLA, Rengali as chief guest; Ramdas Tudu, RTO, Sambalpur and Swagatika Tripathy, singer were present as guests. Officials from Lankeswari Motors Saroj Kumar Sahu, Director; Ajoy Pasad, Vice President; Raj Suri, General Manager; Upendra Podha, Sales Manager and Ashish Kumar, Service Manager were also seen during the ceremony

Refiners shift oil strategy; trim Russian buys and turn to MidEast

India's Russian oil imports fell to their lowest in two years in Dec, while OPEC's share of imports hit an 11-month high

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 21: Indian refiners are redrawing crude import strategies to shift away from top supplier Russia and boost imports from the Middle East, a move that could help New Delhi clinch a trade deal with the United States to lower tariffs.

India became the top buyer of discounted Russian seaborne crude after the 2022 outbreak of war in Ukraine, but the trade drew backlash from Western nations targeting Russia's energy sector with sanctions, saying oil revenues help it fund the war.

The shift away from Russia comes as Middle East producers, armed with higher output

quotas from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, are keeping global markets well-supplied, softening the impact on prices.

INDIA REFINERS SCALE BACK RUSSIAN BUYS

Indian refiners have begun scaling back Russian oil purchases following discussions at a government meeting to help accelerate a US-India trade deal, three refining sources said.

The oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell is collecting weekly data on refiners' purchases of Russia and US crude, sources told Reuters this month.

In the latest change, state refiner Bharat Petroleum Corp



awarded one-year tenders to buy Iraqi Basrah and Omani crude to trader Trafigura and is in the market to buy Murban oil from the United Arab Emir-

ates under a separate tender, said the sources, who sought anonymity.

From April, Trafigura will supply four cargoes of Oman

crude every quarter at 75 cents a barrel below Dubai quotes and one parcel of Basrah Medium at a discount of 40 cents a barrel to the grade's official selling price, said two traders.

BPCL and India's oil ministry did not respond to Reuters requests for comments.

DOUBLING OF IMPORT TARIFFS A PUNISHMENT FOR RUSSIA BUYS

The United States, already seeking to narrow its trade deficit with India, doubled import tariffs on Indian goods to 50% last year to punish it for heavy purchases of Russian oil.

State-run Hindustan Petroleum, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals and private refiners HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd have already stopped buying

Russian oil.

India's Russian oil imports fell to their lowest in two years in December, while OPEC's share of imports hit an 11-month high, trade data showed.

As winter grips northern China, 72-year-old farmer He Wenxiang runs his gas boiler only occasionally to warm the bedroom radiator.

Apart from the Middle East, Indian refiners have also increased purchases from regions such as Africa and South America.

Indian refiners have also boosted purchases of US oil to partly replace Russian oil and narrow the trade deficit with Washington, while also scouting for Venezuelan oil.

T20 WC: ICC rejects BCB’s venue shift demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Jan 21: The International Cricket Council (ICC) Wednesday rejected the request from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to shift its team's T20 World Cup fixtures to Sri Lanka, saying the matches will proceed as scheduled since there was no credible threat to the safety of Bangladesh players, officials or fans at any of the tournament venues in India.

The decision was taken at an ICC Board meeting held via video conference, which was convened to discuss the situation after the BCB raised concerns and sought a change in venues.

"The ICC Board noted that

relocating matches under the present circumstances could jeopardise the sanctity of ICC events and undermine the organisation's neutrality as a global governing body," the ICC said in a statement.

According to the ICC, the Board reviewed multiple security assessments, including independent evaluations, all of which concluded that there was no credible threat to Bangladesh players.

ICC sources told PTI that out of 16 members, 14 voted against BCB's relocation request. The ICC has given BCB one more day to reflect and take a final position.

"Of all the members, only BCB and Pakistan voted in fa-



vour of the relocation request while all other voted against it. Bangladesh was given time till January 21 to confirm its participation but they have been given one more day by the ICC

- BCB has been given one more day to inform its final stance on playing matches in India
- Of all the members, only BCB and Pakistan voted in favour of the relocation request

Board to state their position," said the ICC source.

