



Shanaya's heartbreak

Actor Shanaya Kapoor opens up about a painful personal experience involving a past relationship

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Old global order crumbles

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz calls for a stronger Europe to reset its ties with US as the old global order crumbles

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IT rout deepens

Indian IT shares extend rout; AI disruption fears wipe \$50 billion in February so far

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Zimbabwe upset Aus

Zimbabwe produced the first upset of the T20 World Cup, with a 23-run shock win over an injury-plagued Australia

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Indian man accused in plot to kill Pannun pleads guilty in US

REUTERS

New York, Feb 13: An Indian man charged with orchestrating an unsuccessful Indian government-backed plot to kill a Sikh separatist in New York City pleaded guilty Friday to three criminal charges, a spokesperson for the US Attorney's Office in Manhattan said.

Nikhil Gupta, 54, pleaded guilty to murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire and conspiracy to commit money laundering, which carry a maximum combined sentence of 40 years in prison, the spokesperson said.

Gupta entered his plea before US Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn in Manhattan federal court.

Lawyers for Gupta were not immediately available for comment. Gupta has been jailed in Brooklyn since his June 2024 extradition to the United States from the Czech Republic, where he had been arrested a year earlier. He had pleaded not guilty immediately after his extradition.

US prosecutors accused Gupta of plotting with an Indian government official to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a US resident and dual US-Canadian citizen who advocated for a sovereign Sikh state in northern India.

India's government has dissociated itself from any plot against Pannun, saying it was against government policy.

Class XII student on joyride mows down 6-year-old

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Feb 13: A six-year-old boy was killed, and four people were injured after a school student returning from a farewell party rammed his car into an auto-rickshaw and pedestrians in the Banthra area here, police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Lucknow South) Nipun Agarwal said the accused has been taken into custody and the car impounded.

According to preliminary inquiry, the speeding Swift, driven by 21-year-old Gaurab Singh, hit an auto-rickshaw before ploughing into people walking along the roadside near a Hanuman temple at around 6 pm Thursday.

The injured were identified as Armaan, 12, Awadh Bihari, 42, Sadhana Verma, 35, Meena Devi, 60, and six-year-old Dikshant Patel. All were taken to a hospital for treatment, police said.

Patel, who sustained critical injuries, was referred to another medical facility where he succumbed to injuries during treatment, police said.

Police said the accused is a Class XII student, and four of his friends were in the car at the time of the accident. He allegedly borrowed the vehicle from a friend and possessed a valid driving licence, they said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Of course, this is Parents' Worship Day for us. We are preparing to become parents



WINTER WONDERLAND: A skiing athlete competes during the inaugural day of the Auli Skiing Winter Carnival and National Winter Games 2026 in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand, Friday PTI PHOTO

Med college for Nabarangpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Nabarangpur, Feb 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday laid the foundation stone for a new government medical college and hospital and launched 177 projects worth ₹446 crore for Nabarangpur district.

The CM unveiled the projects at a function held at Mandei ground here.

"The new medical college and hospital will have 100 MBBS seats and 420 beds," Majhi said, adding that his government has fulfilled the long standing demands of the people of Nabarangpur who were forced to visit far off places such as Cuttack, Vishakhapatnam and Raipur for better treatment.

He said the new medical facility will be set up on an area measuring more than 50 acres at Patalguda in the district.

"People of the district will no longer have to go to other places for treatment," the CM said, adding that all modern medical facilities will be available within the district. He asserted that within 20 months of his government assuming power, three new medical colleges have been made operational in Jajpur, Kandhamal and Talcher.

"We have also promised to open four more medical colleges. Today, the foundation stone was laid at Nabarangpur. Three more medical colleges will be es-

CM rolls out Jagannath Darshan scheme



CM Mohan Charan Majhi addresses a gathering in Nabarangpur, Friday

NABARANGPUR: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday launched a scheme to facilitate poor, widow, and elderly persons to visit the Jagannath temple in Puri at least once in their lifetime. The state government will bear the cost of the visit of those people, which will enhance the spiritual and cultural well-being, he said. "I launched the Shri Jagannath Darshan Yojana (SJY) for the people from Nabarangpur. The state government considers the people as the centre of governance, and therefore, it is our highest duty to fulfil their hopes and aspirations," Majhi said. The chief minister said that many times, due to financial constraints or family problems, the economically backward and senior citizens are deprived of the darshan of Lord Jagannath. "To meet their unfulfilled religious desire, we have started this innovative scheme, where the government will take the elderly and widowed women like Shrawan Kumar to the shrine with respect and arrange their hassle-free darshan and the consumption of Mahaprasad," Majhi said. Stating that the scheme is set to enhance the spiritual and cultural well-being of vulnerable communities, the chief minister said under provisions of the SJY, senior citizens aged 60 years to 75 years and widows up to 75 years who belong to economically weaker sections, will avail free travel to Puri, where they will have the opportunity to visit the Jagannath Temple.

tablished in Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrak soon," he said. On the occasion, the CM launched 177 development

projects worth more than ₹446 crore for Nabarangpur district. This included the inauguration of 112 projects worth ₹68 crore

and foundation stone laying of 65 other projects worth ₹378 crore.

He said the projects, covering education, healthcare, roads, bridges, hostels, forest protection committees, anganwadi centres and others will further accelerate the development of Nabarangpur.

Briefing reporters, the Chief Minister said the state government is taking steps towards the overall development and progress of the district. "Even though Nabarangpur is far from Bhubaneswar, its development will never be far from the government," he said.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling said three decades ago, there were only three government medical colleges in Odisha.

"Today, in the double-engine government, we have taken steps to open medical colleges in all the districts in just 18 months. Our goal is to provide quality medical facilities to the people of the state and to ensure availability of doctors at all times," Mahaling said.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who is also in-charge of tourism and women and child development department, Minister for Scheduled Tribes and Castes Development and School and Mass Education Nityanand Gond, Nabarangpur MP Balabhadra Majhi, Rajya Sabha MP Muzibulla Khan, MLAs and officers and others attended the event.

After victory, BNP pushes for Hasina's extradition

With the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) returning to power, Dhaka's ties with New Delhi, which are already sour, are set to face another test. The party has renewed its pressure on India to extradite former prime minister Sheikh Hasina who is facing charges of crimes against humanity in her country. Hasina, who has been living in India since her ouster, was sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal in November 2025 for atrocities linked to the violent suppression of the 2024 uprising against her regime. For India, the demand is politically sensitive and diplomatically fraught.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Feb 13: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which secured a landslide victory in the general elections, Friday reiterated its firm stance on seeking the extradition of ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India to face trial.

"The foreign minister has already persuaded the case for her extradition, and we also support it," Senior BNP leader Salahudin Ahmed said.

"We always press for her extradition according to the law. This is between the foreign ministries of the two countries. We also asked the government of India to please send her back to face trial in Bangladesh," Ahmed underlined.

Ahmed dismissed criticisms about the election's inclusivity after the Awami League was barred due to its suspension and ongoing violence probes.

"People of the country know that this is a very inclusive election. If you like to mention the exclusion of Awami League etc, people have rejected through the mass uprising in Aug 2024," Ahmed underlined.



