



Chitrangda's insight

Actor Chitrangda Singh says wives of army personnel carry the same blend of strength and fear every day

LEISURE | P2



Immigration crackdown

Judge orders ICE chief to appear in court to explain why detainees have been denied due process

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Markets rebound

Indices end higher in volatile trade, buoyed by heavy buying, a firm trend in global markets and optimism over India-EU FTA

BUSINESS | P11



Lancers win HIL

Kalinga Lancers declared Hockey India League champions after they trounce Ranchi Royals 3-2 in a thrilling summit clash

SPORTS | P12

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WHEN RAIN MEETS JOY: People amid rainfall, at the Ridge in Shimla, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

4 INJURED AS BOMB EXPLODES IN CITY



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Four persons, including a hardcore criminal, sustained grievous injuries when a bomb exploded in New Azad Nagar area of Sundaarpada under Airfield police limits here, Tuesday afternoon.

According to Commissionerate Police, the incident happened when some people were binding a crude bomb illegally at the rooftop of a rented house.

The injured hardcore criminal has been identified as Sahawaz Mallik, who has cases registered against him at Nayapalli and Maitree Vihar police stations.

Mallik, his mother, friend Amiya Ranjan Mallik and a female friend were injured in the incident. All were initially admitted to Capital Hospital, and later were shifted to a private hospital, he said.

"They were illegally preparing the bombs when the incident happened," said Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena after visiting the spot.

A scientific team has been sent to the spot for collection of evidence and other details, he said. "We will interrogate the injured persons to find out the involvement of any other person in illegal bomb making," the DCP said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The UGC Act should be withdrawn because it is discriminatory. After all, we are equal

Now, fuel sans PUCC

A little over a month after issuing a directive that barred vehicle users without Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUCCs) from purchasing fuel at filling stations and those with pending challans from obtaining PUCCs, the state government Tuesday informed the Orissa High Court that petrol and diesel will continue to be supplied at fuel stations even if a vehicle does not possess a pollution certificate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 27: The Orissa High Court Tuesday held that a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) must be issued even if an e-challan is pending against a motor vehicle.

cle. The state government has also informed the HC that petrol and diesel will continue to be supplied at fuel stations even if a vehicle does not possess a PUCC.

Rejecting the state government's plea, the court ruled that denial of a PUCC on the ground of an unpaid challan is not permissible under law. The court further directed the state government to take appropriate steps to ensure that vehicle owners do not face inconvenience while accessing services through the VAHAN portal.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice MS Raman passed the order while hearing the matter and directed the state government to issue a separate notification in this regard. The

decision to deny petrol and diesel to vehicles without a valid PUCC was argued to be



matter has been posted for the next hearing after two weeks.

According to the case records, a letter issued December 20, 2025, by the Transport Commissioner to all oil companies selling petrol and diesel was challenged as being unsustainable in law. The petitioners contended that the letter violated the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

The decision to deny petrol and diesel to vehicles without a valid PUCC was argued to be a complete violation of the fundamental rights of vehicle owners across Odisha.

The petitioners also contend that the condition requiring clearance of pending challans prior to conducting pollution tests was illegal. In this context, a PIL filed by Snigdha Patra stated that vehicle owners should not be compelled to pay pending e-challan dues before undergoing pollution testing.



ODISHA BANDH TODAY

PNN & AGENCIES



ment Tuesday, said the issues raised by the NNKS are similar to those over which the grand old party has been staging agitations across the state.

The OPCC has resolved to support the bandh called by NNKS January 28. Accordingly, instructions have been issued

to the party's district-level units," the statement said.

The NNKS, a body staging agitations on farmers' issues, has called for a bandh demanding the disbursement of the ₹800 per quintal input assistance at state-run mandis and elimination of middlemen and millers from the paddy procurement system.

Meanwhile, BJD's spokesperson Lenin Mohanty welcomed the bandh call by NNKS and said that the party will launch its agitation over PUCC and smart city issues from February 2.

Anganwadi uniform, footwear aid hiked

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Tuesday announced a hike in uniform, footwear and winter wear allowance provided to children going to anganwadi centres (AWCs). Parida said the hike will benefit over 14.76 lakh children across 74,224 AWCs.

The allowances provided to the preschool children (ages 3-6) of the anganwadi centres under the Malati Devi Prak

Vidyalaya Paridhan Yojana have been enhanced, she told media persons here. The allowance for boys' uniform has been increased from ₹100 to ₹175, while the aid for girls' uniform has been hiked from ₹150 to ₹225, Parida said.

Similarly, the allowance provided for shoes, socks and sweater (winter wear) has also been enhanced by ₹50 from the existing ₹100. The revised unit costs will be effective from the current financial year 2026-27, she said. P3

SHORT TAKES

INDIA, EU INK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

New Delhi: India and European Union Tuesday sealed a landmark free trade agreement -- billed as "mother of all deals" -- with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the top EU leadership unveiling a grand agenda to leverage trade and defence to shore up ties and work towards a rules-based world order. The two sides also inked two crucial pacts -- one on security and defence collaboration and another on the mobility of Indian talent to Europe -- after Prime Minister Modi hosted EU leaders Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa for summit talks.

P9 & 11

Scientists recover ancient wooden tools in Greece

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Athens, Jan 27: Two artifacts found at a lake shore in Greece are the oldest wooden tools to be uncovered so far and date back 4,30,000 years.

One is a spindly stick about two-and-a-half ft long that could have been used for digging in the mud. The other is a smaller, more mysterious handheld chunk of willow or poplar wood that may have been used to shape stone tools, according to research published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Scientists think ancient humans wielded a whole litany of tools made from stone, bone and

wood. But it's particularly difficult to find evidence of wooden tools today because wood rots so quickly. Such tools are only preserved in specific environments like in ice, caves or underwater.

The newest tools, found in Greece's Megalopolis basin, were possibly buried quickly by sediment and preserved by a wet environment over time.

For years, researchers have found other remnants at the site, including stone tools and elephant bones with cuts on them. While scientists didn't directly date the wooden tools, the site is about 4,30,000 years old, which provides insight into the objects' age.

"I've always just been thrilled to be able to touch these objects,"

said study author Annemieke Milks with the University of Reading. Human remains haven't been found at the site yet, so it's not yet clear who used the tools. The owners could have been Neanderthals, early human ancestors or someone else.

"The site in Greece probably has more gems from the past that are waiting to be found," said archaeologist Jarod Hutson with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. But the unassuming appearance of these two new tools makes them harder to interpret. "It's difficult to get excited about these because they don't strike you immediately as wooden tools. And we don't know what they were used for," said Hutson, who was not involved with the new study.

Other examples of ancient wooden tools include a set of spears from Germany and 3,00,000-year-old Chinese digging sticks that may have been used to harvest plants.

The new find offers a rare look into the varied collection of tools used to survive - a glimpse at a "little known aspect of the technology of early humans", study author Katerina Harvati with the University of Tübingen said in an email.

ARIJIT SINGH QUILTS PLAYBACK SINGING

Kolkata: India's iconic singer Arijit Singh, the voice behind countless much-loved Bollywood numbers, Tuesday triggered a wave of shock across the music industry by announcing his retirement from playback singing. However, the 38-year-old singer made it clear that he would continue to pursue his career as an independent musician. Arijit, known for churning out evergreen film tracks like "Tum hi ho" and "Kesariya", took to Instagram to declare he would not take any more assignments as a playback vocalist.



Tuesday triggered a wave of shock across the music industry by announcing his retirement from playback singing. However, the 38-year-old singer made it clear that he would continue to pursue his career as an independent musician. Arijit, known for churning out evergreen film tracks like "Tum hi ho" and "Kesariya", took to Instagram to declare he would not take any more assignments as a playback vocalist.

leisure

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ARIES

You are very apprehensive about your possessions today, and will not like to share them. This mood may be because of someone particular. Affairs regarding love, Ganesha says, are progressing fine, and your married life will bloom.

TAURUS

This day has been earmarked for beautification, a make-over, says Ganesha. You are likely to remain preoccupied with ways to enhance your looks and appearance. A new, stylish hair, face packs and massages, trendy outfits and accessories could be in store. You will, subconsciously, be doing all that you can do, to get noticed by others.

GEMINI

Your physical appearance and personal attitude will see a marked improvement today, predicts Ganesha. A well-groomed you will climb up the popularity chart among peers, friends and members of the opposite sex. You will keep people under your spell with your wit.

CANCER

You will be firing all cylinders in the creativity department, says Ganesha. Even your colleagues may pitch in, and will give you new ideas to make your work better. Those looking for a new job will ace the interview and clear the selection process as easily as clearing the fog from their glasses.

LEO

A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully. Your personal life will proceed as usual, however expectations from you at the work-front will increase. You need to maintain a balance between your home and work-place, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Play dodge ball with prejudice today. Do not let intolerance find shelter in you today, advises Ganesha. Instead, chances are you will seek to find love, affection and goodwill among those around you. Stay away from negativity as it may bog you down. Ganesha counsels you to have the courage to stand by your convictions.

LIBRA

Everyone has a dream, but only few have the fortune to realise them. Be among the lucky ones today as you see your dream project materialise and take its first steps towards a successful future. But all good things have humble beginnings. What matters is that you had a dream, and dreaming it was the hardest part, reminds Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Ganesha predicts that you shall work towards building a better future. But do not expect radical or dynamic changes. Cruise control is the best way to go for now, says Ganesha. Patience in itself will reap rich benefits.

SAGITTARIUS

Expect a call to late-night revelry and a chance to binge. But you don't seem to be in the mood to let your hair loose and party, says Ganesha. However tempting it may be, your serious side will take over and you shall deny the offer. No wonder they like that sensible head on your shoulders.

CAPRICORN

The chances of you meeting financial success are few, but they are there nonetheless, says Ganesha. If you really want to improve your account balance and settle all the burgeoning debts, focus on what all needs to be done, and get it done without delay. You will make merry later in the day and will enjoy the company of your loved ones. But you will have free time despite all of this, and will get lured into unnecessary spending, especially on recreational activities.

AQUARIUS

Work, work, work! That is what will pay rich dividends. Of course, a pat on the back does matter, and with your commitment record, you may be getting a lot of it! You may back off from taking risks, and yet want change. Ganesha wonders how you will fulfil your wish.

PISCES

Arguments lead nowhere, and why argue when, at the end of the day, you can step back and watch them end up with egg on their faces, break a leg, get crushed under a falling safe, or otherwise suffer the numerous disasters you wish them to, for disagreeing with you. You will end up having the last laugh, so you might as well use your time more effectively, says Ganesha.



ARIANA TO REDUCE PACE OF HER WORK

Singer-actress Ariana Grande, who has tasted success in both music and acting since finding fame, acknowledges that it could be beneficial for her to reduce the pace a little. "I think that it would probably be healthy. I'm not used to taking breaks. These past few years have been pretty non-stop," said Grande.

MARGOT TALKS ABOUT 'VERY GOOD BOYFRIEND'

Hollywood star Margot Robbie thinks her *Wuthering Heights* co-star Jacob Elordi would be a 'very good boyfriend' for someone after he did 'a lot of very thoughtful things' on the sets of *Wuthering Heights*. The pair appears as Heathcliff and Cathy in the movie, loosely inspired by Emily Bronte's 1847 novel of the same name.

DAY 6 AT IFFB
Kok Kok Kokoo takes centre stage

Filmmaker Maharshi T Kashyap in a post screening conversation with film critic Aditya Srikrishna

SHOCKING ANNOUNCEMENT

Arijit quits playback singing

MUM- Superstar singer Arijit Singh has shocked fans by announcing his retirement from playback singing. The singer in a social media note, has revealed that he will no longer take up any new assignments as a playback vocalist.

The day ended with screening of *Theatre: The Myth of Reality*, directed by Saajin Babu.

Speaking about the festival, a young festival volunteer Debasish Jena shared, "Attending the festival every year since 2018 has shaped how I look at cinema and storytelling."

He went to add, "As someone interested in culture and media, the festival has helped me develop critical thinking and exposed me to paths I didn't know existed. The accessibility of filmmakers and discussions makes it feel less hierarchical and more welcoming."

The last day at the festival will feature two Odia films—*Bou Buttu Bhuta* by Jagdish Mishra and *Biswaprakash* by Susant Misra. Suman Mukhopadhyay's *Putulnacheri Itikatha* will also be screened.