The ICC also said that making changes to the schedule at such a late stage was not feasible and that altering fixtures in the absence of a verified security risk could set an "undesirable precedent" for future global events.

The world governing body said its management had held a series of meetings and correspondences with the BCB in

recent weeks, sharing detailed information on the tournament's security arrangements.

These included venue-specific plans and assurances of layered protection involving federal and state law enforcement agencies.

The crisis was triggered by the removal of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from Kolkata Knight Riders' roster for this year's Indian Premier League on BCCI's instructions for unspecified "developments all around". The ICC, however, expressed concern that the BCB continued to link its participation to what it described as a "single, isolated and unrelated development" involving one of its players' participation

in a domestic league, a matter the ICC said had no bearing on the tournament's security framework.

The Board reiterated that venue and scheduling decisions are guided by objective threat assessments, host guarantees and agreed participation terms, which apply uniformly to all 20 teams in the competition.

Bangladesh government's sports advisor Asif Nazrul Tuesday had reiterated that under no condition would the national team travel to India.

It is highly likely that if Bangladesh decide to pull out of the tournament, Scotland may replace Bangladesh as per current rankings.

INDONESIA MASTERS

Shuttlers advance to second round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, Jan 21: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the second round of their respective events at the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament here Wednesday.

Fifth seed Sindhu registered a hard-fought 22-20 21-18 win over Japan's Manami Suizu in a 53-minute women's singles first-round match.

Former world No 1 Srikanth, currently ranked 33rd in the world, endured a gruelling contest before outlasting world No. 22 Koki Watanabe of Japan 21-15 21-23 24-22 in one hour and 12 minutes. He will next face fourth seed Chou Tien Chen, who defeated Ireland's Nhat Nguyen 21-14 21-15.

Seventh seed Lakshya, the 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, opened his campaign with a 21-13 16-21 21-14 victory over Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in the opening round. Seventh seed Lakshya, who won the Australia Open last year, will face Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan next.

Among other Indians, Anmol Kharb notched up a straight-game 21-16, 21-17 win over Pai Yu Po of Chinese Taipei to move into the second round.

However, Ayush Shetty, HS Prannoy and Kiran George exited in the opening round.

India's campaign in mixed doubles ended in the first round, with Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde losing 9-21, 20-22 to fourth seeds Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue of France, while Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto were beaten 23-21, 20-22, 6-21 by Julien Maio and Lea Palermo of France.

TATA STEEL MASTERS

Gukesh holds Praggnanandhaa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wijk Aan Zee (The Netherlands) Jan 21: World Champion D Gukesh drew his fourth game on the trot, signing peace with compatriot and defending champion R Praggnanandhaa while Arjun Erigaisi could not break the defence of Anish Giri and drew for the third day running in the Tata Steel Masters, here.

Praggnanandhaa was denied a victory for the fourth day running by Gukesh who played an unusual variation to counter the French defense.

Praggnanandhaa was able to dent white's pawn structure on the queen side but that did not prove to be enough in the end as the players reached a drawn queen and pawns endgame.

With just two draws and two significant losses in the first could of rounds, Praggnanandhaa is still the bottom of the tables with Giri. On a day when Aravindh Chithambaram suffered his first defeat at the hands of American Hans Moke Niemann, Nodirbek Abdusattorov staked his claims to beat Thai Dai Van Nguyen of Czech Republic.

Abdusattorov and Niemann emerged as joint leaders on three points out of a possible four while Arjun Erigaisi is right behind them with Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov and Dutchman Jorden van Foreest.

Kiwis outplayed

Riding on Abhishek's sizzling 84 India take 1-0 lead in five match T20I series against NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Jan 21: Abhishek Sharma's pyrotechnics followed a now familiar script with India out-batting New Zealand by 48 runs in the opening T20 International here Wednesday.

Abhishek, who has made it a habit of lighting up the evenings in stadiums across the cricketing globe with his array of monstrous hits, smashed 84 off just 35 balls and was complemented well by Rinku Singh (44 not out off 20 balls) who applied the finishing touches in India's commanding score of 238 for 7 on a Jamtha shirt-front.