Romantic proposals a booming business in City of Love

REUTERS

Paris, Feb 13: When Texan Josue Perales brought his girlfriend Kayla Balboa to Paris, she thought it was just a romantic getaway. Instead, he had hired a marriage proposal planning agency to set up a dreamy scene overlooking the Eiffel Tower, complete with white roses and candles, to seek her hand in marriage.

The result? A tearful "yes" from Balboa.

"She's always been mentioning how this is her dream. I would always say, 'no, no,'" Perales told Reuters moments after getting down on one knee. "She wasn't expecting it at all."

Business is booming for marriage proposal planners in Paris, dubbed the "City of Love," with love-struck couples paying thousands of euros for bespoke proposal experiences. For many, Valentine's Day is the busiest of the year.

Proposal packages at Les Entremetteuses (The matchmakers), which curated Perales' engagement, start at 590 euros (\$699.56) for a proposal on the banks of the river Seine with 'Marry Me' letters, rose petals and candles. On average, their clients splurge between 1,500 and 2,000 euros, forking out extra for prime locations, champagne and more elaborate decorations.



Kiss Me in Paris has carved out a niche in the luxury market. It mostly organises highly choreographed proposals in high-end hotels, aboard yachts on the Seine, or in French castles. Its clients will pay up to 100,000 euros

for that magical moment, often full-day experiences.

"To just be able to, in your social circles, say, 'We got engaged in Paris' is great," said Cengiz Ozelsel, co-founder and president of Kiss Me in Paris. "It has prestige; it has cachet."

Ozelsel and his wife, Chantelle Marie Streete, say annual bookings have doubled since 2015 as couples increasingly seek "Instagrammable" moments.

Social media and popular shows like Netflix's "Emily in Paris" and events such as the Paris 2024 Olympics, have boosted the city's global visibility as a proposal hotspot.

A 2023 study by France's

National Centre of Cinema and poster IFOP showed one in 10 tourists decided to visit France after seeing it featured in a film or series, with "Emily in Paris" influencing 38% of respondents.

The 2024 Paris Olympics, a dazzling summertime event that charmed a global audience and showcased the city's landmarks, had also provided a post-Covid boost. Les Entremetteuses founder Pauline Le Tendre said.

For Perales, it was money well spent to take the stress out of setting up his big moment.

"It was so much easier," he said, than organising it all himself.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

■ ARIES

Career decisions and money matters will keep you busy today. And after all the work, you will want to spend some leisure time and take it easy. A leisure trip may materialise, which will put you in high spirits. Ganesha says indulging in group projects will help you make new friends.

■ TAURUS

You will win the heart of your family members today, forecasts Ganesha. Try and delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Job aspirants may look forward to belated success in interviews. Ganesha advises you to take abundant precautions in all critical matters.

■ GEMINI

Your business rivals may compete with you in sales and deals today, warns Ganesha. Care and concern must be the two watchwords in all your dealings. Hostility may come in the way of love. Those spurned in previous romantic liaisons may get a chance to pen a new love story, says Ganesha.

■ CANCER

Today, you may have to do a lot of multi-tasking at work, predicts Ganesha. And you are likely to do it with the dexterity of a juggler. You will finish your pending tasks with ease. You will make seemingly impossible tasks look as simple as blinking. You will do it all without even batting an eyelid.

■ LEO

Get ready to bask in applause. Well, not literally, but Ganesha does foresee you getting that long due recognition today for all the hard work you've put at your workplace. This goes hand-in-hand with the support of your colleagues and the good wishes of your seniors, especially if it is some new project that you are undertaking.

■ VIRGO

A single-headed mission to be the master of your destiny will drive you ahead. Your management skills will be immaculate, and the fire to succeed will get you up and running. Your skill in the managerial post will be accentuated by your quick decision-making and superior analytical ability, says Ganesha.

■ LIBRA

Ganesha says that you shall be immersed in successfully completing all your remaining work today. Whatever work you undertake today you shall be able to do it to your best capability and successfully and your work ability will be praiseworthy.

■ SCORPIO

Friends in influential positions will be of much help today. You may plunge into a new business venture without much ado. Appreciation for your abilities and efforts will fly in thick and fast. Your reputation is sky-rocketing among the opposite sex.

■ SAGITTARIUS

Dressed to kill – this phrase is enough to describe you today, says Ganesha. Decked up from head to toe in chic attire and classy jewellery, you make a bold statement. Like a magnet, you will attract attention at a party. Don't get surprised if your list of admirers becomes longer.

■ CAPRICORN

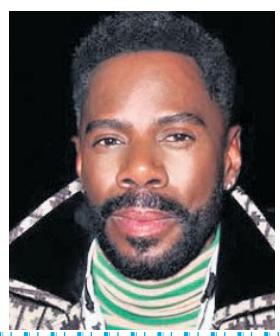
If wasteful expenditure has left your bank balance a tad below what you had anticipated, you will have reasons to rejoice today, says Ganesha. Cash inflow – and a substantial amount of it – is likely and will make you feel nice about your finances. Work will go on as usual.

■ AQUARIUS

Lady Luck gazes lovingly upon you today! Bosses are pleased, colleagues are happy, and this makes work seem like leisure. You may want to get in touch with old friends who have moved far away.

■ PISCES

A good day for those looking for romantic liaisons, says Ganesha. You will seek the company of your sweetheart to fight feelings of solitude and boredom today. Those who are single ought to strike gold, considering how Lady Luck will be grinning at the efforts you make to win over your love.



COLMAN DOMINGO JOINS AN INNOCENT GIRL CAST

Colman Domingo teams up with Kerry Washington and James Marsden in *An Innocent Girl*, directed by Jaume Collet-Serra for Netflix. Also starring Chloe East, the psychological thriller follows a young woman lured by a powerful DC couple into a perilous world of sex, power, and murder

MARGOT ROBBIE CALLS HERSELF 'TERRIBLE' COOK

Hollywood actress Margot Robbie feels she is a "terrible" cook. The *Barbie* star opened up about her lack of ability in the kitchen as she spoke with singer-songwriter Charli XCX. The actress said that she leaves all culinary duties to her husband Tom Ackerley because he's an "unbelievable cook"



Shanaya's relationship blues



Mumbai: Actor Shanaya Kapoor recently opened up about a painful personal experience involving a former relationship. Speaking on a podcast, the actor revealed that her then-boyfriend had been messaging multiple women while they were on an overseas vacation together. The truth came to light unexpectedly when she used his phone to book a cab after her own battery died. While doing so, she noticed messages from his former girlfriend and later discovered similar chats with four other women.

Shanaya recalled feeling shocked and heartbroken as she scrolled through the conversations. She immediately took screenshots and reached out to her close friends for support and advice. Among them was Ananya Panday, who encouraged her to walk away from the relationship. However, being in a foreign country made it difficult for her to leave immediately.

When she confronted her partner, he reportedly dismissed the chats as harmless and claimed nothing physical had happened. Shanaya described the incident as "emotional cheating," admitting it deeply affected her. She also shared that he later tried to make amends by gifting her expensive earrings, which she jokingly called "guilty earrings."

On the professional front, Shanaya and Adarsh Gourav's film *Tu Yaar Main*, has hit the big screens. While she remains focused on her career, her honest reflections on trust and emotional betrayal have resonated with many fans online, earning her praise for her openness and relatability.