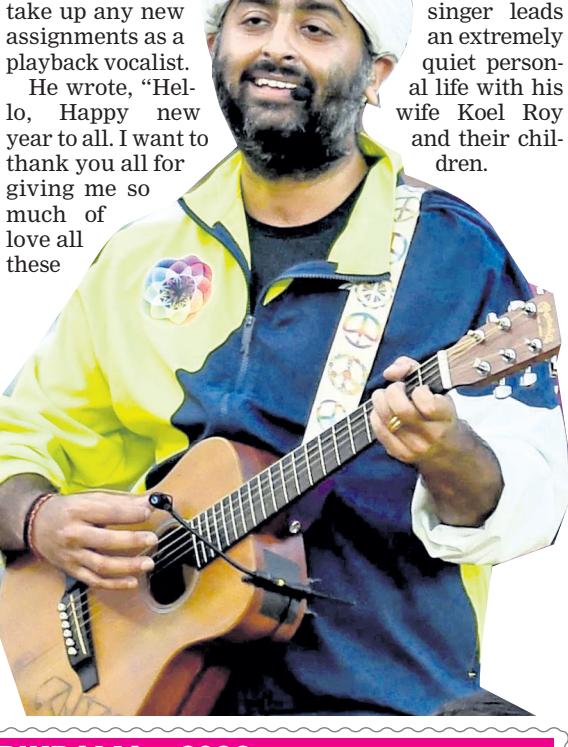
PNN

years as listeners. I am happy to announce that I am not gonna be taking any new assignments as a playback vocalist from now on. I am calling it off. It was a wonderful journey."

The singer also thanked his listeners for their unwavering love and support over the years and calling his journey as a playback "wonderful".

Talking about Arijit Singh, the singer over the last decade, went onto become one of the most influential voices of contemporary Hindi cinema.

Known for keeping a low profile, the singer leads an extremely quiet personal life with his wife Koel Roy and their children.



BHUBANESWAR: The sixth day at the 15th Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB) unfolded with an energetic convergence of film screenings, engaging discussions and audience interactions.

As part of Adoor Retrospective, one of his acclaimed works—*Anantaram* (1987) was screened. This was the last film in the retrospective segment.

The day started with repeat screenings of Sameer Zaidi's *Two Sinners*, Hemant Gaba's *The Unknown Filmmaker* and Elory-Pinto's *Samvega-Pasada*.

Post lunch, *Kok Kok Kokoo*, an Assamese magic realist horror drama by Maharishi T Kashyap stole the show. The movie is based on the story of an undocumented migrant chicken seller, whose deep attachment to his red Yamaha RX100 motorcycle turns into an unsettling obsession after he is forced to dispose of it to avoid being framed for an accident. As his grief intensifies, the boundary between man and machine begins to dissolve.

The next screened was Naresh K Hegde's *Tingi Belku*. The movie

CHITRANGDA'S ARMY INSIGHT

MUMBAI: Actor Chitrangda Singh, who will be seen portraying an army wife in *Battle Of Galwan*, says the role gave her a deeper understanding of the quiet strength carried by women from military families.

Growing up as the daughter of an Indian Army officer, she was familiar with uniforms, postings, and regimented discipline, but prepping for the Battle of Galwan gave her deeper emotional gaze into that world.

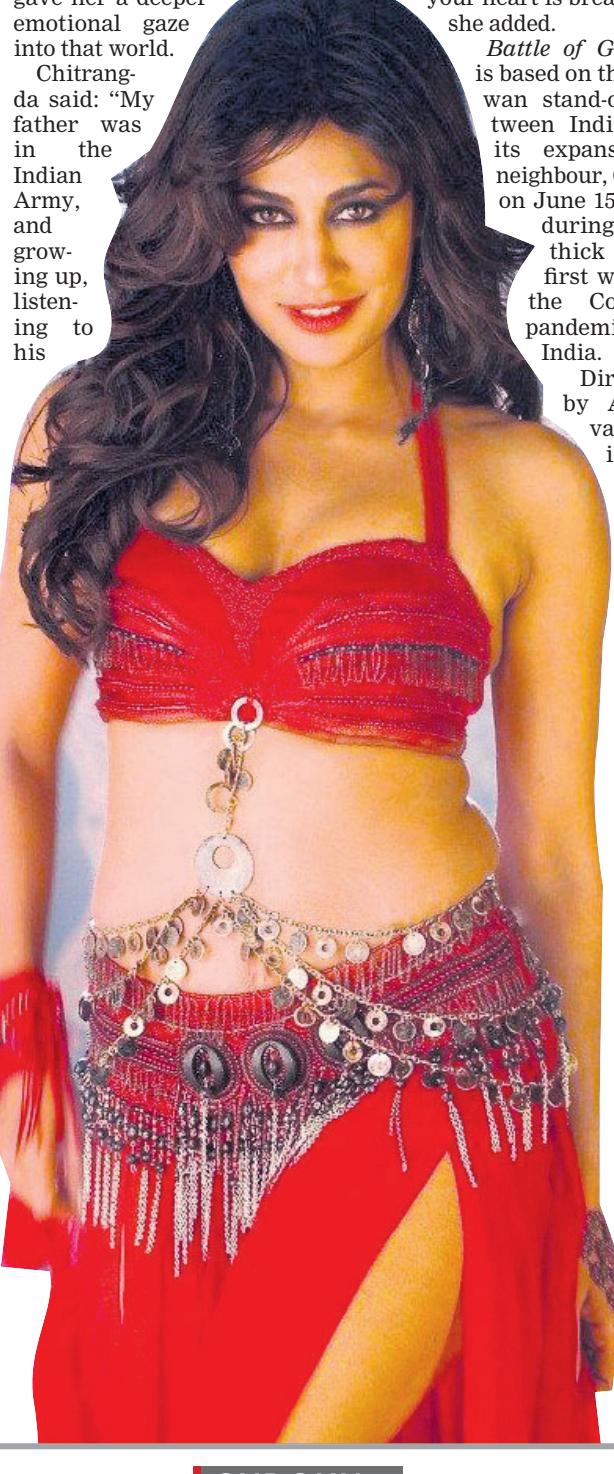
Chitrangda said: "My father was in the Indian Army, and growing up, listening to his

stories was normal for me, but playing the role of an army wife is different. When I met army wives, I understood my mother's silences, her pride mixed with worry."

"These women carry that same blend of strength and fear every day. I tried to bring that complexity to the role, not just the smile or the courage, but the part where you learn to hold it together even when your heart is breaking," she added.

Battle of Galwan is based on the Galwan stand-off between India and its expansionist neighbour, China, on June 15, 2020, during the thick of the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India.

Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the film is set to release on April 17. IANS



UTTAR PURUSH'S NATAKA PARIKRAMA - 2026

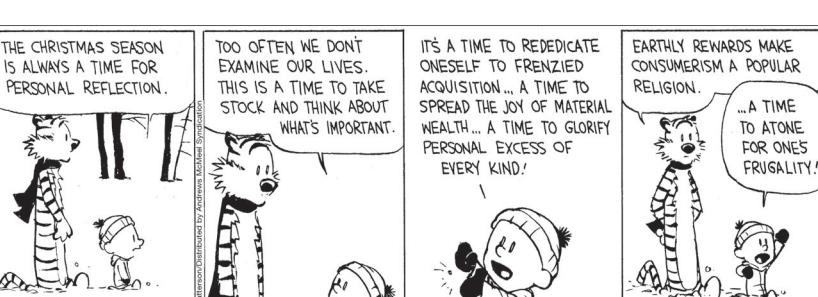


The artistes of Uttar Purush, one of the oldest theatre troupes of Bhubaneswar, staged Odia play *Adrusta* on the first day of the festival. Written by Abinash Nayak, the drama was directed by Chakradhar Patra. The troupe will present two more plays over the next two days.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

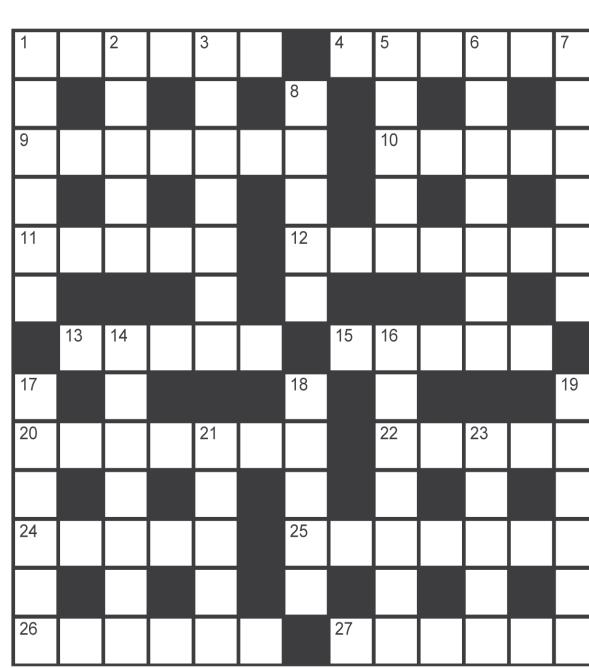


BREVITY



FUN POST

CROSSWORD



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Across

1 Wander 24 Defeats
4 Meager 5 Genghis Khan,
9 Doctor's clue e.g.
10 Guinness 26 Concedes
product
11 Garlicky 27 Greek capital

Down

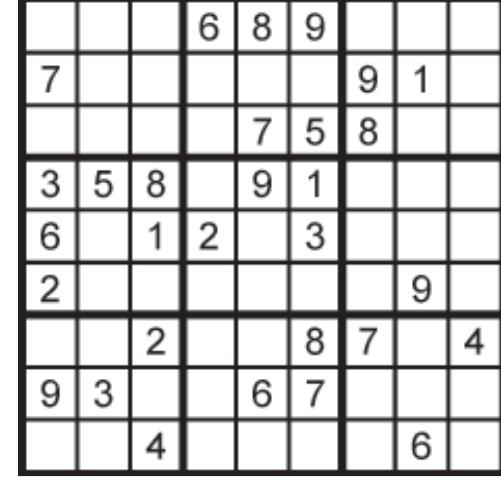
1 Mischievous 6 Nature's alarm
2 Latin dance clock
3 Sports facility 7 Inveigle
15 Begin 8 Hot coal
20 Triumph 14 Hermit
22 Knock over 16 Brass
27 instrument

17 Sea eagle 18 Hibachi
18 Residue
19 Baby birds?
21 Relaxed
23 Tennis starter

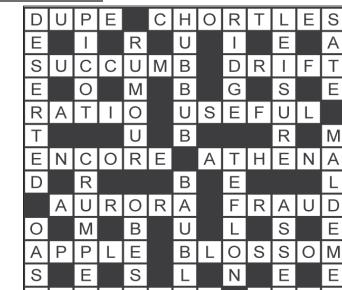
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

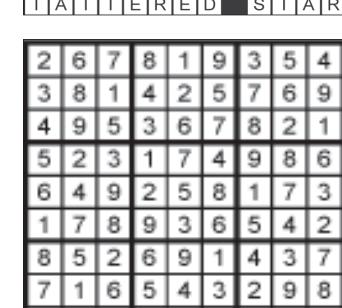
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

CM inaugurates India's 1st aluminium FRP unit

MAJHI LAUNCHES ENTERPRISE ODISHA 2026 AT ROURKELA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday inaugurated India's first aluminium flat rolled product (FRP) unit and a specialised battery foil manufacturing unit of Hindalco Industries Limited's Aditya Aluminium at Lapanga in Sambalpur district, an official statement said.

The CM also performed the ground-breaking of Aditya Aluminium Smelter Capacity to be taken up at an investment of Rs 21,162 crore. While the cost of building the aluminium FRP unit is Rs 5,000 crore, the company has invested Rs 834 crore at its battery foil manufacturing unit. Officials said that these projects are expected to generate employment for 5,012 people, further strengthening downstream manufacturing and creating new livelihood opportunities in the region.

The newly commissioned aluminium FRP and battery foil facility will play a critical role in indigenising raw materials for lithium-ion batteries, supporting up to 100 GWh of cell manufacturing capacity. By drawing input directly from the FRP complex, the integrated facility creates a complete aluminium value chain within Odisha, spanning primary metal to advanced applications for electric mobility, energy storage, defence, packaging and renewable energy, the statement said.

With nearly 40 per cent of flat-rolled aluminium currently imported, the expansion is expected to significantly reduce import dependence, a company official said.

Addressing the gathering, the CM said, "Western Odisha now

stands as a symbol of confidence, discipline and enterprise transforming from forests and farmlands into a hub of world-class manufacturing

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI
CHIEF MINISTER

stands as a symbol of confidence, discipline and enterprise transforming from forests and farmlands into a hub of world-class manufacturing."

Noting that the workers are the real architects of Odisha's industrial success, Majhi said their dedication ensures that production never stops and progress never slows. "Development is not measured only by investments or announcements, but by real change in people's lives, jobs for youth, security for families, and better education and healthcare," he said.

The CM said a new industrial revolution has begun in Odisha. "The state is moving forward with nearly Rs 20 lakh crore in industrial proposals for new industry establishments," he said, adding that once these become operational, around 15 lakh new jobs will be created.

Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain said a new chapter has been added to the industrial history of Odisha.

"This will further accelerate the development trend of Western Odisha and also contribute to the economic growth of the state. Odisha is now emerging as

a global hub in the field of modern manufacturing and value addition. Our goal is to make Odisha one of the most industrially prosperous states in the entire country," Swain said.

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said, "Odisha has been integral to our industrial journey. Through Hindalco, we are building a strong aluminium ecosystem that combines scale, value addition and sustainability, creating long-term economic and social value for the state."