In reply, Glenn Phillips (78 off 40 balls) did indulge in some scary hitting in company of Mark Chapman (39 off 24 balls) as they added 79 off just seven overs but scoreboard pressure was such that they were eventually buried under a deluge of runs.

In the past 12 months, one format where Indian team has looked unbeatable is the shortest one and the primary reason being the 25-year-old Abhishek, whose Key Responsibility Area (KRA) in the T20 national team is to leave the opposition bowlers scared as well as scarred.

On the day, the world's top ranked T20I batter showed no mercy while making the Black Cap fielders look like mere bystanders with eight towering sixes and five fours.

Abhishek's carefree hitting also helped his skipper



Suryakumar Yadav (32 off 22 balls) get some runs although he was far from his best. But the young opener's attack at all costs gave his skipper a chance to play himself in during a 99-run stand off 47 balls for the

third wicket.

Towards the end, Rinku Singh (44 not out off 20 balls) got to play an innings of substance after a long time with India ending their 20 overs in fantastic fashion.

For someone who nowadays can hardly put a foot wrong, it took Abhishek exactly five deliveries to set his eye in against Jacob Duffy (2/27 in 4 overs) before the first of his eight maximums came out of the closet. It was a lofted six into the sight screen.

In between, Sanju Samson (10) and Ishan Kishan (8) wasted opportunities and when Abhishek got his chance next time, there was no looking back.

Abhishek's USP is his tremendous bat-speed that he generates and New Zealand's attack didn't have any bowler of express pace to challenge the Punjab southpaw.

Undeterred, Abhishek carried on with his mayhem although he was out in the very next over when leg-spinner Ish Sodhi just shortened the length of his leg-break a tad bit and Jamieson gobbled it with his giant palms.

Towards the end, Rinku got to face enough deliveries to make an impact as he clobbered Daryl Mitchell's first and innings' last over for 21 runs to take the team to an improbable total.

BRIEF SCORES
India: 238 for 7 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 84, Rinku Singh 44 not out; Jacob Duffy 2/27) beat New Zealand: 190 for 7 in 20 overs (Glenn Phillips 78; Varun Chakaravarthi 2/37) by 48 runs

Odisha settle for silver



Bihar boys trump Odisha to title; Rajasthan secure bronze at 10th Sub-Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 21: Bihar were crowned champions of the Boys' Under-15 category at the 10th Sub-Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship after defeating Odisha in the final at the Kalinga Stadium Wednesday.

The reigning champions overcame hosts Odisha, winning 25-5. Last year's runners-up Rajasthan finished the tournament on the podium with a dominant 38-7 victory over Maharashtra, bringing the two-day championship to a competitive close.

The decisive day began with the quarterfinals, where the top contenders stamped their authority. Rajasthan powered past Uttarakhand with a commanding 41-0 win, while hosts Odisha overcame Delhi 17-5 to keep their title hopes alive. Maharashtra edged West Bengal 17-5 in a controlled performance, and defending champions Bihar delivered a clinical display

to defeat Uttar Pradesh 46-7.

The semifinal encounters delivered contrasting narratives. Odisha produced one of the standout moments of the tournament, rallying from a 5-0 halftime deficit to defeat Rajasthan 12-5, sealing victory with a dramatic last-gasp score that sent the home crowd into celebration. In the other semifinal, Bihar showcased their composure and knockout pedigree, overcoming Maharashtra 15-7 to book their place in the final.

The final saw Bihar and Odisha face off under lights at the Kalinga Stadium, with Bihar proving decisive in the title clash. The defending champions held their nerve and executed their game plan to emerge victorious by a scoreline of 38-7, clinching the Boys' U15 title once again.

The 10th Sub-Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship was successfully hosted by the Government of Odisha in association with Rugby India and the Odisha Rugby Football Association, with Kalinga Stadium once again providing world-class infrastructure and seamless operations for a national-level event.