AGENCIES



Mumbai: In a recent interview, Ananya Panday reflected on her evolving journey in the film industry and shared her vision for the next five years. Emphasising that she is still at the beginning of her career, the actress expressed a strong desire to explore new genres, portray diverse characters, and collaborate with a wider range of filmmakers. According to her, there remains much to learn, experience, and accomplish, and she is eager to continue growing as a performer.

Ananya, who made her debut with *Student of the Year 2*, has since built a varied filmography that includes projects like *Gehraiyan* and *Dream Girl 2*. These films showcase her ability to balance commercial entertainers with emotionally driven narratives. However, she believes there is still significant untapped potential in her career and remains keen to move beyond familiar roles.

Beyond professional ambitions, Ananya highlighted the deeper motivation behind her work. She spoke about the power of cinema to influence audiences and create meaningful connections through storytelling. Over the past year, her growing range of projects reflects a conscious effort to experiment and evolve. While she chose not to reveal specific future plans, her comments suggest a focused determination to reinvent herself and pursue long-term creative growth.

Manushi on fitness evolution



Mumbai: Former beauty queen and actress Manushi Chhillar says she no longer sees the weighing scale as a marker of fitness, adding that she is currently heavier than ever before but also stronger.

Manushi had treated her fans to an "Ask Me Anything" session on Instagram, where a user asked her about how she manages her weight. Manushi shared that numbers do not define her idea of being fit.

"I actually don't measure my weight as a parameter of fitness. I am actually heavier than I have ever been, but I am also stronger, so I am guessing that's more muscle," she answered.

The actress also described herself as a complete morning person, though her profession has forced her to adapt.

"I am 100 percent a morning person but my work has turned me into a night owl," she mentioned.

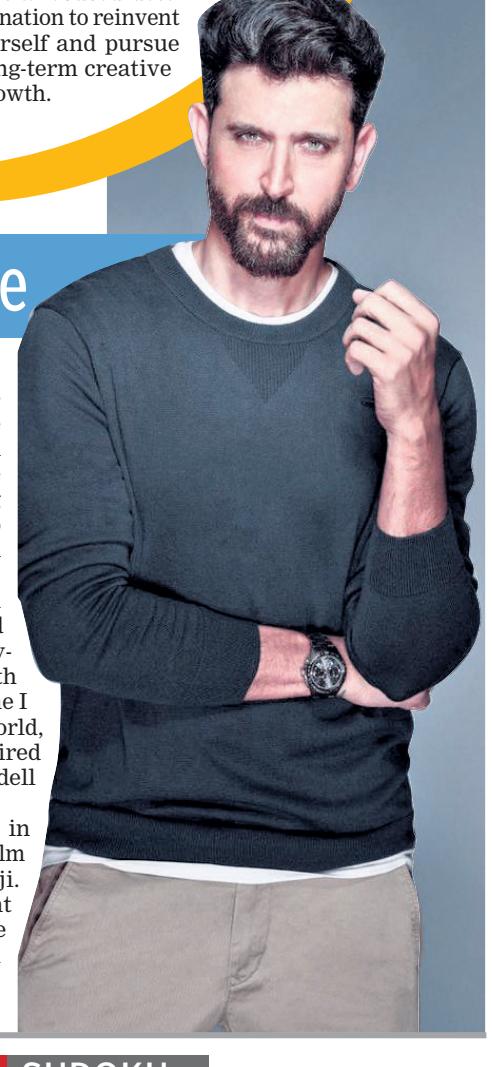
Manushi also replied to a user who asked whether she lives alone in Mumbai.

"I actually don't live alone. When I moved to Bombay, I made my family move with me. So we are one big happy home," she said.

Talking about fitness, Manushi said she began training in boxing and mixed martial arts three years ago for a film, and the practice has now become one of her favourite workouts.

IANS

Hrithik pens reflective note



Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan wrote a profound reflective note, drawing inspiration from American poet and environmentalist Wendell Berry, and spoke about change, freedom and self-realisation.

The actor took to X where he shared a string of images of himself surrounded by nature, including snow-capped mountains, a serene lake and a clear blue sky. He posted a poetic note expressing an awakening to self and nature.

"It is upon me now, in front of me. The unmistakable essence of myself in the things I see. Change is coming. Long overdue. The world is churning anew," Hrithik said.

Reflecting on transformation

and inner liberation, he added: "In the presence of still water, in the wild things around me. I see the nakedness shedding its covers coming out to be free. Free.. like wild things like me."

The note concluded on a contemplative tone: And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. And for a time I rest in the grace of the world, Finally I am free. Inspired by the works of – Wendell Berry."

Hrithik was last seen in *War 2*, an action-thriller film directed by Ayan Mukerji. It is the sixth instalment in the YRF Spy Universe and sequel to the 2019 film *War*.

IANS

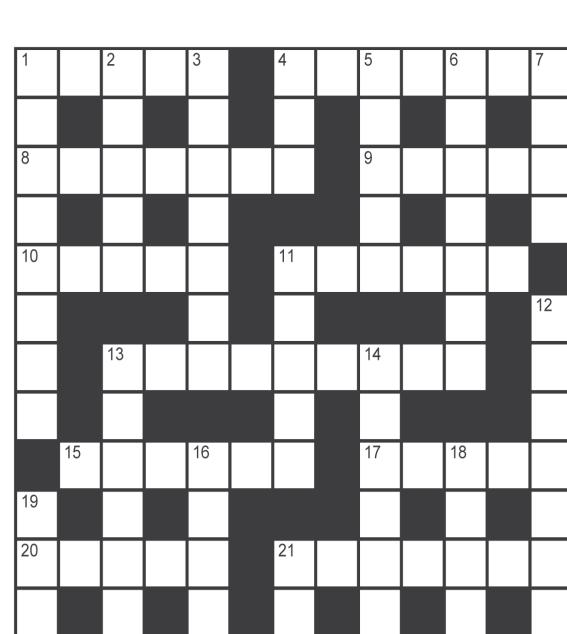
SUDOKU

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.

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

FUN POST

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Strength
- 4 Collapse
- 8 Dress feature
- 9 Spoil (2,3)
- 10 Eyeball benders (2,3)
- 11 Tear into
- 13 At once
- 15 Eskimo huts
- 17 Develops
- 20 Geologic period
- 22 Beasts of burden
- 23 English Channel feeder

Down

- 1 Chinese game (3-5)
- 2 Kind of ray
- 3 Tornado
- 4 Stage signal
- 5 Prods
- 6 Put into print
- 7 Small whirlpool
- 11 Flu symptoms
- 12 Liquorice-flavoured liqueur
- 13 Warning signal on board
- 14 Entrance
- 16 Earthy colour
- 18 Intense hatred
- 19 "Beowulf" beverage
- 21 Romaine lettuce

CROSSWORD

F	O	R	S	A	L	E	R	E	A	M	L	E	M	R	A
O	U	M	X	R											
L	O	N	G	A	M	E	R	I	T	E	A				
G	A	T	E	S	P	L	A	I	S	E	D				
A	S	T	A	L	E	C	K	S	T	O	T				

SOLUTIONS

F	O	R	S	A	L	E	R	E	A	M	L	E	M	R	A
O	U	M	X	R											
L	O	N	G	A	M	E	R	I	T	E	A				
G	A	T	E	S	P	L	A	I	S	E	D				
A	S	T	A	L	E	C	K	S	T	O	T				

2	7	4	9	8	5	6	1	3							
8	6	3	2	7	1	4	5	9							
9	1	5	4	3	6	2	8	7			</td				

Former Union min Kanhu Lenka dies

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Senior Congress leader and former Union minister Kanhu Charan Lenka died here Friday.