Later in the day, the CM inaugurated the 25th edition of Enterprise Odisha 2026 at Rourkela. In this event, leading companies from across sectors are showcasing their capabilities, innovations, and industrial growth stories.

Enterprise Odisha is a flagship industry platform aimed at showcasing Odisha's industrial capabilities and investment opportunities.

The inaugural evening featured a cultural programme and first drone show of Rourkela, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, social life, and industrial progress of western Odisha.

Deputy CM unveils Panchatatwa Park

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida inaugurated the Panchatatwa Park and laid the foundation stone for the Subhadra Resource Centre at State Institute for Women and Children (SIWC) here Tuesday.

On the occasion, Parida, who holds the Women and Child Development (W&CD) portfolio, also launched a two-day workshop under SUPOSHIT Odisha Mission (SOM).

Emphasising that the fight against malnutrition begins at home, Parida issued a clarion call to educate mothers at the grassroots level, empowering them with the knowledge to ensure their children's health.

A key highlight of her speech was the 'localisation of nutritious food', where she urged the community to rely on locally available, nutrient-rich resources rather than processed alternatives.

In a unique social appeal, she encouraged citizens to celebrate personal milestones like birthdays by distributing fruits among local Anganwadi children.

The Panchatatwa Park is based on the five essential elements of nature.

"A key attraction at the park is Acupressure Path – a circular path in the shape of the number '8', where pebbles, stones, and sand have been used. It helps in increasing blood circulation and providing mental peace," according to W&CD sources.

The park also features an open-air gym. It will serve as a centre to connect women and children with nature, they said.

Parida laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Subhadra Resource Centre and a 400-seat modern auditorium at the SIWC campus, with an estimated expenditure of Rs 35.70 crore.

This integrated facility, which includes a toy museum and cafeteria, will serve as a dynamic hub for capacity building, research, and policy initiatives for women and children.

Inaugurating a two-day state-level orientation-cum-capacity building workshop under the SOM, the Deputy CM said the workshop would help strengthen Anganwadi workers at the grassroots level.

SOM focuses on transforming Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) into malnutrition-free zones. Centres with no underweight or malnourished children will be declared 'SUPOSHIT', and the respective workers will receive public recognition.

Patra: BJD to raise deteriorating law & order, farmers' plight in Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Opposition BJD Tuesday said it would raise the 'plight of Odisha's farmers and deteriorating law and order in the state' during the upcoming Budget Session of the Parliament.

Besides, the BJD would also raise the matters re-

lated to the all-party meeting to-day. We informed the members that the BJD would raise farmers' plight and deteriorating law and order issues in the Parliament."

Besides, the BJD would also raise the matters re-

bals, Patra said.

The BJD's decision to raise the issues regarding farmers' plight and law and order in Parliament aligns with the party's scheduled fortnight-long state-wide agitation from February 2 to 14 on these matters, the Rajya Sabha MP said.

He alleged that farmers were suffering due to lack of proper government policies. "Farmers did not get seeds and fertilisers during the Kharif season, and later faced difficulties in the procurement of paddy due to irregularities in the process," Patra claimed.

BUDGET SESSION

lating to the demand for special status to Odisha, non-revision of coal royalty, unemployment, irregularities in recruitment processes, crimes against women, and incidents of attack on members of the minority community, Dalits and tri-

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- Minimum 10 years' experience in an Insurance company in India in Public/Private sector or in Independent Indian Insurance TPA as an officer whose last assignment was in scale equivalent to Scale II, III or IV in the Public Sector insurance companies.

Last date for submission of online application form is 18.02.2026 upto 17:30 hrs

For details regarding online application form, eligibility, terms of the contractual engagement, application procedure and other instructions, kindly scan QR code or visit our website www.cioins.co.in. (under tab "Engagement of Specialist")



Note: Addendum / further communications in this regard, if any, will be notified in the website only.

Secretary General (CIO)

CBC 1522712/0003/2526

2526

Man ends life after daughter faces 'kangaroo court' shame



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandbali, Jan 27: A man died by suicide after his daughter was allegedly subjected to public humiliation and harassment by a self-styled "kangaroo court" during an anti-liquor campaign in Bhadrapur district, police said Tuesday.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred in Chada-

Suspected bombing damages house in Ganjam's Chhatrapur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Jan 27: Suspected bombing by unknown miscreants created panic in Chikalkhandi under Chhatrapur police limits during the wee hours of Tuesday. As per the information, house of G Kamaraju Reddy was rocked after strong blast at the backyard of his house while family members were asleep.

While household items were destroyed due to the explosion, police suspect use of high-end explosive materials in it. The impact was so huge that the walls of the back portion of the house were collapsed. Electrical equipments, utensils, home appliances and other valuables have also been damaged because of the blast. However, no injuries have been reported in the incident.

A scientific team of experts, state bomb disposal squad and forensic department have reached the spot to collect samples to determine the materials used to prepare the bomb. Chhatrapur SDPO Chandan Kumar Ghadei along with IIC Sabyasaachi Malla said that although the residents have not claimed rifts with anyone, the angle of past enmity also cannot be ruled out. The police informed that further investigations are underway.

Female jumbo found dead; probe begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: A female wild elephant was found dead in a forest in Bolangir district Tuesday, Forest department officials said.

The carcass of the wild elephant was spotted by locals in Muribahal range of Bolangir forest division, who intimated the Forest department personnel. After receiving information, local forest personnel rushed to the spot and launched an investi-

CM grants ₹4 lakh ex gratia for accident victim's kin

Hatadihi: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday announced ₹4 lakh in ex gratia assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to the family of a man killed in a truck collision in Keonjhar district. As per reports, the victim, Anand Jena (58), of Bishnupur village under Hatadihi block had died Sunday after being hit by a Hyva truck. Majhi expressed condolences to the bereaved family and sanctioned the relief amount within 24 hours of the incident. Protest that had erupted after the accident, was called off Monday following assurances of compensation and stricter checks on sand transportation. The owner of the killer truck has also provided ₹2.5 lakh to the victim's family, Anandapur Sub-Collector Neelamadh Suna and Nandipada police station officer-in-charge Dharmendra Shanti said. According to police, Jena was returning home on his bicycle from a local market when a Hyva truck heading toward a sand ghat hit him from behind and ran over him. Angry locals staged a road blockade by placing the body on the Hanuman Chak road leading to the Bishnupur sand ghat, demanding compensation and action against illegal sand transport.

and later went to Tarai's house, where they allegedly assaulted him and his daughter. Tarai's daughter was then allegedly paraded along the road and made to stand in a local market from 6pm to 11pm, where a fine of ₹1 lakh was demanded.

Despite repeated apologies from Tarai and his daughter, the group allegedly refused to relent and finally demanded ₹30,000 as a penalty before allowing them to leave.

Unable to bear the humiliation and harassment, Tarai consumed poison later that night and died, police said.

Tarai's son, Smrutirajan Tarai, lodged a complaint at Bansada police station, alleging his father was drawn to end his life due to the illegal "kangaroo court" proceedings, said Sub-Divisional Police Officer Prabhas Sahu.

Bhadrapur ASP Arup Abhishek Behera said one person was arrested in this connection, and the SDPO, Chandbali, has been directed to investigate the case.

dia village under Bansada police limits, where women associated with self-help groups had launched a movement against the sale of illicit liquor in the area. The women allegedly accused the daughter of Lambodar Tarai, a resident of the village, of selling illicit liquor.

Members of the SHG reportedly vandalised a shop Monday suspected of selling illicit liquor

Woman killed, 2 injured in wild boar attacks

POST NEWS NETWORK



G Udayagiri, Jan 27: Wild boar attacks claimed the life of an elderly woman and left two others seriously injured in separate incidents in the G Udayagiri area of Kandhamal district Tuesday, triggering panic among residents of nearby forest villages.

The deceased, Apsari Pradhan (60), of Kanabagiri village, was attacked while collecting firewood along with Niranjini Pradhan (60), in a forested area close to their village in the morning. The wild boar reportedly charged at the women without warning, inflicting severe injuries. Apsari suffered deep wounds on several parts of her body and collapsed at the spot, while Niranjini also sustained injuries.

Local villagers rushed the injured women to the G Udayagiri community health centre, where doctors administered first aid. Due to her critical condition, Apsari was referred

Three arrested in triple murder case

Hatadihi: Police Tuesday arrested three persons in connection with the brutal murder of three members of a family at Nalijhara village in the Khaliamanta panchayat under Keonjhar's Ghasipura police limits. The accused were identified as Laxman Soren, his brother Baidyanath Soren and Baidyanath's son Sudam Soren. Anandapur DSP Kamal Kumar Panda said the murders took place Sunday and were triggered by a long-standing land dispute. According to police, the victims were Laxman's brother Jitendra Soren, Jitendra's wife Malati, and their 15-year-old daughter, Sasmita, who were allegedly hacked to death with sharp weapons. Further investigation is underway, police said.

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NUAPADA

Email : rd_nuapada@rediffmail.com

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

No.25001/5/2526 : Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimate Cost, Cost of tender Paper, EMD/BID security, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in

1. Name of the Work : Roads & Building works in the District of Nuapada as mentioned in DTCN, 2. Total No of Works : 20 Nos, 3. Estimated Cost : Rs.2.52 to 46.98 Lakhs (Roads & Building), 4. Period of Completion : 01 (One) Calendar month, 5. Other Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nuapada	RWNPD-08/2025-26 (Online)	From 29.01.2026 at 10.00 A.M. up to 5.00 P.M.	04.02.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.	06.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

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

OIPR-25001/25050/1/25-26/0005

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Nuapada

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Advertisement No. 01/2026

Dated 28.01.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION 01/2026

The Central Sanskrit University, Delhi (CSU) is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India for implementing the Central Schemes of the Govt. of India for Sanskrit Promotion. Under one of the Central Schemes i.e. "The Scheme for Financial Assistance to Institutions Recognized as Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas (ASMs)/Adarsh Sanskrit Shodh Sansthanas (ASSSs) (Revised Adarsh Scheme-2022)", various institutions have been recognised as ASMs/ASSSs, in different parts of the country, for financial assistance. In this context, under the provisions contained in this Scheme, applications are invited through online from Indian nationals for direct recruitment for the following Non-teaching/other academic posts in recognised ASMs/ASSSs located in various parts of the country :-

Name of the Posts & Level (as 7th CPC)	No. of Posts	Reservations, Eligibility, Qualifications, other necessary requirements
College Librarian (Level-10)	04	Details of Eligibility criteria. Qualifications, Age limit, Zone-wise Recruitment process. Institution-wise segregation of vacancies, reservation etc. and other essential requirements, application process etc. details are available in the detailed notification, which is available at CSU's website www.sanskrit.nic.in under recruitment/notification heads and also available in the website of the concerned institutions.
Section Officer (Level-07)	01	
Assistant (Level-06)	15	
Professional Assistant (Level-06)	01	
UDC (Level-04)	02	
LDC (Level-02)	20	

The starting date of the application is 28.01.2026 and closing date of advertisement is 27.02.2026 by 11.30 P.M. (IST)

This advertisement is only a short notification, on behalf of 19 grantee Adarsh Institutions who are the appointing authority(s) for the concerned selected candidate(s). Accordingly, interested candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement for all necessary information.

cbc 21212/12/0004/2526

SD/- REGISTRAR I/c



ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE: Students of NIT-Rourkela, also members of Yoga Club, perform in an acrobatic show to mark Republic Day celebrations at its NCC Ground Monday

OP PHOTO

Student electrocuted after flagpole touches live wire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Jan 27: Two wagons of a freight train derailed late Monday night on Koraput-Rayagada (KR) rail line, barely 200 metres from Koraput railway station, railway officials said.

The incident occurred near A-Cabin crossing on the down track when a freight train carrying iron ore from Kirandul was passing through the section. Two wagons slipped off the track, fell completely off the rails and were dragged for nearly 200 meters before coming to a halt.

A special rescue and restoration team from Koraput railway station rushed to the spot and began recovery operations on a war footing. After the derailed wagons were brought back onto the track, repair work on the damaged section was taken up.

According to the railways, more than 200 personnel were engaged in the restoration work, which continued until around 4am, Tuesday.

Train services on the affected line resumed Tuesday morning after a successful trial run. The Samaleswari Express and the Intercity Express to Rourkela were the first passenger trains to pass through the section.

Station Master Balaram Muduli said trains will operate at reduced speed on the down track near the A-Cabin crossing until next week as a precautionary measure.

According to police, the incident occurred at a private coaching centre in Kujang market where a steel pipe had been used to hoist the national flag. The 11-kV power line runs less than a metre from the flag site. While the morning flag-hoisting went incident-less, Omprakash attempted to lower the flag by uprooting the pole in the afternoon. Unable to manage the weight of the steel pipe, he lost

control and it struck the overhead wire.

He sustained severe injuries on the spot. Local residents rushed him to Kujang community health centre, where doctors declared him dead.