SHORT TAKES

Mitchell topples Kohli

Dubai: Indian superstar Virat Kohli was Wednesday displaced from the top spot by New Zealand swashbuckler Daryl Mitchell in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batters following the latter's stupendous run of form in the just-concluded series. New Zealand won the series 1-2, their first on Indian soil in the ODI format, to end a 37-year wait. Mitchell scored two hundreds during the rubber and the 34-year-old also became the fourth-fastest male to nine one-day international hundreds, in just his 54th innings, sitting behind only Imam-ul-Haq (48), Hashim Amla (52) and Quinton de Kock (53). The Hamilton product is in the form of his life, scoring 352 runs across the three-game series. His series total was the most ever by a New Zealander in a three-match ODI series and the third-most of all time, behind only Pakistan's Babar Azam (360 against the West Indies in 2016) and India's Shubman Gill (360 against New Zealand in 2023).

Praneeth returns as coach

New Delhi: Former World Championships medallist B Sai Praneeth has returned to the domestic fold in a coaching role at the Pullula Gopichand Badminton Academy, marking a shift from overseas assignments to hands-on involvement in India's high-performance system. The 33-year-old, who retired from international badminton in 2024, will also travel with the Indian team for the \$250,000 Thailand Masters Super 300 tournament, his first assignment with the national contingent since taking up coaching. Praneeth, a 2019 world championships bronze winner, had spent close to a year and a half in the United States as head coach at Triangle Badminton club after stepping away from competitive badminton.

India eyes World Athletics Indoor C'ships 2028

World Athletics, AFI delegation tour Kalinga Stadium

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 21: A delegation from the World Athletics and Athletics Federation of India visited Kalinga Stadium Wednesday as India bids for the World Athletics Indoor Championships 2028. They inspected the Indoor Athletic Centre and the facilities within the complex.

The day culminated in a high-profile meeting chaired by Minister for Sports & Youth Services, Suryabanshi Suraj. Joining him were Commission-

er-cum-Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services (DSYS), Sachin R Jadhav; Vice President of World Athletics, Adille J Sumariwalla; Competition & Events Director, World Athletics, Marton Gyulai; Head of Bidding, World Athletics, Mark Hurst; Chairman of AFI's Technical Committee, Ravinder Chaudhary and AFI Bidding Expert, Vijay Kumar Verma.

"Odisha has the necessary and available facilities to host all levels of sporting events. We are backed and encouraged



by strong fan support. After successfully conducting the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze last year, we will be hosting the silver meet this year. I hope we can collaborate with World Athletics and AFI and add this prestigious mile-

stone to our sporting journey," expressed Suraj.

"In line with the PM's vision, India is bidding for the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028. The infrastructure, hospitality and sporting culture in Bhubaneswar are at

par with the global standards. For us it will be the ideal venue to host the World Indoor Championships," said Sumariwalla.

Odisha's Sports Secretary reinforced the state's credentials and said, "Odisha is one of the leading hubs of sports in the country. It has extensive experience hosting sports events. Today, some of India's finest sprinters are from Odisha. We are committed towards advancing Athletics and investing in block level stadium across 314 blocks. We are confident to host events on an even larger scale. We hope to collaborate with World Athletics and AFI to make this global event a historic success."

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Alcaraz, Sabalenka pass tests to reach 3rd round

REUTERS

Melbourne, Jan 21: Carlos Alcaraz withstood a barrage of big hitting from a familiar foe in Yannick Hanfmann in the Australian Open second round Wednesday, with fellow top seed Aryna Sabalenka also enduring some shaky moments before sealing progress.

Alexander Zverev's advance was stalled by rain showers, an injury scare and feisty Frenchman Alexandre Muller in the evening session, but the men's third seed prevailed in four sets to safely reach the third round.

His equivalent in the women's draw, Coco Gauff, earlier made short work of Olga Danilovic,



while in-form seventh seed Jasmine Paolini and eighth seed Mirra Andreeva also romped through their contests.

After a comfortable win in the opening round, top seed Alcaraz was given more of a workout by Germany's world number 102 Hanfmann on a sunbathed Rod Laver Arena but rose to the challenge and moved on 7-6(4) 6-3 6-2.