He was 86, and is survived by a son and a daughter.

Lenka, who was suffering from old age-related ailments, died of cardiac arrest at a private hospital around 9.45am, his son Satyabrata Lenka said.

Born March 2, 1939 in Cuttack district, Kanhu was elected to the Assembly from Choudwar seat four times – in 1971, 1974, 1980 and 1995. He was also a Rajya Sabha member and the Union Minister of State (MoS) for Railways.

As MoS for Railways, his contribution to infrastructure and connectivity initiatives for Odisha was remarkable, senior Congress leader Jayadev Jena said.

CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, OPCC chief Bhakta Charan Das and others expressed condolences on Kanhu's demise.



FOR A CAUSE: Volunteers from 'Mercy For Animals India' distribute roses during an awareness campaign titled 'Choose Love; Choose Vegan' on the eve of Valentine's Day, in front of the Victoria Memorial, in Kolkata, Friday

Manipur violence: SC seeks CBI status report in 2 weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Feb 13: The Supreme Court Friday asked the CBI, which is probing 11 FIRs related to the 2023 Manipur ethnic violence cases, to submit a status report within two weeks.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Jaymaly Bagchi also mooted the idea that instead of the SC, the jurisdictional Manipur High Court, which has a new chief justice, or the Gauhati High Court or both monitor the trials and related developments in the violence cases.

It also asked the Central and Manipur governments to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Justice Gita Mittal committee on rehabilitation and welfare of the victims of the ethnic violence in the state.

The court-appointed committee comprising Justice Mittal, the former chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir, and Justices Shalini P Joshi, a former judge of the Bombay High Court, and Asha Menon, an ex-judge of the Delhi High Court, have so far submitted several reports on measures to rehabilitate the victims.

More than 200 people have been killed, several hundred injured and thousands displaced since ethnic violence first broke out in Manipur May 3, 2023, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

At the outset, senior advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for one of

the female victims who passed away recently, said that she be substituted by her mother and accused that the CBI did not even inform her that a chargesheet in her rape case was filed.

Grover said the Kuki woman died last month from an illness allegedly linked to the trauma she suffered after being gang-raped. "I have accessed the trial court report. The main accused are not appearing. The CBI is not present. The casu- alness with which it is happening is shocking," she alleged. To this, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said, "Nobody can oppose what Grover is saying. The victim's rights cannot be affected."

"Let the CBI file a status report," the CJI said, suggesting, "The monitoring part we can entrust to the (Manipur) High Court's Chief Justice." When lawyer Nizam Pasha said that the Gauhati High Court is already monitoring the trials, the bench said it was a 'perfectly alright' order passed keeping in mind the surcharged atmosphere in Manipur.

The CJI said that either the ju-

risdictional high court at Manipur or the Gauhati High Court or both can monitor the cases and asked the counsel to take instructions on this and come back in two weeks.

Mehta then said that the CBI could answer the issues raised by Vrinda Grover in the SC or in the Manipur High Court, but the present situation in Manipur was peaceful, with regular movement of people, and that the local environment could be better appreciated by the high court.

"We can ask the Chief Justices of Manipur and Guwahati High Courts to coordinate and see how victims' statements need to be handled and how they can be recorded," the CJI said.

"In view of the fact that a new Chief Justice has taken charge in the Manipur High Court and that to have an effective mechanism for coordination between Gauhati and Manipur High Courts, let there be instructions regarding the same," the CJI added. The CJI said that instructions were required on the aspect of whether two Chief Justices could be entrusted with 'varied monitoring', following which a suitable mechanism could be evolved.

He said, "Let the CBI file a status report on the application of (Vrinda) Grover. Also, victims must be provided with free legal aid in these situations. We will order that if legal aid counsels (LACs) are not available on account of the earlier charged atmosphere, LACs from the Guwahati bar can go."

The matter has been posted for further proceedings February 26.

Secrets of whiskers on elephant's trunk unlocked

An elephant's trunk is essential for most aspects of the animal's life, from interacting with its environment and with other elephants to eating and drinking. And the roughly 1,000 whiskers covering the trunk are central to its utility, highly specialised for facilitating tactile feedback.

New research is providing the best understanding to date of the properties of these whiskers, which give the world's largest land animals a keen sense of touch that makes up for their thick skin and relatively poor eyesight. It shows that an elephant's whiskers possess qualities setting them apart from those of other mammals such as mice and rats, from hollow interior chambers to differing levels of stiffness along the shaft.



their way through their surroundings with their trunks, searching for food and exchanging social touch," said Andrew Schulz, a postdoctoral researcher in biomechanics at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Germany and lead author of the study published this week in the journal *Science*. "Each whisker on their trunk acts as a tactile sensory organ, extending their tactile range."

called mechanoreceptors located at the whisker's base.

An elephant's whiskers do not grow back if damaged or lost so it is crucial they can withstand the physical abuse they experience as the animal finds and eats up to 200 kg of food daily. The researchers used scanning technology to determine the external shape and internal structure of the whiskers of Asian elephants.

The whiskers were found to be oblong in cross-section, akin to a blade of grass, with hollow chambers called tubules inside at the base, like those inside the horns of bighorn sheep.

Previous research has shown that rat and mouse whiskers have a circular cross-section, are almost completely solid and have approximately the same stiffness throughout.

REUTERS

ELECTORAL TRUSTS

BJP received 82.52% of ₹3,826cr in FY25: ADR

at least 95 per cent of contributions received in a year.

The ruling BJP received ₹3,157.6549 crore, accounting for 82.52 per cent of the total funds distributed by the electoral trusts. The Indian National Congress (INC) received ₹298.7795 crore or 7.81 per cent, while the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) got ₹102 crore (2.67 per cent). Nineteen other parties together received

₹267.9178 crore.

Among the trusts, Prudent Electoral Trust disbursed the highest amount – ₹2,668.4647 crore – to 15 political parties, followed by Progressive Electoral Trust, which donated ₹914.97 crore to 10 parties. The ADR said 228 corporate or business houses contributed ₹3,636.819 crore, while 99 individuals donated ₹187.6227 crore during the year. The top 10 donors for ₹1,908.8621 crore – nearly 49.89 per cent of the total contributions.

The INC received ₹298.7795 crore (7.81%), while the AITC got ₹102 crore (2.67%). Nineteen other parties together received ₹267.9178 crore

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In its latest report analysing contribution documents submitted to the Election Commission (EC), the NGO said 10 of the 20 registered electoral trusts declared receiving donations during FY25, while five did not have their reports available on the poll panel's website even three months after the deadline.

According to the ADR, a total of ₹3,826.3417 crore was received from corporations and individuals during the financial year and ₹3,826.3522 crore distributed to various political parties, in keeping with rules that mandate trusts to disburse

borewell had been dug for the hospital's new construction work and was left open. The toddler accidentally fell into the hole, prompting locals to alert police and Fire Services.

According to locals, a

borewell had been dug to the spot and launched a rescue operation. The child was pulled out and taken to the DHH, where doctors declared her dead.

Police have begun an investigation into the incident.

Toddler falls into borewell in Puri, dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Feb 13: A one-and-a-half-year-old girl died after falling into an open borewell in Puri Friday, officials said.