Police seized the body and initially detained the coaching centre owner, Ashwini Nanda. However, later that night the boy's grandfather, Rajkishore Dwivedi, submitted a written complaint to police declaring no one had sent his

grandson to lower the flag and that no one was responsible for his death. Following the statement, police registered an unnatural death case (3/26) and released the coaching centre owner. The body was handed over to the family after post-mortem examination Tuesday.

The incident has sparked discussion in the locality, as the coaching centre owner is reportedly a close relative of the boy's maternal family.

Car-bike collision leaves two dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khamar, Jan 27: Two motorcyclists were killed in a car-bike collision near Bhaluki Chhak under Khamar police limits in Pallahara of Angul district late Monday evening, police said.

The deceased were identified as Biswanath Naik, 21, son of Bijay Naik of Tambur village in Badasa panchayat under Khamar police limits, and Amit Naik, 22, son of Subal Naik of Arkil village under Rengali police limits in Kaniha block. The mishap occurred near Parachhata panchayat around 8pm when a car hit their motorcycle they were riding. Both were thrown off the bike and sustained severe injuries. They were rushed to Khamar hospital, where one was pronounced dead on arrival. The other was sent to Angul DHH in a 108 ambulance. However, he succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. They were reportedly on their way to attend a social function when the accident occurred.

Khamar IIC Arun Kumar Panda said police seized both the vehicles involved in the crash, arrested the car driver and produced him before a court.

AXIS BANK

Important Announcement

We are moving

Axis Bank's branch in Orakel will move to new location from the 30th of March 2026.

Current address:

Axis Bank Ltd. Orakal Branch,
First Floor, Plot No. 130, Village-Orakal, District-Khurda,
Airfield Kapila Prasad, 751002, Odisha.

New address:

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We look forward to welcoming you.

Witness and stand back
from Nature, that is the first
step to the soul's freedom.

SRI AUROBINDO



Another Leak

Invariably US President Donald Trump says one thing and means something completely different has, by now, become clear to the world. But those in the Indian ruling establishment who still set store by his words or false promises need to sit up and redraw their strategy vis-à-vis the USA under Trump. This is the inescapable conclusion one can draw from the latest leak of a purported conversation between Senator Ted Cruz, the Texas Republican, and Trump. Cruz, regarded as a close ally of Trump, has such a stature in American politics that he is eyeing a 2028 White House run. As such his confidential exchanges with the US President and American business leaders do carry weight and it is of much concern for India as they refer to US trade policies for India. The Senator pilloried Vice President JD Vance and ridiculed Trump's tariff policy during private meetings with donors, according to recordings accessed by a media outlet.

Cruz's caustic remarks during two meetings last year are some of the harshest criticisms of Trump and Vance by a fellow Republican since they took office a year ago. The recordings have a duration of nearly 10 minutes in total, but they provide a glimpse into the way the US administration is working under Trump's presidency and its negative stand on US trade relations with India endorsed by Trump himself. During his talks Cruz described Vance as a pawn of conservative podcaster Tucker Carlson whom Cruz has accused of promoting anti-Semitism and an anti-Israel foreign policy. They were made in early and middle 2025.

Cruz warned donors that Trump's tariffs could prove disastrous for the US economy and lead to his impeachment. Cruz told them after Trump introduced the tariffs in early April 2025, he and a few other senators had a call with the PoTUS in which they urged him not to go ahead with his punitive tariff policy. Cruz admitted his long conversation, which stretched past midnight, "did not go well," and that Trump was "yelling" and "cursing," using unparliamentary language.

Cruz even cautioned Trump that his economic policies, including the tariff war, would affect the common man in the US in such a way that the Republican party would suffer "a bloodbath" in November 2026 when there would be a mid-term poll. He even told Trump that he was going to lose the Senate and there would be impeachment motions against him every single week for the next two years.

What concerns India most is the revelation that Vance and White House economic adviser Peter Navarro played a key role in blocking a proposed trade deal between Washington and New Delhi. Cruz told the donors that Trump himself "sometimes" intervened to stall the proposed US-India agreement. The report comes when India and the US are engaged in prolonged trade negotiations. The irony is Trump recently expressed confidence about the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) while speaking on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. He even repeated his admiration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing him as "a fantastic man and a friend of mine." He then iterated that the two countries "are going to have a good deal." The formally proposed agreement aims to more than double bilateral trade from the current \$191 billion to \$500 billion by 2030. Talks were first announced during the PM's visit to Washington in February 2025. Several rounds of discussions have been held since then.

The leaked recordings indicate the US administration's real intent to merely dangle carrots before India, while the top leadership wants to block US trade with India. The current dispensation in Delhi and its sycophantic media display the tendency to gloat over every word of praise for the PM by Trump. It is time to shake off the illusion of favourable treatment from Trump and instead form trade ties with other countries, including the European Union which is ongoing with the EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyens currently being present in New Delhi. Here too, the EU seems to be getting the better of the deal. India has reportedly offered to lower tariffs to the tune of nearly Euro 4 billion and EU expects to double its exports to India. However, no one is heard speaking about the exports from India to the EU and what tariffs the EU will decrease, if any, on goods from India.

WISDOM CORNER

Nothing is so great an example of bad manners as flattery. If you flatter all the company, you please none; if you flatter only one or two, you offend the rest.

JONATHAN SWIFT

Whoever loves becomes humble. Those who love have, so to speak, pawned a part of their narcissism.

SIGMUND FREUD

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1813: Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* was published anonymously and enjoyed immediate success, thanks in part to the popularity of the central character, Elizabeth Bennet, who was reportedly Austen's own favorite among all her heroines.

1820: Fabian von Bellingshausen discovers the Antarctic. The Baltic German explorer is believed to be the first person to sight the Earth's southernmost continent.

1871: The French capital, Paris, fell following a four-month siege during the Franco-German War.

1881: Russian novelist and short-story writer Fyodor Dostoevsky, known for groundbreaking novels such as *Crime and Punishment* (1866) and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879-80), died in St. Petersburg.

1958: Gottfred Kirk Christiansen, whose father founded the LEGO company in Denmark, filed for a Danish patent (later granted) for a toy building block that became hugely popular around the world.

1986: Challenger space shuttle catastrophically explodes. On this day in 1986, the U.S. space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Florida, killing all seven aboard, including high school teacher Christa McAuliffe, who had been chosen as the first American civilian to travel in space. After the disaster, NASA overhauled its space exploration program and added extra safeguards to its shuttles' rocket boosters.

FOCUS MULTILATERALISM

STIFLING DIALOGUE



THE WEF HAS CHOSEN CONVENIENCE OVER SECURITY AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY BY ALLOWING TRUMP TO SET THE TERMS OF THE DEBATE

U.S. President Donald Trump rose to power partly by positioning himself as a foil to global elites. But last week, he attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) – the quintessential gathering of the world's wealthiest and most powerful people – in Davos as the star guest. With the largest-ever US delegation in tow, Trump took his aggressive protectionism and transactional diplomacy to the global stage, shifting the debate and, in the process, increasing the risk of irreversible changes to the Earth system.

Instead of discussing issues such as fair taxation, sustainability, social justice, and the energy transition, as delegates have done in the past, they kowtowed to Trump. But Trump's remarks at Davos should erase any remaining doubt that normalizing his extreme policies and strident positions only encourages him to double down on the geopolitical chaos and uncertainty he is causing. In the last month alone, Trump has withdrawn the US from 66 international organizations, including two of the world's most important and oldest climate institutions – the 34-year-old UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which serves as the primary forum for climate negotiations, and the UN's 38-year-old Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which leads the science related to climate change. And just days before his trip to Davos, Trump stunned European leaders by threatening to impose punitive tariffs on allies that oppose his plan to seize Greenland from Denmark.

After more than a year of such wanton destruction and excessive use of unilateral measures to advance his "America First" agenda, trust – the lifeblood of multilateralism – has eroded, raising the risk of fragmentation and fueling instability. To mitigate these effects, sustain global growth, and promote shared prosperity, the WEF chose "A Spirit of Dialogue" as the theme for this year's meeting. It may be one of the best-attended yet, with more than



As the window to act on climate change narrows and the global order continues to fragment, dialogue must foster cooperation, strengthen collective problem-solving, and emphasize equity and justice

3,000 delegates from over 130 countries, including 64 heads of state and government.

Dialogue, of course, is essential to resolve disputes, prevent conflict escalation – especially in our great-power-rivalry world of heightening geopolitical tensions – and prepare for risks. According to the WEF's pre-Davos survey, the most severe risks over the next decade all relate to the climate emergency. But, to secure Trump's participation, the WEF agreed to avoid "woke" topics, including the energy transition and climate change. So much for a spirit of dialogue.

The agenda instead focused on, among other things, improving cooperation in a more contested world, unlocking new sources of growth, investing in people, responsibly deploying innovation at scale, and building prosperity within planetary boundaries. Technology – particularly how AI, quantum computing, and next-generation biotech and energy systems can drive economic and societal transformation – was a prominent theme.

The silence on climate change is as cynical as it is unsurprising. One of Trump's first acts in his second term was to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement. His administration later launched a major campaign to reverse US climate policy and expand fossil-fuel production. This has included halting the construc-

tion of offshore wind farms, slashing funding for renewable-energy projects, and working to repeal federal limits on greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants and vehicles.

Following Trump's "drill, baby, drill" mantra, the administration has declared a "national energy emergency" and authorized the expansion of domestic fossil-fuel production. This policy could reverse progress in the transition to renewable energy, which contributed about one-third of global electricity generation in 2024. It also brings the world closer to a climate catastrophe, especially after scientists revealed earlier this month that the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C is now on track to be breached by 2030, more than a decade earlier than expected at the time of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

As the world's largest historical and current emitter, the US economy's continued reliance on fossil fuels has repercussions for everyone else. It will cause trillions of dollars in damage, disproportionately affecting poorer countries, and could push global warming above the 1.5°C target set by the Paris climate agreement. Crossing this threshold significantly increases the risk of irreversible changes to Earth systems; once climate tipping points are passed, self-reinforcing processes are activated that cannot be reversed, even if temperatures later decline.

One such tipping point is the

collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which would eventually raise global sea levels by around 13 feet. Such a drastic rise would permanently alter coastlines and threaten low-lying communities and island countries. Similarly, exceeding the 1.5°C goal accelerates permafrost thaw, releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere – a process that reinforces global warming and cannot be reversed.

Ecosystems also face irreversible losses if the planet exceeds 1.5°C of warming. Coral reefs are projected to decline by 70-90% at that temperature, while the Amazon rainforest, one of the world's largest carbon sinks, risks becoming a carbon source, undermining natural mitigation efforts and further accelerating climate change. These changes could also have profound social consequences. Sea-level rise, for example, may wipe out coastal settlements, agricultural land, and freshwater resources, displacing communities and erasing cultural heritage.

Perhaps most importantly, surpassing 1.5°C locks future generations into managing a planet with higher climate risks and fewer adaptation options. More than diversifying energy sources, continuing the energy transition is essential for humanity's survival; ignoring this reality to appease Trump and humor his oil obsession is a dangerous game with global and intergenerational consequences.

As the window to act on climate change narrows and the global order continues to fragment, dialogue must foster cooperation, strengthen collective problem-solving, and emphasize equity and justice. Decisions on emissions reductions, adaptation, and climate finance inherently raise questions of responsibility, fairness, and burden-sharing between countries and within societies. But the WEF has chosen convenience over security and long-term sustainability by allowing Trump to set the terms of the debate.

The writer is a former chief economist at African Export-Import Bank.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

The many awards I'd like to have



Melvin Durai

IF NEERAJ CHOPRA IS UNWILLING TO GIVE ME HIS SILVER MEDAL, I'D BEG HIM TO LEND IT TO ME FOR JUST 24 HOURS, LONG ENOUGH TO GET LOTS OF PHOTOS WITH THE MEDAL AROUND MY NECK

I've never been much of an athlete, but someday I'd like to wear an Olympic silver medal around my neck. I'd show it proudly to all my friends, saying, "It's mine, all mine. Did you ever think I'd have an Olympic silver medal in javelin?"

My friends would shake their heads in disbelief. "Amazing," one of them would say. "You can't even throw a butter knife across the room."

"That's true," I'd say. "But I still got this."

You may be wondering how I'd ever get myself an Olympic silver medal in javelin. Well, I hope to meet Neeraj Chopra one day and beg him to give me his. "You have a gold medal and a silver medal," I'd say. "Why do you need both? Once you have gold, anything less is meaningless. If you give me your silver medal, both of us can be proud."

If Chopra is unwilling to give me his silver medal, I'd beg him to lend it to me for

just 24 hours, long enough to get lots of photos with the medal around my neck. I'd post a photo on social media with this message: "If you can dream it, you can achieve it. Dreams do come true." I'd also frame a photo and pass it down to my grandchildren, so they can be proud of their grandpa.

I know what you're thinking: "You can't just take someone else's medal. You have to earn it on your own."