The child, daughter of Ajay Nayak of Narendra Kona, Mangala Sahi area,

had come to her maternal uncle's house in Raybaghadur Lane. The incident occurred around midday while she was playing near the site of an under-construction building at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here.

According to locals, a

services department rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. The child was pulled out and taken to the DHH, where doctors declared her dead.

Police have begun an investigation into the incident.



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HC raps state over lone food testing lab

The laboratory currently caters to nearly 4.70 crore population of the state, says the HC, adding the existing infrastructure appears grossly inadequate to meet the growing demands of effective enforcement, timely analysis, and quality control

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Expressing serious concern over 'weak' infrastructure of food safety mechanism in the state, the Orissa High Court has summoned the secretaries of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) and Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) departments to inform the court about the apparent lack of institutional response in the state.

A single bench of Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, in an order pronounced Thursday, expressed serious apprehension over the food safety norms.

"This court is constrained to note, with deep concern, that there exists only a single food testing laboratory in the entire state, headed by one Chief Food Analyst and assisted by a limited number of analytical chemists. The laboratory currently caters to nearly 4.70 crore population of the state."

Such an arrangement can scarcely be considered commensurate with the statutory



obligation cast upon the authorities to ensure food safety and safeguarding public health, the court said.

"The existing infrastructure appears grossly inadequate to meet the growing demands of effective enforcement, timely analysis, and quality control," Justice Panigrahi stated in the order.

The court said the matter calls for urgent attention. The order said, "It is imperative that the state takes expeditious steps to substantially augment the infrastructure by establishing well-equipped food testing

laboratories in every district. Such labs should be supported by sufficient and qualified technical manpower," it added.

The court directed the H&FW and FS&CW secretaries to remain personally present before it February 24 at 2pm through virtual mode and apprise the court of the prevailing state of affairs on the food safety front.

The top officials are supposed to list the reasons for the existing infrastructure deficiencies and the apparent lack of adequate institutional response on the part of the state.

Singer Geeta Patnaik in hosp after brain stroke



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Feb 13: Noted Odia playback singer Geeta Patnaik was admitted to a private hospital here Friday after she suffered a brain stroke, her family said. Her condition is stated to be very critical and she is undergoing treatment at the ICU, her husband Gopal Batra told reporters. "The doctors have not given any assurance on her recovery or survival as of now. Her blood pressure shot up and caused several clots in the brain," Batra said. Another relative of Patnaik said she is on ventilator support and is under constant observation of neurosurgeons.

Patnaik developed uneasiness while attending a literary meeting in Bhubaneswar Thursday night and was rushed to Capital Hospital around 1 am. She was shifted to the private hospital in Cuttack around 3 am. Geeta Patnaik, a co-singer of veteran Odia singer Akshaya Mohanty, had lent her voice to many superhit old Odia songs such as 'Phur Kina Udigala Bani' of 'Jajabara' movie.

Dy CM: Odisha leads with SOP for women-friendly farm machinery

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Odisha is the only state which has prepared a standard operating procedure (SOP) to manufacture women-friendly farm machinery, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said here Friday.

He was speaking at the inception workshop on 'Institutionalising the Gender Responsive Cell: Framework and Roadmap'.

The Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department, in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and with support from the Gates Foundation, organised the workshop here.

It is worth noting that the state government had inaugurated the Gender Responsive Cell in November at Krushi Bhavan, underscoring the state's commitment to advancing women-led development and inclusive agricultural systems.

Addressing the gathering, Singh Deo said, "When we launched the cell last year, it signalled the state's commitment to inclusive and evidence-led agricultural reform. We are proud to share that Odisha is the only state which has developed an SOP to manufacture women-friendly farm machinery."



Women and Child Development (W&CD) department secretary Mrinalini Darswal emphasised this need for interdepartmental convergence.

"Women empowerment cannot be addressed in silos. The gender responsive cell creates space for convergence across agriculture, women and child development, and data systems, which is essential for translating women-led development into measurable outcomes," she said. Agriculture & Farm

ers' Empowerment department secretary Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav described the Gender Responsive Cell as a governance reform. He said, "The GRC represents a shift toward accountable and evidence-driven agricultural governance."

Highlighting the role of research and academia, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology Vice Chancellor Pravat Kumar Roul said gender-responsive agricultural transformation must be grounded in rigorous evidence and continuous learning.

Institutions like the GRC can serve as vital bridges between research, policy, and practice, he said.

Paradip Port ranks No-1 with record cargo handling

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Paradip Port has reportedly achieved a record cargo handling of 150.41 million tonne in 2024-25 fiscal, ranking as India's No-1 major port.

With a rated capacity of 289 million tonne per annum (MTPA), industry-leading productivity, and a provisional net surplus of ₹1,860 crore, the port continues to set national benchmarks while maintaining the lowest vessel and cargo charges among major ports, the Paradip Port Authority (PPA) officials said Friday.

Earlier Friday, Chief Secretary Anu Garg visited the PPA to review its operations and long-term expansion plans.

During the interaction, the Chief Secretary outlined Odisha's ambitious economic roadmap targeting USD 500 billion by 2036 and USD 1.5 trillion by 2047. She emphasised the need for double-digit growth driven by exports, shipbuilding, and port-led development, high-

lighting the state's coastline as a strategic advantage. She underscored the importance of the "Paradip Port 2.0" vision, including capacity expansion beyond 500 MTPA, Western Dock deepening, and development of a dedicated green hydrogen berth.

Discussions also covered the proposed 150 MTPA Bahuda Port in Ganjam district and a 1.2 million GT capacity shipbuilding and ship repair cluster north of the Mahanadi in Kendrapara district. These projects, to be developed through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) between the state government and PPA, are expected to significantly strengthen the state's maritime economy.

Development of a cruise terminal at Puri was also discussed, with emphasis on priority implementation. Garg stressed the integrated development of Paradip alongside industrial growth in PCPIR, the Plastic Park, AMNS, and the green hydrogen hub, supported by industrial townships, housing, tourism infrastructure, and urban amenities.

State officials visit Chennai to study affordable housing, urban habitat

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: A delegation of the Odisha government undertook a visit to Chennai to study affordable housing and urban habitat initiatives supported by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), said an official statement issued here Friday.

Led by Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department's Additional Chief Secretary Usha Padhee, the team focused on understanding proven models of affordable housing delivery, institutional strengthening, innovative financing frameworks and sustainable urban habitat development being implemented in Tamil Nadu, it said.

During the visit, Padhee, along with officers of the Odisha Urban Housing Mission (OUHM), held detailed interactions with senior officials of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board and the

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority to gain insights into policy frameworks, project structuring and implementation strategies.

The delegation was briefed on the Housing and Habitat Development Project, supported by the World Bank with an outlay of approximately USD 200 million, it said.

The visit also covered the ADB-supported inclusive, resilient and sustainable housing for the urban poor, with an estimated investment of USD 150 million, aimed at developing nearly 6,000 housing units across multiple locations.

Later in the day, Padhee visited IIT Madras, where she delivered a lecture titled 'The Intersection of Technology, Policy, and Public Service'.

Padhee said that insights gained from Tamil Nadu's experience and academic engagement would contribute meaningfully towards shaping inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development strategies in Odisha.

Caught between romance & tradition

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Starting with candlelight dinners at premium hotels to quiet strolls by Bindu Sagar in City, Valentine's Day here in Bhubaneswar brings festive joys and celebrates love.



Well-known hotels in City reported brisk bookings, offering themed menus and candlelight dinners. Nightlife spots hosted Valentine-themed nights, drawing young crowds eager for energetic celebrations. For others, quieter alternatives — cafe meetups, creative workshops, and visits to Toshali Mela — blended romance with culture.

Others advocate balance. Bibhuti Bhusan Mohapatra, a young political leader said, "Love cannot be confined to a single date," noting that it deepens trust beyond the calendar. Safety during the day remains a concern due to protests by certain groups which in the past prompted temporary public park closures. While Odisha Police to maintain regular vigil, some residents still feel uneasy. "Definitely not a safe space for couples and normal people. Peaceful protests would have been better for everyone," Mishra said. Senior police officials clarified that no extraordinary arrangements were made, emphasising that the City remains under control.

Contractors threaten to halt work from February 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

ciation (AOCWA), and the All Odisha Electrical Contractors' Association (AOECA) — representing around 70,000 contractors — have formed a joint platform called the United Forum (Militi Mahamancha) to press for urgent redressal of long pending issues.

Led by Joint Forum convener Anil Kumar Mahalik, the forum submitted an eight point

memorandum to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, setting a February 18 deadline for government action.

Key demands include withdrawal of Works department Circular No. 07764600022025173, regular annual revision of Schedule of Rates with at least a 15% increase, raising the threshold for short tender notices from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, and imple-

mentation of a uniform Standard Bidding Document (SBD) with an arbitration clause across departments. They also sought publication of functional mines in tender documents, abolition of daily penalties during time extensions, settlement of pending price escalation bills (2012-2019), and transfer of WAMIS management to the Works department's Procurement Cell.

Jetstream tech: State enters new era of limb-saving care

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: In what is claimed to be a landmark medical breakthrough, SUM Ultimate Medicare has successfully performed Odisha's first below-knee advanced endovascular atherectomy using the latest Jetstream technology — saving a patient's leg from imminent amputation.

The pioneering procedure marks a major advancement in minimally invasive vascular treatment in the state and offers new hope to patients suffering from critical limb conditions, a release stated Friday.

The breakthrough procedure was carried out by Sambit Kumar Pattanayak, consultant in Interventional Radiology.

The patient was suffering from critical limb ischemia caused by severe blockages in the arteries below the knee — a life-threatening condition that

can lead to non-healing ulcers, gangrene, and eventual limb loss if left untreated.

Explaining the clinical significance, Pattanayak said that patients with critical limb ischemia often have limited treatment options, particularly when blockages occur in small arteries below the knee.

With advanced atherectomy technology, doctors can now safely remove plaque and clots, restore blood circulation

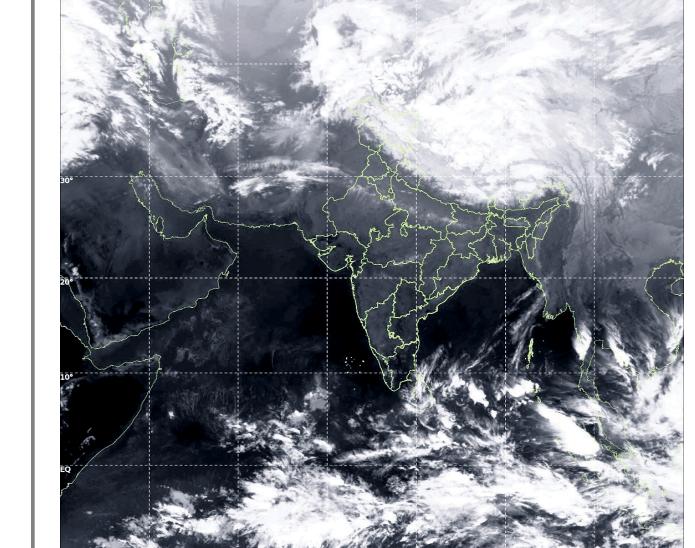
without open surgery, and significantly reduce the risk of amputation. The minimally invasive procedure not only improves limb-salvage outcomes but also reduces pain, shortens hospital stays, and speeds up recovery time. This milestone signals a new era in limb-saving treatment in Odisha, offering renewed hope to patients suffering from advanced peripheral artery disease and critical limb ischemia.

Manojranjan Nayak, Founder President of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University and SUM Ultimate Medicare, said the institution remains committed to bringing world-class healthcare innovations closer to the community. He noted that the introduction of below-knee endovascular atherectomy reflects the organisation's dedication to advanced, patient-centric care that saves both lives and limbs.

WEATHER

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	90.69 ▲ 0.06	SENSEX	82626.76 ▼ 1048.16	GOLD	₹155,300 ▲ 2464
EURO	107.59 ▼ 0.18	NIFTY	25471.10 ▼ 336.10	SILVER	₹244,830 ▲ 8395



Max Temp	32.7°	CTC	29.4°
Min Temp	16.7°	FORECAST	Dry weather likely to prevail
Humidity	68%	77%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Red banners surface in Rayagada district



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada/Kalyansinghpur, Feb 13: A week after 15 Maoists, including top leaders Nikhil and Indu, surrendered before police, banners purportedly put up by the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) surfaced at three locations in Rayagada district Friday, casting doubt on claims that the area has become largely free of Maoist activity.

The banners were found at Dhumaguda bus stop under Baising panchayat on the outskirts of Rayagada town, at Paikapada under Chandili police limits, and at Kumbharaguda junction under Budaguda panchayat in Kalyansinghpur block.

Police had earlier expressed

confidence that the district was moving towards being Maoist-free following last Friday's surrender of 15 cadres, including senior leaders. However, the fresh appearance of banners has indicated continued presence of the outlawed outfit in the region.

The banners, bearing the

name of the CPI (Maoist), carried similar messages. They alleged that former Maoist leaders Sabyasachi Panda, Azad, Uday and Nikhil were not tribals and had recruited tribal youths into the movement, subjecting them to exploitation. The banners also claimed that CPI (Maoist) state secretary Megha Jani and Dombai Majhi were prepared to

respond to such allegations.

The outfit further warned companies operating in the KBK division, including Utkal Alumina and Aditya Birla, to refrain from exploiting tribal communities.

Local residents spotted the banner at Dhumaguda bus stop early Friday morning. On receiving information, personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and a bomb disposal squad reached the spot, removed the banner and launched a search operation in the area. Additional forces were deployed as a precautionary measure.

Police from Sheshkhali station also reached the site, registered a case and began an investigation. Banners found at Paikapada and Kumbharaguda junction were seized.

Speaking at a press conference, Additional Superintendent of Police Amulya Dhar said an investigation was underway to ascertain whether the banners were genuine or planted by miscreants. He appealed to the public not to panic.

While police maintain that the Maoist organisation has weakened in the district following the recent surrenders, the fresh banners have triggered concern and unease among residents.

This comes at a time when the Central government has resolved to completely eradicate Left-wing extremism from the country by March 31.

2 held for exploiting migrant workers

Berhampur: Odisha Police has arrested two persons, including a man from Tamil Nadu, for allegedly exploiting three migrant workers from Ganjam district after trafficking them, police said Friday. The accused were identified as Khiro Tandi (28) of Palnagar in Bolangir district, currently residing at Mangalam in Tamil Nadu's Tirupur district, and Karthi (24) of Nagaramath in Tamil Nadu. The duo was arrested from Karumathampatti in Coimbatore after the victims were rescued.