That's not true anymore. After all, US President Donald Trump is now in possession of the Nobel Peace Prize that Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado won in 2025. Machado recently met Trump and handed him the prize. Trump had coveted it and was disappointed that the Nobel committee awarded it to Machado.

Machado placed the medal in a frame, along with these words: "To President Donald J. Trump. In recognition of extraordinary leadership

in promoting peace through strength, advancing diplomacy, and defending liberty and prosperity."

In a social media post, Trump called it "a wonderful gesture of mutual respect." Those are the same words I will write when Chopra gives me his silver medal.

The Nobel committee, of course, did not approve of Machado's actions. "Once a Nobel Prize is announced, it cannot be revoked, shared, or transferred to others," it said in a statement. "The decision is final and stands for all time."

But Trump obviously does not care about that. Rules are not for rulers. After all, people who visit Trump's home are just going to admire the medal. And Trump will be standing there proudly, saying, "Everybody knows I should have won it. Even the person who won it knows I should have won it. That's why she gave it to me."

I will say something similar when Neeraj Chopra gives me

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

Trade diplomacy

Sir, The India-European Union Free Trade Agreement, concluded Tuesday after nearly two decades of negotiations, marks a decisive moment in global trade diplomacy. Covering nearly two billion people and accounting for a quarter of global GDP, the pact is being described as the "mother of all" trade agreements—not only for its vast scale, but for its strategic timing. As global supply chains recalibrate amid geopolitical rivalries and efforts to reduce dependence on China, the agreement firmly positions India as a central pillar in the emerging economic architecture. It reflects a shared resolve between New Delhi and Brussels to anchor trade in democratic, rules-based frameworks. From an economic standpoint, the agreement is potentially transformative. It eliminates tariffs on over 96 percent of EU exports to India while providing Indian goods preferential access to European markets, particularly in textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering, and IT services. Indian exporters are projected to gain significantly over the coming decade, while consumers at home may benefit from more affordable European automobiles, electronics, and clean-energy technologies.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

ICE outrage

Sir, A massive federal immigration crackdown, Operation Metro Surge, in Minneapolis has ignited widespread fury. ICE and Border Patrol agents' aggressive tactics led to the fatal shootings of US citizens, including 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Pretti—killed amid a chaotic encounter while aiding others—and Renee Good earlier in January. Videos challenge official accounts, sparking massive protests with thousands demanding agent withdrawal and accountability. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz urged federal forces to exit the state, slamming their methods. Detentions escalated tensions, including children seized during raids, amid complaints of missing warrants, opacity, and civil rights violations. Critics demand humane, lawful policies with oversight over militarized sweeps. Indian nationals endure intensified checks and deportations. India confirms citizenship prior to repatriation, liaises with US officials for fair treatment, and is pressed to safeguard its migrants, students, and legal rights.

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES



Jharkhand set for civic polls

THE VOTING FOR THE CIVIC POLLS TO 48 URBAN LOCAL BODIES IN THE STATE WILL BE HELD IN A SINGLE PHASE FEBRUARY 23



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Jan 27: The Jharkhand State Election Commission (SEC) Tuesday announced that civic polls to 48 urban local bodies in the state, including Ranchi, will be held February 23.

The counting of votes will take place February 27.

"The voting for the civic polls to 48 urban local bodies in the state will be held in a single phase February 23," State Election Commissioner Alka Tiwari said while issuing a notification in this regard.

The nomination process will start January 29 and will continue till February 4, she said.

The nominations will be scrutinised February 5, while candidates can withdraw their names till February 6. The symbols will be allotted February 7, she said.

Over 43.33 lakh voters, including 21.26 lakh women, are eligible to exercise their franchise in the elections to 1,087 wards in nine municipal cor-

porations, 20 nagar parshads and 19 nagar panchayats.

"The elections for the mayor or chairman posts, and ward councilors will be held directly, while the deputy mayors and vice chairmen will be elected indirectly," Tiwari said.

ULB polls in Jharkhand are not contested on the electoral symbols of the political parties, but candidates are backed by the outfits.

In 2018, the ULB elections for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor of municipal corporations, and chairman and vice chairman of municipal councils, were held on party lines.

The commission, in November 2025, outlined before the high court a timeline of eight weeks for completing the formalities and issuing the notification for the election.

Elections to 14 ULBs have been due since May 2020, while polls to the remaining 34 ULBs have been due since April 2023.

All civic bodies are currently under the administrative control of government officials.

bodies, excluding panchayats and cantonment areas, came into force after the issuance of the election notification.

The voting will be conducted using ballot papers and there will be no option for NOTA, Tiwari said.

She said proper security arrangements will be ensured to hold the polls peacefully at 4,304 polling booths.

"Of the total polling booths, 896 have been identified as hyper-sensitive and 2,445 as sensitive," she added.

The commission has also fixed expenditure limits for the candidates contesting for the post of mayor or chairman and ward councilors in the elections.

According to the SEC notification, a candidate contesting for the post of mayor in municipal corporations having over 10 lakh population can spend up to Rs 25 lakh. The limit is Rs 15 lakh for the municipal corporations with a population of less than 10 lakh.

Similarly, the expenditure limit is between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh for the candidates contesting for the post of chairman in nagar parshads and nagar panchayats based on the population size.

The candidates contesting for the posts of ward councilors can spend Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh based on the population size, it added.

The Jharkhand High Court had earlier slammed the state government over the delay in conducting the local body polls.

The commission, in November 2025, outlined before the high court a timeline of eight weeks for completing the formalities and issuing the notification for the election.

Elections to 14 ULBs have been due since May 2020, while polls to the remaining 34 ULBs have been due since April 2023.

All civic bodies are currently under the administrative control of government officials.



People arrive to take a holy dip at Sangam during the ongoing Magh Mela 2026, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Jharkhand industrialist's son rescued from Hazaribag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The son of a Jamshedpur-based industrialist, abducted January 13, was rescued from Barhi in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district in the early hours of Tuesday, police said.

Kairav (24), the son of Industrialist Devang Gandhi, was abducted while he was on his way to office in Adityapur industrial area of Seraikela-Kharswan district, police said.

Devang Gandhi, a resident of Bistupur, is also the vice-president of the Adityapur Small Industries Association (ASIA).

section of Hazaribag and fled," the statement said.

A manhunt is on to nab the culprits, it added.

Earlier, police had found Kairav's car from Kanderbeda area on National Highway-33 on the night of the incident.

The local business community and politicians hailed the police for rescuing Kairav.

ASIA President Inder Agarwal said, "It was really a big achievement of the police. The police department has put in more than 100 per cent effort and taken all steps to trace Kairav back safely. He is well," Agarwal told PTI.

Agarwal, who met the Gandhi family earlier in the day, said the association will decide about seeking proper security for industrialists and the business community to check recurrence of such incidents.

President of Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Manav Kedia also expressed happiness over the safe return of Kairav.

"I had spoken to Devang Gandhi, who expressed his gratitude towards the efforts and support of the police department and SCCI," Kedia said in a statement.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL: G.UDAYAGIRI

No.287

Date: 22.01.2026

"e" Tender Notice

Bid Identification No. GUDGR-NAC-02/2025-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2026-03, Dt: 22.01.2026

Name of the Work SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS CORRESPONDING TO: (1) PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL LIFTING BARRIER IN PLACE OF EXISTING MLB AT 03 INTERLOCKED LEVEL CROSSING GATES OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION, (2) PROVISION OF AXLE COUNTER IN GIRDER BRIDGES AND IBS IN PARALLEL TO DC TRACK CIRCUIT OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Tender Value: ₹ 3,98,68,072.28, Bid Security: ₹ 3,49,400/-

Tender closing date & time: at 1100 hrs. of 16.02.2026

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.irops.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) Sambalpur

PR-1052/Q/25-26

Sd/- Executive Officer
N.A.C. G. Udayagiri

OIPR-

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE

SNPR - 13 OF 2025-26

Dated : 22.01.2026

No. O-2147

Letter No. 607

1. Name of the Work
Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/2026/02. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30hrs. Sl. No., Tender

No. & Description of Works as follows : (1) E-KGP-West-01-2026, Supply and unloading of 1,90,274 cum 50 mm gauge hard stone machine crushed ballast and loading the same into Railway's wagons/hoppers at Pakur/Taljhari/Barhara Depot for Kharagpur Division. Tender Value : ₹ 2,29,30,541.97. Earnest Money: ₹ 21,04,900/- (2) E-KGP-West-02-2026, Improvement and upgradation of existing subways at LC No. 120, 129 and 130 near Ghatsila & Rakhamesh station under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Jhargram. Tender Value : ₹ 2,29,30,541.97. Earnest Money: ₹ 21,04,900/- (3) E-KGP-East-01-2026, Supply and unloading of 1,80,691 cum 50 mm gauge hard stone machine crushed ballast and loading the same into Railway's wagons/hoppers at Bakudih/Rajgram/Pinargaria Depot for Kharagpur Division. Tender Value : ₹ 36,43,65,499.04. Earnest Money: ₹ 19,71,800/- Tender Document Cost

₹ 0 for each. Date of Opening : 12.02.2026 for each. Completion

Period of the work : 18 months for Sl. No. 1 & 3 and 12 months for Sl. No. 2. Bidding Start Date: For Sl. No. 1 to 3 from 29.01.2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 12.02.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website www.irops.gov.in for full details/ descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. N.B.: Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.tendersodisha.gov.in to participate in all tenders.

(PR-1093)

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Sonepur

OIPR-

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR

Phone : 0680-2404096, E-Mail : eerwgmgt@yahoo.co.in

No.O-2065 Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/26/SERWD-II/2025-26

Memo No.339/RWD-IIIB, Date : 13.01.2026

Letter No. 607

1. Name of the Work

Road Works as per DTCN

available in the website

www.tendersodisha.gov.in

: As per DTCN

: 11 (Eleven) Nos.

: Vary from Rs.5.94 lakh to Rs.54.20 lakh

: 1 (One Calendar month)

: 29.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to

: 09.02.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.

: 10.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

: (Technical Bid) & (Financial Bid will be intimated later on)

: S.E., R.W. Division, Sonepur

: Name and address of the officer inviting Bid

: (1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice

: (2) Inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

: (3) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website : www.tenderodisha.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Sonepur

OIPR-

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH

No. O-2102

No : Tender-Online-Nayagarh Divn.-11/2025-26

e-Procurement Notice

: Road works

: 02 (Two) Nos. of projects

: B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities

: C Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.

: D Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.

: Rs. 16.95 Lakhs & Rs.42.37 lakhs

: 01 (One) calendar month

: Availability of Tender on-line for bidding

: From 28.01.2026 at 10.00 A.M.

: To 07.02.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.

: Date & Time of opening of tender

: 09.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

: OIPR-

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Nayagarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mathura (UP), Jan 27: Close to 1,500 migratory and resident birds -- from 72 wetland-dependent species and 11 endangered species -- were spotted at the Jodhpur Jhal wetland in Mathura district during a recent survey, experts said.

According to ecologist Dr K P Singh of Agra-based Biodiversity Research and Development Society, a non-governmental organisation, the Jodhpur Jhal wetland receives thousands of migratory birds belonging to more than 50 species every year.

"The birds fly to wetland and other areas of Mathura after clocking a distance of up to 9,000 kilometres on the Central Asian Flyway, which covers nearly 30 countries across Europe and



Asia. Bluethroat from

national

of the day quote

We are like siblings. I have been associated with him for a long time and we meet regularly.



He (Sengottayan) is like my elder brother. Before he joined TVK, he told me about his decision. He expressed his wish that I should also join the TVK

TTV DHINAKARAN | AMMK LEADER

I am confident that a positive solution will be reached between Swami Avimuktешwarananda Ji Maharaj and the Uttar Pradesh government



UMA BHARTI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

I am confident that, with the blessings of saints, a government that disappoints followers of the Sanatan Dharma will never come to power again in this country



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

History-sheeter shot dead in 'encounter'

Perambalur: A history-sheeter was shot dead in an encounter near Thirumanthurai in Perambalur district Tuesday morning after he allegedly attacked a sub-inspector while trying to escape from custody, police said. The deceased, identified as Kottu Raja alias Azhaguraja, was a prime suspect in the recent attack on another notorious criminal, Vellai Kali. Inspector General (IG) of Police (Central Zone) V Balakrishnan provided a detailed account of the events leading to the encounter during a press briefing.

Multi-vehicle collision leaves three dead in TN

Namakkal: Three persons were killed and as many others sustained serious injuries Tuesday after a multi-vehicle collision involving a mini-truck, a lorry, and a two-wheeler on the railway flyover near a cinema theatre here, police said. The deceased have been identified as Syed Wasim (30) of Kolar, Karnataka, and two local youths, Karthik (24) of Ganesapuram and Senathipathy (25) of Sathy Nagar.

NEET aspirant's father warns of self-immolation

Jehanabad/Patna: The father of the NEET aspirant, who recently died after remaining in a coma for several days in a Patna hospital, has sought a judicial probe into the incident, expressing dissatisfaction with the police investigation, and threatened self-immolation if the family does not get justice. The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing into the case, collected DNA samples of a number of persons, including some family members of the 18-year-old deceased, and sent them to a forensic lab for profiling.