They were brought to Berhampur on remand and produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class Court in Digapahandi, Berhampur SP Sarvana Vivek M said. Inquiry revealed that the accused lured the migrant labourers from a railway station in Tamil Nadu with promises of higher wages, but exploited them by denying adequate food and wages and confining them in a room in Tirupur district, the SP said. They also allegedly assaulted the workers. The victims were identified as B Budu Reddy (32), B Purna Reddy (30) and S Dhoja Reddy (31), all residents of Laxmi Narayapur under Digapahandi block. They were rescued by a police team of Digapahandi with the help of Tamil Nadu Police from Nagapattinam February 11.

The accused, identified as Surendra Pradhan, 39, was posted in the excise intelligence wing in Berhampur. He is a native of Hansumurkapatra in Jharsuguda district.

According to police, Pradhan befriended the woman on Instagram about six months ago. The acquaintance reportedly developed into a relationship. He allegedly lured her with a promise of marriage and took intimate photographs with her.

AMRIT BHARAT SCHEME

Work underway at 57 Odisha stations

Bhubaneswar: Redevelopment work at 57 railway stations across Odisha is progressing under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the Union Railway Ministry informed the Parliament. Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi sought details on the redevelopment of Balasore railway station and other stations in his constituency under the scheme. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said redevelopment of Balasore station is progressing at a fast pace. He added that the design process is consultative, incorporating suggestions from MPs and public feedback.

According to the minister's reply, 57 stations in Odisha, including

Balasore and Jaleswar, have been

identified for development under the scheme. Nationwide, more than 1,300 stations are being modernised under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme to provide improved and modern passenger amenities.

state

ASI arrested for blackmailing woman with intimate photos

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 13: A police assistant sub-inspector (ASI) has been arrested on charges of blackmailing a woman by threatening to circulate her intimate photographs on social media.

The accused, identified as Surendra Pradhan, 39, was posted in the excise intelligence wing in Berhampur. He is a native of Hansumurkapatra in Jharsuguda district.

According to police, Pradhan befriended the woman on Instagram about six months ago. The acquaintance reportedly developed into a relationship. He allegedly lured her with a promise of marriage and took intimate photographs with her.



Later, he threatened to make the photographs viral and demanded money from the woman. Under pressure, the woman transferred ₹40,000 to him

through PhonePe February 11. Despite assurances of marriage, Pradhan allegedly cheated her, following which the victim lodged a complaint at the Cyber and Economic Offences Police Station.

Acting on the complaint, police registered a case (13/26), arrested the accused and seized two mobile phones from his possession. He was later produced before a court. Further investigation is underway.

Driver killed, 9 pilgrims hurt as bus rams into overbridge wall

Balasore: The driver of an Andhra Pradesh-bound bus carrying pilgrims from West Bengal died and nine passengers suffered injuries when the vehicle rammed into the wall of an overbridge on National Highway 16 in Balasore district Friday, police said. The accident took place at Bahana Bazaar in the early hours, with the driver suspected to have dozed off while driving, a police officer said. The impact of the collision was so severe that the driver was thrown out of the vehicle through the smashed windscreen and fell from the overpass onto the road below, dying on the spot, Khatapada police station Inspector-In-Charge Anurag Mohanty said, adding the deceased hailed from Andhra Pradesh. The front portion of the bus was severely damaged, he said. At least 40 passengers were on board the bus. Locals rescued the passengers before the arrival of police and fire service personnel. The nine injured persons were taken to Khatapada Community Health Centre.

Man sentenced to life for sodomising, killing 4-yr-old boy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 13: A special court in Ganjam district Friday sentenced a 26-year-old man to life imprisonment for sodomising and murdering a 4-year-old boy at Dharakote in 2023.

Special POCSO Judge Pranati Pattnaik convicted Srikantha alias Sukanta Sethi, a resident of the Dharakote police station area, and awarded him life imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of ₹20,000, with an additional year of rigorous imprisonment (RI) in default of payment.

The judge directed the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to provide financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to the victim's parents.

According to the prosecution, the incident occurred January 24, 2023. The child was playing outside his house when the accused allegedly lured him to his rooftop with chocolates. When the boy did not return till evening, his family began searching for him.

After getting information from locals, they reached the accused's rooftop and found the child lying in a pool of blood. He was taken to Dharakote community health centre, where doctors declared him dead.

Police registered a case (24/23) and arrested Sethi the next day. The investigating officer, Mamata Kumari Samanta, later filed a chargesheet in court. During trial, 17 witnesses were examined. The accused, lodged in Berhampur Circle Jail since his arrest, was produced before the court when the judgment was pronounced, said Special Public Prosecutor Narayan Panda.

POSSESSION NOTICE For Immovable Property

UCO BANK

Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the UCO Bank, Bhanjanagar Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantor to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, Bhanjanagar Branch for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

BHANJANAGAR BRANCH/ Name and Address of the Borrowers/Guarantor	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Somanath Panda, 2) Mrs. Rinku Panda, Both are At: Gangapur, Bhanjanagar, Dist: Ganjam, PIN-761123 / Guarantor: Mrs. Manjula Sahu, W/o: Mr. Subash Chandra Sahu, At: Balisira, PS: Aska, Dist: Ganjam-761115	₹ 9,34,442.33 as on 30.09.2025 + interest & other charges thereon	07.11.2025 / 10.02.2026	All that part & parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.: 942/484, Plot No.: 1754, Area: Ac. 0.019Dec., Mouza: Balisira, P.S.: Aska, Dist.: Ganjam, Property in the name of Mrs. Manjula Sahu, W/o Mr. Subash Chandra Sahu and Mrs. Rinku Sahu, W/o: Mr. Somanath Panda, Bounded by North: Pramila Rath, South: Road, East: Upendra Rath, West: Home site of Prafulla Rath
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Somanath Panda, 2) Mrs. Rinku Panda, W/o: Mr. Somanath Panda, Both are At: Gangapur, Bhanjanagar, Dist: Ganjam, PIN - 761123	₹ 19,29,623/- as on 30.09.2025 + interest & other charges thereon	07.11.2025 / 10.02.2026	All that part & parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.: 943/394, Plot No.: 6/2013, Area: Ac. 0.021Dec., Mouza: Jilundi, P.S.: Bhanjanagar, Dist: Ganjam, Property in the name of Mrs. Rinku Panda, Bounded by North: Drain, South: Road, East: Land Seller Santosh Kumar Palo, West: Home site of Rajalaxmi Choudhury
Borrower: Irshad Mohamed, S/o: Late Amir Mohamed, At: Bata Lane Street, Bhanjanagar, Dist.: Ganjam, PIN-761126	₹ 17,69,018.20 as on 30.01.2024 + interest & other charges thereon	18.11.2024 / 10.02.2026	All that part & parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.: 2359/670, Plot No.: 2034, Area: Ac. 0.039Dec., Mouza: Bhanjanagar, P.S.: Bhanjanagar, Dist: Ganjam, Property in the name of Irshad Mohamed, Bounded by North: Plot of Mohammad Iqbal, South: Plot of M. Krishna Rao, East: NAC Road, West: NAC Road
Place : Bhubaneswar Date : 13.02.2026			Authorised Officer UCO Bank

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LTD. (Refineries Division) PARADIP REFINERY



Notification for Engagement of 342 Apprentices in IOCL, Paradip Refinery

Date: 12.02.2026

Advertisement No: PDR/HR/03/Apprentices-25

Paradip Refinery, one of the Refining Units of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, one of the largest commercial undertakings in India and a Fortune "Global 500" Company, as a measure of Skill Building Initiative for the Nation, invites applications from candidates for engagement as Apprentices under Apprentices Act, 1961/1973 (as amended) in various Trades/ Disciplines at its refinery located at Paradip, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha.