Country boat sinks in Brahmaputra, 6 missing

Barpeta (Assam): At least six people, including four children, went missing after a machine-operated country boat sank in the Brahmaputra river in Barpeta district of Assam Tuesday, officials said. According to Barpeta Revenue Circle Field Officer Jyotirmoy Choudhury, the accident took place when the boat was going to Borghul char (riverine vegetative islands) from Rahampur carrying 22 people.



By empowering farmers, strengthening MSMEs, boosting manufacturing and services, and expanding opportunities for skilled professionals, this agreement becomes a blueprint for shared prosperity and a stronger, self-reliant India

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

INDIA EYES DEEPER ENERGY TIES WITH CANADA

India is keen on investing in extraction of critical minerals in Canada and will mount a delegation soon to discuss joint collaboration in the sector, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday



Jharkhand: Eight killed accidents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chaibasa (Jharkhand), Jan 27: Eight people have died in separate accidents in different parts of Jharkhand, police said Tuesday.

Four people died after the motorcycle they were riding collided with a truck in West Singhbhum district Monday, a police officer said.

The accident took place in Karaikela police station area when the youths, all on the same motorcycle, tried to overtake the truck but dashed against it and fell on the road around 3 am Monday, he said. The police also seized the truck near Bandgaon.

"Prima facie, it appears that the truck driver was not at fault as the motorcycle dashed against it from the side at a great speed. The autopsy report will make it clear whether the deceased were drunk or not," Hassan added.

Meanwhile, three teenagers riding a motorcycle died on the spot after the two-wheeler hit a roadside tree near Kotari village in Puso police station area in Sisai block of Gumla district Monday night.

The accident took place when they were returning home after attending a wedding reception at Kotari.

Meanwhile, Tuesday evening, one youth died and nearly a dozen were injured when trailer driven allegedly by a driver under the influence of alcohol struck two autorickshaws on the NH-32 connecting Chas (in Bokaro district of Jharkhand) and Purulia (in West Bengal) under Pindrajora police station limits, police said. Pindrajora police station Officer-in-Charge, Abhishek Ranjan, said that the trailer driver fled after the mishap, but police have caught the cleaner of the trailer, who has admitted that the driver was drunk.

ALL-PARTY MEET

Govt rejects Oppn demands for VB-G RAM G Act, SIR debates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Cong: Place real figures, not manipulated before country

New Delhi: The Congress Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the government over the state of the economy, questioning the numbers it has been presenting and claiming that "inequality is on the rise" with welfare in "retreat". Ahead of the release of Economic Survey and the presentation of the Union Budget, the opposition party's research department released a report on the state of the economy and said it was important to lay bare "facts" before the people as the government would roll out its "propaganda" through the President's address to both Houses of Parliament, Economic Survey and the Union Budget in the next few days.

dress and the Budget.

"This is the first session of the year. Normally, the list of government business is shared after the President's address. However, I am prepared to share the list; I have told officers to do it," Rijiju said after some Opposition leaders complained that government business for the session had not been shared.

He added that this is not an important issue, and running the House smoothly remains the focus. Replying to a query on the demand for a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal, he said, "Both Houses of

Parliament had extensive discussions on electoral reforms in the last session, where this issue was also raised by the opposition. This is uncalled for if another debate is demanded."

Rijiju appealed that members should raise their issues but there should not be any ruckus.

"My sincere appeal on behalf of the government to all honourable members is that in our Parliamentary democracy, we have been elected to represent the people and to speak for the people. While exercising our right to speak, we must also have the duty to listen to the members of other political parties," he said.

Gujarat ATS nabs 'lone wolf' planning Prophet insult killings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Jan 27: The Gujarat ATS has foiled a terror conspiracy to target individuals in Uttar Pradesh and arrested a person alleged to be operating as a "lone wolf" after being influenced by extremist ideologies linked to the banned terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed, officials said Tuesday.

The accused, Faizan Shaikh, was in the final stages of planning targeted killings across Uttar Pradesh for "insulting" Prophet Mohammed, according to officials.

The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) recovered a pistol and six cartridges from his possession, which he reportedly intended to use for high-profile assassinations. A tailor by profession, 22-year-old Shaikh, originally from Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, was residing in Navsari, Gujarat, where he was arrested by the ATS Sunday.

"He operated like a lone wolf. Whenever he found someone passing remarks against the Prophet, he would conspire with people connected to his group to kill that person," ATS DIG Sunil Joshi told reporters.

A primary investigation showed that Shaikh and the wanted accused Mohit Abu Bakar planned to strike terror in a specific community. The conspiracy involves inciting people for an armed rebellion and Jihad to separate Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from the Union of India, Joshi said.

"After being radicalised by ideologies of the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Al Qaeda terror groups, Shaikh had illegally procured a pistol and ammunition to execute killings of a selected group of individuals



to spread terror and fear," he added.

The seizure of 29 pages containing "suspicious literature", containing Arabic/Urdi text, and photos, revealed highly objectionable content inciting Jihad and attracting young people to work for proscribed organisations like Al Qaeda, he said.

The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) recovered a pistol and six cartridges from his possession, which he reportedly intended to use for high-profile assassinations. A tailor by profession, 22-year-old Shaikh, originally from Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, was residing in Navsari, Gujarat, where he was arrested by the ATS Sunday.

"He operated like a lone wolf. Whenever he found someone passing remarks against the Prophet, he would conspire with people connected to his group to kill that person," ATS DIG Sunil Joshi told reporters.

In this group, photos and names of individuals who allegedly insulted the Prophet were circulated with the intention to kill them.

The ATS claimed that Shaikh "confessed" to having purchased the pistol and cartridges six months ago from an unidentified person in Uttar Pradesh.

He intended to identify and carry out targeted killings of those individuals who he believed had insulted the Prophet (Muhammad), the ATS officer said.

SYL canal issue: Mann, Saini meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 27: During a meeting with his Haryana counterpart Nayab Singh Saini, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday asserted that his government stands firmly committed to safeguarding the state's interests in the water dispute, while pursuing a mutually agreed resolution of the long-pending Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue.

Amid no consensus in the meeting on the contentious issues, the chief ministers decided that the officers of both the states will deliberate on this issue and brief them on its progress.

Both CMs said the issue was discussed "in a cordial atmosphere". After nearly an hour-long meeting at a five-star hotel here, both the chief ministers later held a joint media briefing with Mann calling Haryana, Punjab's "brother, not an enemy".

Mann also stated that there should be a resolution to the long-pending issue, though he



not want to draw daggers with our neighbouring state and seek early resolution of this long-pending issue," Mann said.

"Punjab has no surplus water to share with any other state," Mann said, adding, "Not even a single drop of Punjab's rightful water can be allowed to be taken away."

An official statement quoting Mann said that the SYL canal is an emotive issue for Punjab and added, "The state will face serious law and order problems if it is imposed."

Mann said, "Punjab is the elder brother, and both states are here to find an amicable solution to this controversial issue."



People walk past fallen Tabebuia rosea, also known as 'rosy trumpet tree' flowers, during the winter season, in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

ACID ATTACKS

SC bats for retributive punishment for convicts

The top court also asked all states and Union territories to provide a slew of information, including the year-wise details of the number of acid attack cases, their status in courts, besides the rehabilitation measures to support the victims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: Batting for "extraordinary" punitive measures for convicts in acid attack cases, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Centre to consider amending the law to sternly deal with such cases on the lines of dowry death matters, where the onus of proving innocence lies on the accused.

The bench was hearing a PIL filed by Haryana-based Shehna Malik, who herself is an acid attack survivor.

Besides various reliefs, she is seeking expansion of the definition of disabled persons under the law to ensure that the victims who suffered life-threatening damages to their internal organs due to forced ingestion of acid get adequate compensation and other reliefs, including medical care.

A bench comprising Chief



The bench referred to inadequate punishment handed down to the convicts of acid attack cases and said, "You have to take extra-ordinary punitive

"Why can't assets of the accused be attached?" the CJI asked, adding that deterrence is needed and something like attaching the assets of the accused can be thought of to compensate victims.

The bench asked Additional Solicitor General Archana Pathak Dave, representing the Centre, that some legislative intervention might be necessary from the Centre to make the punishment stringent.

The CJI also suggested a reversal of onus of proof, like in dowry death cases. "Think of some legislative intervention. this is not less serious than dowry death also," he said. Issuing certain directions, the

bench gave four weeks to states and UTs and asked them to provide information about the number of appeals filed in appellate courts, including high courts, in acid attack cases.

The bench asked them to also provide brief particulars of each victim, her academic qualification, employment and marital status and the medical treatment and the expenses incurred or to be incurred.

It also asked states and UTs to provide details about the rehabilitation scheme for such victims.

The bench also asked them to provide details of the cases where victims are forced to ingest acid.

national

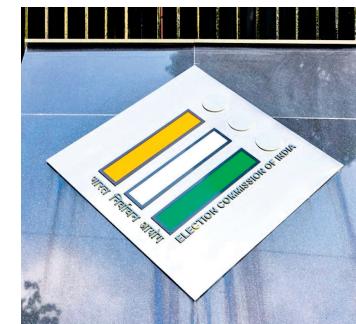


We believe that global challenges require collective solutions and we believe that international institutions must be reformed, not weakened, so that they can adapt to contemporary realities

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

'CANCEL TRANSFER OF OFFICERS DEPUTED AS SIR OBSERVERS'

The tussle between the Election Commission and the West Bengal government escalated Tuesday as the poll body directed the state to cancel the transfer of three IAS officers deputed as electoral roll observers as part of the SIR exercise, saying it was done without its concurrence



of the day quote

Some people are trying to incite riots for electoral gains. But we have to live together for 365 days. This Bengal belongs to everyone. I can assure that Bengal is for all. This is your motherland

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

After presenting the rich heritage of young Jharkhand, its immense possibilities, and our resolve for development in harmony with nature at the World Economic Forum in Davos and in the United Kingdom, I have returned today to Ranchi, among my own people

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

Yes, we are trying to steal the votes of the Miyas. They should not vote in our country but in Bangladesh. We are making arrangements to ensure that they do not vote in Assam

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

X POST OF THE DAY

SC angry. ST angry. OBC angry. Minorities angry. Students angry. Middle class angry. Small traders angry. Unemployed angry. Farmers angry. Gig workers angry. Now GC angry against UGC guidelines. Then who is voting for BJP on ground? @Politix2029

SHORT TAKES

Nine workers stranded in Mir Alam lake rescued

Hyderabad: Battling darkness and adverse conditions, the HYDRAA rescued nine workers and engineers stranded in the middle of Mir Alam Lake after their boat engine failed, officials said. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Tuesday lauded the Hyderabad Disaster Response Force and Asset Protection Agency personnel for saving the lives of those trapped. Officials said the workers and engineers had entered the crocodile-inhabited lake Sunday to conduct soil testing for a proposed bridge. While returning in the evening, their boat engine malfunctioned, leaving them stranded.

Woman kills son after quarrel with husband

Pune: In a chilling incident, a woman Tuesday morning allegedly killed her 11-year-old son and attacked her daughter following a quarrel with the alcohol-addicted husband, police said. Soni Jaybhay, resident of Wagholi area of the city, was arrested. "The couple lived in a rented accommodation. As per preliminary probe, her husband, a Poclain machine operator, was addicted to alcohol and did not pay attention to the children, leading to quarrels," said an official of Lonikand police station.

Gujarat resident who escaped Nepal jail held

Ahmedabad: An Ahmedabad resident, who escaped a Nepalese prison during the 'Gen Z' protests while facing drug charges, was arrested by Gujarat Police, officials said Tuesday. The Special Operations Group (SOG) of the crime branch tracked down the accused, Dhamesh Chunara, following a coordinated effort involving technical surveillance and human intelligence.

India & EU clinch 'mother of all deals'



The two sides also inked two crucial pacts -- one on security and defence collaboration and another on mobility of Indian talents to Europe -- after Prime Minister Modi hosted EU leaders Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa for summit talks amid frosty ties with the US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: India and the European Union Tuesday sealed a landmark free trade agreement-- billed as the "mother of all deals" -- to create a market of two billion people with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the top EU leadership unveiling a transformative agenda to leverage trade and defence in protecting the rules-based world order.

The two sides also inked two crucial pacts -- one on security and defence collaboration and another on mobility of Indian talents to Europe -- after Prime Minister Modi hosted EU leaders Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa for summit talks amid frosty ties with the US.

The free trade agreement that will account for almost a quarter of the global GDP will reduce tariffs on 99 per cent of Indian exports to the EU and cut duties on over 97 per cent of the EU's exports to India, according to officials.

The EU estimated that the deal will cut up to four billion euros in annual tariffs for European exporters. Indian sectors

such as textiles, apparel, leather goods, handicrafts, footwear and marine products are set to gain from the FTA, while Europe is set to benefit in areas of wine, automobiles, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, among others.

Under the provisions of the pact, the EU's wine exports will benefit significantly as the current duties of 150 per cent will see a sharp cut and the new levies will be in the range of 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

In line with their vision for a rules-based global order, India and the 27-nation bloc also rolled out a joint comprehensive strategic agenda for the next five years and firmied up a total of 13 pacts including one on the conclusion of negotiations for the FTA.

In his remarks, Modi said the global order is undergoing "profound turbulence" and, in such a context, the partnership between India and the EU will strengthen stability in the international system.

The finalisation of the trade deal came nearly two decades after the two sides began negotiations on it. It may take at least six months to formally sign the deal as it will require

legal scrubbing by both sides.

"We do hope that we should be able to celebrate the entry into force of this agreement within the calendar year 2026," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said at a media briefing.

Hailing the mega trade deal, European Commission President von der Leyen said the India-EU partnership will send a strong message that cooperation is the best answer to global challenges, in remarks that came amid growing strain in ties between Europe and the US.

Von der Leyen said the trade deal will cut up to 4 billion euros in annual tariffs for European exporters of all sizes and it will create jobs for millions of workers both in India and Europe.

The EU, as a bloc, is India's largest trading partner in goods. For the financial year 2024-25, India's total trade in goods with the EU was worth about USD 136 billion, with exports around USD 76 billion and imports at USD 60 billion.

Von der Leyen, referring to the defence partnership pact, said Europe and India have chosen to be reliable partners to one another.

"This is a landmark depar-

ture and a trust-based platform for cooperation on the strategic issues that matter most. In doing so, we will help to build each other's resilience," she added.

It is widely believed that the frosty ties that India and Europe have experienced with the Trump administration resulted in a new urgency to conclude the FTA.

In his remarks, European Council President Costa said the key agreements signed between the two sides will reinforce the rules-based global order.

In a multi-polar world, Costa added, the European Union and India are working together to grow spheres of shared prosperity.

In his comments, Modi said the India-EU comprehensive strategic agenda will provide a "clear direction" and advance shared prosperity by accelerating innovation, strengthening security cooperation, and deepening people-to-people ties.

The European Council president also reiterated Europe's long-held position on Ukraine.

"Peace will not come out of a clash of arms, but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds."

"Our summit reaffirmed our commitment to supporting efforts towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, one that fully respects Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the outcomes reached at the summit are "deeply strategic in nature" and each of them has specific significance in the overall scheme of things.

As soon as the chief minister rose from his chair to address the gathering, Congress workers started shouting "DK, DK"

The slogan grew louder and louder as he reached the podium to deliver his speech.

Siddaramaiah, along with Shivakumar, Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, ministers, MPs and legislators took part in the protest condemning replacing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with a new rural employment scheme Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rogzar and Ajivika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G).

As soon as the chief minister rose from his chair to address the gathering, Congress workers started shouting "DK, DK".

The slogan grew louder and louder as he reached the podium to deliver his speech.

Annoyed, the chief minister shouted at the Congress workers asking them to keep quiet, but they did not heed.

"Who are those shouting 'DK, DK,'" an angry Siddaramaiah

'DK, DK' chants leave Siddaramaiah fuming



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

As soon as the chief minister rose from his chair to address the gathering, Congress workers started shouting "DK, DK"

The slogan grew louder and louder as he reached the podium to deliver his speech.

asked the Congress leaders.

The compere told the crowd, "The Youth Congress leaders should keep quiet. The chief minister is addressing. We know who you are. Listen to the CM silently."

They (workers) tried to interrupt Siddaramaiah even after he started his speech.

The ruling Congress in Karnataka has been a witness to the power tussle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar and several party MLAs and MLCs have lobbied on behalf of the Deputy Chief Minister.

Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have said they would abide by the party high command's decision.

Siddaramaiah also said he has full faith that he would complete the five years term and that the high command is on his side.

BRO rescues 60, including 40 soldiers, from snowbound Doda



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

January 25 evening, enabling safe evacuation of 20 stranded civilians and 40 personnel of the 4 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), along with weapons and stores, the spokesman said.

The rescue mission was completed by early hours of January 26 with zero casualties, underscoring the professionalism of BRO personnel operating in the challenging high-altitude terrain amid extreme weather conditions, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said the BRO also restored connectivity of strategic roads in the Kandi-Kotranka area of Rajouri district.

Following a spell of heavy snowfall in the Rajouri-Kandi-Budhal area Tuesday, the BRO undertook immediate and sustained snow clearance operations to restore vital road connectivity in the region. The snow cover, measuring up to three feet, had disrupted movement along a critical road stretch in the Pir Panjal region, cutting off the Kandi-Kotranka sub division from Rajouri town, the spokesman said, adding that the intense snowfall had disrupted military and civilians movement, including medical emergency services.

The BRO successfully carried out the high-altitude rescue and road restoration operation under Project Sampark at Chatergala Pass situated at an altitude of 10,500 ft in the Baderwah-Chatergala axis, the spokesman said in a statement.

He said the 118 Road Construction Company (RCC) of 35 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) began the operation on January 24, a day after heavy snowfall which continued for nearly 40 hours, clearing approximately 38 km of road covered under five to six feet of snow. The route was opened by

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international



It is such a huge milestone in India's history and reminds us that the world's democracy continues to thrive, the mother of all democracies

LINDSAY HOYLE | SPEAKER, UK

TRUMP'S GOLDEN DOME MISSILE SHIELD MARKS 1 YEAR

One year after its launch, US President Donald Trump's Golden Dome missile-defense initiative has made little visible progress, bogged down by technical disputes and concerns over space-based components that have delayed the release of billions of dollars and stalled one of his most ambitious national security projects



of the day quote



China and its President Xi Jinping have the opportunity to bring about an end to Russia's war in Ukraine by influencing President Vladimir Putin and reducing cooperation

PETTERI ORPO | PRIME MINISTER, FINLAND



The world has drastically changed and our main ally has become highly unpredictable

PHILIPPE BAPTISTE | MINISTER, FRANCE



Spain to grant legal status to thousands of immigrants lacking permission

ELMA SAIZ | MINISTER OF MIGRATION, SPAIN

SHORT TAKES

Russia withdrawing troops from Syria

Qamishli (Syria): Russian forces have begun pulling out of positions in northeast Syria in an area still controlled by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces after the group lost most of its territory in an offensive by government forces. Associated Press journalists visited one base next to the Qamishli airport Tuesday and found it guarded by SDF fighters who said the Russians had begun moving their equipment out in recent days. Inside what had been living quarters for the soldiers was largely empty, with scattered items left behind, including workout equipment, protein powder and some clothing. Ahmed Ali, an SDF fighter deployed at the facility, said the Russian forces began evacuating their positions around the airport five or six days ago, withdrawing their equipment via a cargo plane.

Spain to pay \$24mn to victims of train crash

Madrid: Spain will pay out 20 million euros (\$24 million) in compensation to the victims of last week's high-speed train crash that killed 45 people and left more than 150 injured, Transport Minister Oscar Puente said Tuesday. The nation is still reeling from the January 18 disaster in Adamuz near the southern city of Cordoba that caused one of the highest death tolls from a train crash in recent European history and the highest in Spain since 2013. The families of those killed will receive 216,000 euros each within no more than three months, made up of 72,000 euros in tax-exempt aid from the government and an advance insurance payment of 72,000 euros. Another 72,000 euros will be paid from passengers' mandatory travel insurance.

Norway parl approves \$2 billion artillery plan

Oslo: Norway's parliament Tuesday approved a \$2 billion procurement plan for long-range artillery to boost the NATO country's deterrence against Russia in the Arctic, where the two nations share a border. European countries are in the midst of hiking defence spending, under pressure to do so by the administration of US President Donald Trump and unnerved by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "These are weapons that can reach far behind enemy lines... this is decisive in modern warfare," Peter Froelich, the defence policy spokesperson for the opposition Conservatives, told parliament Tuesday. Norwegian daily Aftenposten, citing anonymous sources, January 24 reported that the government has selected South Korean defence contractor Hanwha Aerospace's Chunmoo artillery system, beating US Lockheed Martin's HIMARS.

Nobody is safe: China's Xi targets close ally in purge

REUTERS



Beijing/Washington, Jan 27: China's investigation into its top general is taking President Xi Jinping's years-long corruption purge into his innermost circle, underlining that even close personal ties do not offer protection when it comes to loyalty to the party leadership.

China experts said Xi's move against his long-term ally and Politburo member Gen. Zhang Youxia also concentrates even more power in the president's hands, makes the already secretive command of China's military more opaque, and suggests that a near-term attack on Taiwan is less likely.

"Zhang's removal means that truly nobody in the leadership is safe now," said Jonathan Czin of the Washington-based Brookings Institution, who called the investigation "astonishing".

Czin, who spent years as a top China analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency and, in 2021-2023, served as the director for China at the United States National Security Council, added that the probe marked a "profound shift" in Chinese politics. The change is remarkable as past purges targeted people who may have had some overlap with Xi but lacked strong personal ties. This time around, the purge has crossed into what Czin has described as the "asteroid belt" of Xi's political solar system.

Another senior member, Liu Zhenli, chief of staff of the CMC's Joint Staff Department, was also placed under investigation, effectively shrinking the seven-member body into two, with Xi at the top.

"Xi has eviscerated the People's Liberation Army (PLA)

top brass like no leader before

for a third term, underscoring

their closeness.

The defence ministry announced a probe Saturday into Zhang - second-in-command under Xi as senior vice-chairman of the CMC - "for suspected serious violations of discipline and law". The military was one of the main targets of a broad corruption crackdown ordered by Xi after coming to power in 2012. The purges reached its elite Rocket Force, which oversees nuclear weapons as well as conventional missiles, in 2023. Two former defence ministers were also purged from the ruling Communist Party in recent years for corruption.

"I think corruption concerns are probably real, though those are typically more a pretext to remove someone in Chinese politics," said Czin, citing how deeply entrenched graft was before Xi's campaign.

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business

of the day quote

We're not going to live in a world where the strongest put tariffs on everyone else. We're going to live in a world where we believe in free trade, where we believe in trusted relationships

TIM HODGSON | CANADA'S MINISTER OF ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

The European Union has come in with a new set of proposals on steel, and we have agreed in good faith to work together towards a very preferential treatment as a free trade agreement (FTA) partner so that India gets a better deal than most other countries with whom the EU does not have an FTA

PUSHY GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

We will continue our focus on value addition to customers through local production and competitive pricing, making world-class vehicles in India, for Indian customers SANTOSH Iyer | MERCEDES-BENZ INDIA MD AND CEO

SHORT TAKES**Marico profit up 13.3% to ₹460cr**

New Delhi: Homegrown FMCG major Marico Ltd Tuesday reported a 13.3 per cent rise in consolidated profit to ₹460 crore for the December quarter, led by a high single-digit volume growth from the Indian market. It had posted a net profit of ₹406 crore in the October-December period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Marico. However, Marico's consolidated revenue from operations rose 26.6 per cent to ₹3,537 crore in the December quarter of FY26. It was at ₹2,794 crore in the corresponding period a year ago. This revenue growth was led by an "underlying volume growth of 8 per cent in the India business and constant currency growth of 21 per cent in international business," said an earnings statement from Marico, which owns popular brands like Saffola, Parachute, and Livon.

Asian Paints profit down 4.8%

New Delhi: Asian Paints Tuesday reported a decline of 4.83 per cent in consolidated net profit at ₹1,073.92 crore in the December quarter of FY26 on a year-on-year basis on account of exceptional items as implementation of the new labour code and impairment of loss in a subsidiary. The company had logged a net profit of ₹1,128.43 crore during the October-December period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Asian Paints. Its revenue from operations rose 3.71 per cent to ₹8,867.02 crore in the December quarter of FY26 from ₹8,549.44 crore in the corresponding period a year ago. Asian Paints had reported exceptional expenses of ₹157.61 crore.

Adani, Embraer to set up aircraft facility

New Delhi: Adani Group and Brazilian major Embraer Tuesday announced a strategic collaboration that aims to set up a regional aircraft manufacturing facility in India, a significant boost for the country's indigenous manufacturing capabilities. India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and the partnership will look to help enhance air connectivity to Tier 2 and 3 cities. Officials of Adani Defence & Aerospace and Embraer inked the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the strategic collaboration on regional transport aircraft in India at a function at the civil aviation ministry in the national capital on Tuesday.



The history of energy has never been about replacement alone. It has always been about addition
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

RUPEE RECOVERS 19 PAISE FROM ALL-TIME LOW

The rupee rebounded from its all-time low levels and gained 19 paise to close at 91.71 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday, on decline in US dollar index and India-EU FTA negotiations



Gold soars to record ₹1.66L; silver at lifetime high of ₹3.7L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: Gold and silver prices dazzled in the national capital Tuesday, with both precious metals vaulting to uncharted highs, driven by strong investor demand and a global rally amid rising geopolitical and trade tensions.

According to marketmen, gold of 99.9 per cent purity increased ₹7,300, or 4.6 per cent, to touch an all-time high of ₹1,66,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had closed at ₹1,58,700 per 10 grams Friday.

Silver continued its remarkable performance, outperforming gold for yet another session in the bullion markets. The white metal skyrocketed by ₹40,500, or 12.3 per cent, to hit a new peak of ₹3,70,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes).

The metal had settled at ₹3,29,500 per kilogram in the previous market session.

"Silver is additionally benefiting from robust industrial demand alongside investment flows. The white metal prices in the near-term may see bouts of profit-booking and consolidation, but the broader



modities at HDFC Securities, said. According to FOREX.com, silver prices extended their rally, with spot prices soaring USD 8.55, or 8.24 per cent, to USD 112.41 per ounce in the international market.

The white metal had surged by USD 14.42, or 14 per cent, to touch a new peak of USD 117.73 per ounce in the previous session.

"Silver is additionally benefiting from robust industrial demand alongside investment flows. The white metal prices in the near-term may see bouts of profit-booking and consolidation, but the broader

bias remains positive as long as global risk sentiment stays fragile and the dollar remains under pressure," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemmon Markets Desk, said.

Silver prices crossed the crucial USD 100 per ounce level for the first time Friday in the overseas market, reinforcing investor appetite for the safe-haven asset.

Gold also extended its upward momentum in the global markets, with the metal gaining for the seventh consecutive day. It appreciated by USD 79.13, or 1.58 per cent, to USD 5,087.48 per ounce.

SER celebrates 77th Republic Day



Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway, inspecting the Parade on the occasion of 77th Republic Day celebrations at SER Headquarters, Garden Reach.

and the freight revenue for this period amounts to ₹13,432 crore. The General Manager added that in order to increase operational capacity, 55km of doubling/3rd line work has been completed so far this year. A cultural programme on patriotic theme was organised on the occasion. The programme was presented by the SER Headquarters Cultural Team and members of SER Bharat Scouts and Guides. Republic Day was also celebrated at the Divisional Offices at Kharagpur, Adra, Chakradharpur and Ranchi.

Kolkata: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated at South Eastern Railway's headquarters, Garden Reach with great enthusiasm. Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway, unfurled the National Flag and took salute at the ceremonial parade presented by the contingents of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Civil Defence, St John Ambulance and South Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts & Guides. Highlighting the achievements of SER in recent times, the General Manager said that South Eastern Railway, popularly known as the Blue Chip Railway, is among the top three highest freight loading zones of Indian Railways. During the period from April to December 2025, SER achieved a commendable loading of 153 million tonnes of freight

The General Manager added that in order to increase operational capacity, 55km of doubling/3rd line work has been completed so far this year. A cultural programme on patriotic theme was organised on the occasion. The programme was presented by the SER Headquarters Cultural Team and members of SER Bharat Scouts and Guides. Republic Day was also celebrated at the Divisional Offices at Kharagpur, Adra, Chakradharpur and Ranchi.

OHPC observes 77th Republic Day

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (OHPC) celebrated the 77th Republic Day on January 26 across its Corporate Office, Training Centre, and units with due solemnity and patriotic spirit. At the Corporate Office, the National Flag was unfurled by Pranab Kumar Mohanty, Director (Finance), in the presence of Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Director (Operation), along with senior officers and staff. The National Flag was unfurled by Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Director (Operation) at the OHPC Training Centre, Chandaka. The occasion was marked by a deep sense of reverence for the ideals of the Constitution and the democratic ethos of the nation. To commemorate the historic occasion, hand flags and tricolour badges were distributed among employees, fostering a spirit of unity, pride, and devotion to the nation. The observance of the Republic Day reflected OHPC's unwavering commitment to upholding constitutional values and contributing meaningfully to the socio-economic development of the country.



TPCDL honours Green Champions on R-Day

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCDL) celebrated the 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour, reaffirming its commitment to nation-building and sustainable development. The National Flag was hoisted by Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCDL, in the presence of senior officials and employees at the corporate office. As part of the celebrations, TPCDL honoured 30 'Green Champions', environment-conscious consumers who have adopted rooftop solar under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (Utility-Led Aggregation-ULA model). These consumers have installed 1 kW solar systems, availed subsidies and significantly reduced their electricity bills. By embracing clean energy, they have set an example of sustainable living and inspired wider community participation in environmental protection and energy self-reliance. The honoured champions included five consumers from each operational circle and five from the corporate office. Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCDL, said, "The transition to clean energy begins with informed and responsible choices by citizens. Our Green Champions exemplify how adopting rooftop solar under the PM Surya Ghar benefits households while supporting India's clean energy goals. TPCDL remains committed to enabling and encouraging such sustainable initiatives across Central Odisha."



PM Surya Ghar Yojana

benefits households while supporting India's clean energy goals.

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TPCDL honours

Green Champions

on R-Day

TPCDL

honours

30 'Green

Champions

environment

conscious

consumers

who have

adopted

rooftop

solar

under

the PM

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HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE

Kalinga Lancers clinch title at home



A brace from Alexander Hendrickx, backed by Dilpreet Singh's goal, ensured a narrow 3-2 victory for the hosts against Ranchi Royals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27: Vedanta Kalinga Lancers were crowned Hockey India League (HIL) champions after they defeated Ranchi Royals 3-2 in a thrilling summit clash in front of home fans at the Kalinga Stadium, here Monday.

Alexander Hendrickx (4th, 27th) struck a brace while Dilpreet Singh (25th) scored the other goal for the Lancers.

Arajeet Singh Hundal (9th) and captain Tom Boon (59th) were the goal-scorers for Ranchi Royals.

HIL handed a prize money of Rs 3 crore to champions Vedanta Kalinga Lancers, Rs 2 crore for the runner-up Ranchi Royals and Rs 1 crore to the third-place team Hyderabad Toofans,

who defeated HIL GC 4-3 earlier in the day.

HIL GC were awarded the Fairplay Award.

Tamil Nadu Dragons goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh won the Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament and Talem Priyobarta of HIL GC earned the Upcoming Player of the Tournament award, with both players receiving Rs 10 lakh each.

Ranchi Royals' captain Tom Boon won the Top Scorer of the Tournament with 19 goals to his name and was awarded Rs 10 lakh, while Hyderabad Toofans' Amandeep Lakra was crowned the Player of the Tournament and was presented Rs 20 lakh.

In the final, both teams started the first quarter strongly by creating an array of circle entries and chances, determined to score early goals.

Kalinga Lancers were awarded back-to-back penalty corners in the fourth minute and Hendrickx converted with a powerful drag-flick past the Ranchi Royals goalkeeper.

However, the lead lasted only for a few minutes as the Royals equalised with an impressive field goal.

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The second quarter saw Kalinga Lancers turn the game on its head with two goals.

In the 25th minute, Kalinga Lancers won a penalty corner and Dilpreet pounced on the rebound and slotted the ball into the goal to take the lead.

Two minutes later, Hendrickx unleashed a powerful drag-flick into the top right corner to increase their advantage at half time.

In the 59th, Royals finally found a goal from a penalty corner. However, they couldn't find an equaliser in time as Kalinga

Lancers claimed the men's HIL title.

In the third-place match, Amandeep Lakra (30th, 53rd) bagged a brace while Nilakantha Sharma (24th) and Jacob Anderson (33rd) also got on the scoresheet for the Hyderabad Toofans to grab the bronze for them. Sam Ward (14th, 52nd) scored twice with Kane Russell (55th) also found the target for HIL GC.



Four weeks to build a bond and shape a team is a very short time, and it is extremely challenging. That's why we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved. I believe we have done it very well—we have created a good, solid unit, and in the end, that was reflected on the pitch

ARTHUR VAN DOREN | CAPTAIN, KALINGA LANCERS

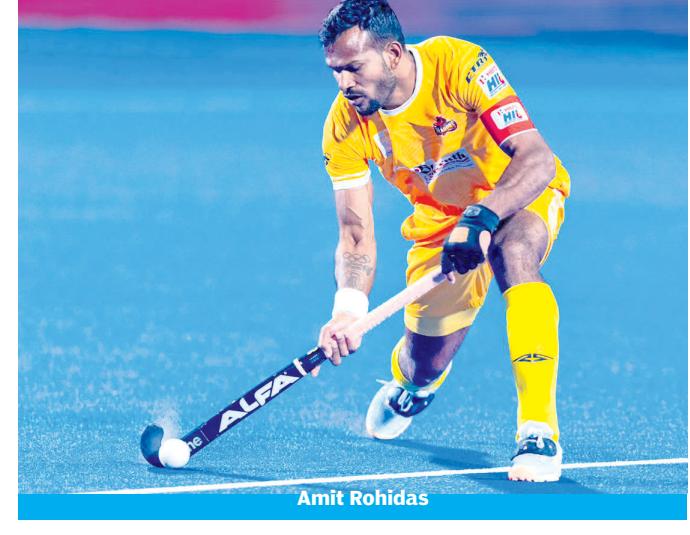
Odisha's journey in the HIL tells a story of patience, policy, & pride

When the Hero Men's Hockey India League first burst onto the scene in 2013, Odisha's presence was modest but meaningful. Six players from the state featured in the inaugural season, quietly carrying forward a legacy rooted in tribal belts, dusty training grounds and an unshakeable love for the sport. Thirteen years later, as the Men's Hero HIL 2025-26 unfolds, that number has nearly tripled. This season, 16 players from Odisha are part of the league — a rise of 10 players, translating to a 166.7% increase compared to the inaugural edition. Beyond the numbers, it reflects the steady transformation of Odisha into one of Indian hockey's most reliable production lines.

2013 Hero HIL: Amit Rohidas, Stanli Minz, Arvind Kujur, Sushant Tirkey and Birendra Lakra (Ranchi Rhinos), and Suresh Toppo (UP Wizards).

Current season: Amit Rohidas, Anand Lakra, Adrohit Ekka and Sushil Dhanwar (Accord Tamil Nadu Dragons);

Prasant Barla and Sudeep Chirrakal (HIL GC); Amandeep Lakra and Shilanand Lakra (Hyderabad Toofans); Annol Ekka and Nilam Sanjeev Xess (Ranchi Royals); Vivek Lakra (Shrachi Bengal Tigers); Rohit Kullu, Rosan Kujur, Deepak Pradhan, Dipsan Tirkey and Partap Lakra (Vedanta Kalinga Lancers). Amit Rohidas remains the only player to feature in both the maiden edition of the league



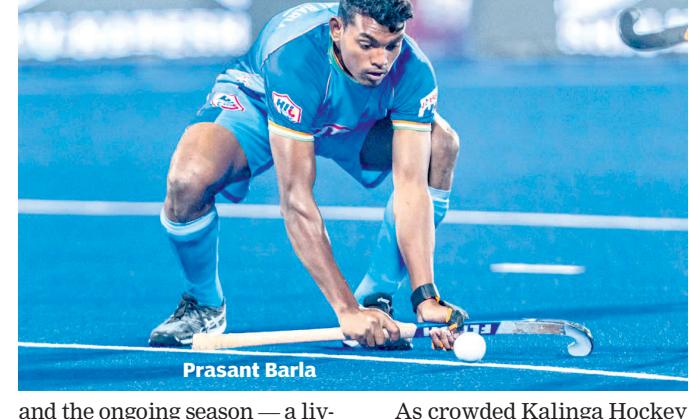
Amit Rohidas



Amandeep Lakra



Anmol Ekka



Prasant Barla

and the ongoing season — a living bridge between two eras of Odisha hockey. From a young defender finding his feet in 2013 to a seasoned international anchoring the backline for the Accord Tamil Nadu Dragons in 2025-26, his career traces the same upward curve as his home state's hockey fortunes.

As crowded Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar celebrate the Men's Hero HIL final

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Alcaraz makes his first Australian Open semis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Melbourne, Jan 27: World No 1 Carlos Alcaraz advanced to his first semifinal at Melbourne Park, moving within two wins of achieving the career Grand Slam as he sealed a statement 7-5, 6-2, 6-1 victory against Alex de Minaur in front of a vibrant Rod Laver Arena crowd.

The Spaniard absorbed the pressure and ultimately neutralised the full impact of Alex de Minaur's newly refined attacking style, aiming for his seventh major title and his first in Melbourne, to arrange a semi-final matchup against last year's runner-up Alexander Zverev.

The 22-year-old, who became only the eighth Spanish man in history to reach the Australian Open semifinals, is looking to

become only the sixth man in the Open Era to complete a career Grand Slam, joining Andre Agassi, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, and Rod Laver, ATP reports.

After exiting in the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park in 2024 and 2025, Alcaraz has now achieved a 16-4 record at the tournament. He will face Zverev in the semifinals, a rematch of their 2024 quarterfinal, which the German won in four sets.

The left-arm wrist spinner had three expensive overs, that leaked 32 runs, even when India

limited the Kiwis to 153 for 9 riding on brilliant spells by Jasprit Bumrah, Ravi Bishnoi and Hardik Pandya.

In fact, the modest effort was a continuation from the preceding ODI series in which he took three wickets across three matches and gave away 9.5 runs an over.

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