Age requirement: 18 years to 24 years as on 31-01-2026. Reservation of seats will be as per Presidential Directives/Govt. Guidelines.

Detailed common advertisement along with reservation, prescribed educational qualification requirement and other eligibility criteria/parameters is available on the website www.iocl.com.

HOW TO APPLY : Candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria for a trade/discipline, may visit the website www.iocl.com, go to 'What's New' > go to Engagement of Apprentices at Paradip Refinery - 2025 (II) > Click on "Detailed advertisement" (to refer to the Advertisement) > Click on "Click here to Register/Apply on NAPS/NATS" (to register/apply against opportunities) > Click on "Click here to submit additional information on Microsoft forms" (to fill the form). Those meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may submit their applications through the on-line application process only which shall require completion of BOTH STEPS as indicated below:

- **STEP I :** Registration on NAPS/NATS portal and Application to Opportunities notified on NAPS/NATS portal
- **STEP II :** Filling up additional details on MS forms

Candidates must have their own valid e-mail id, mobile no. and a valid & active Apprentice Registration/Enrolment Number registered on NAPS/NATS portal.

Upon completion of the apprenticeship period, the Corporation shall have NO obligation to offer employment to such apprentices NOR can an Apprentice claim right for employment on the grounds of completion of Apprenticeship.

Important dates to remember

DATE OF OPENING OF ONLINE APPLICATION IN NAPS/NATS PORTAL AND FILLING UP MS FORMS	12-02-2026 (10.00 Hrs)
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION IN NAPS/NATS PORTAL AND FILLING UP MS FORMS	25-02-2026 (17.00 Hrs)
TENTATIVE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF LIST OF CANDIDATES CALLED FOR DOCUMENT VERIFICATION	03-03-2026
TENTATIVE DATE OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION	09-03-2026 to 13-03-2026



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA 34001/59/2526
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO. II, BERHAMPUR
Phone/Fax: 0680-2233996, e-mail: sernb2.ganjam@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
TENDER CALL NOTICE
Bid Identification No. SC (R&B)-GM-II-31/2025-26
No. 1201 Dated: 09.02.2026
1) The Superintending Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No.II, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single Cover System to be received in ONLINE MODE only for the work as detailed below:

2) Nature of Work : Building Work & Road works
3) Estimated Cost : Rs.47.92 to 94.38 lakhs
4) Period of Completion : 6 (Six) Calendar Months
4) Date & time of availability of bid documents : From 17.02.2026 to 27.02.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.
5) Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 02.03.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.
6) Name & address of the OIT : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Angul
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://tendersorissa.gov.in).
Sd/- Executive Engineer OIPR-25001/25096/1/25-26/0001 R.W. Division, Angul

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Consider the Divine Life as the most important thing to obtain

THE MOTHER

UPSC Draws Line

For years, the civil services examination had a convenient loophole. Crack the exam, get into the IAS or IFS, and still return for another attempt, aiming for a better rank, a preferred cadre, or simply a more strategic posting. That option is now history.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has tightened the rules, and the signal is unmistakable: if you are allotted the IAS or IFS, there is no second bite at the cherry. One selection, one outcome. No encore performances.

For aspirants who treated their first selection as a stepping stone rather than the destination, this is clearly unwelcome news. But from the system's perspective, the change is long overdue. Allowing already-selected candidates to reappear clogged the pipeline, distorted ranks, and kept fresh candidates waiting. UPSC has chosen decisiveness over tactical cleverness.

The new framework draws a hard line. If a candidate is appointed to the IAS or IFS before the mains of a later exam, they are barred from that attempt altogether. Even if the appointment comes after the mains but before final results, the later performance will not count for service allocation.

The IPS and other Group A services get slightly softer treatment. A one-time exemption allows candidates to defer only the foundation course and reappear, but this is strictly conditional. Failure to join training or secure a formal exemption results in the service allocation being cancelled. Even if selected again, candidates must choose one service. After that, future attempts are barred unless they resign.

The larger message is clear. The civil services are no longer a trial-and-error exercise or an optimisation game. Selection is meant to be an endpoint, not a pit stop. Aspirants may grumble, but UPSC seems intent on restoring a basic principle.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

GLOBALLY, THE BLUE ECONOMY EMPLOYS MORE THAN 500 MILLION PEOPLE AND PROVIDES FOOD SECURITY FOR AROUND THREE BILLION

Arthur Peter Mutharika

Tamil Nadu's DGP dilemma

Tamil Nadu's stubborn refusal to appoint a regular Director General of Police despite having a UPSC-approved panel since September 2025 isn't just administrative sluggishness but rather strategic politicking at its finest.

According to sources, the state government is deliberately keeping G. Venkatraman as the "officiating" DGP because temporary appointments offer more control than permanent ones. With the crucial May 2026 Assembly elections looming, having a pliant police chief who serves at the government's pleasure rather than someone with the security of a regular appointment makes perfect political sense.

The Supreme Court's recent rebuke, calling such practices "unacceptable," hits the nail on the head. But this isn't just about Tamil Nadu. It's symptomatic of a broader malaise where states routinely game Selection is meant to be an endpoint, not a pit stop. Aspirants may grumble, but UPSC seems intent on restoring a basic principle.

The irony is rich: the same political class that lectures about institutional integrity regularly subverts those very institutions when it suits their electoral arithmetic. The three officers on the UPSC panel, Seema Aggarwal, Rajeev Kumar, and Sandeep Rai Rathore, are essentially being held hostage to political convenience.

The timing is telling. The state should have initiated the UPSC process three months before former DGP Shankar Jiwal's retirement in August 2025. Instead, they've created this deliberate delay, banking on the fact that courts move slowly and elections come fast.

The Supreme Court's new directive empowering UPSC to directly approach the court for contempt proceedings is a welcome move. But will it work? That depends on whether states fear judicial consequences more than they value electoral advantages.

Tamil Nadu faces a choice: respect constitutional propriety or continue this cynical game of musical chairs with crucial appointments. Given their track record, don't hold your breath for the former.

EC asserts authority over West Bengal babus

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has flat-out rejected a state government's plea to keep key officers at home, setting off an administrative standoff in Kolkata. In a move that's less "polite request" and more "final order," the EC has insisted that all 25 senior IAS and IPS officers from the West Bengal cadre, including the state's Home Secretary Jagdish Prasad Meena, must report to New Delhi for the mandatory central observer briefing ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls.

The state government had argued that sending its top brass out of the state during a crucial pre-election period could disrupt law and order and hurt administrative continuity. Nabanna even proposed alternative names, seeking exemptions for nine officers from the EC's list. But the poll panel wasn't having any of it. According to sources, multiple exemption requests were considered and rejected, with attention at the two-day briefing declared compulsory and non-negotiable.

What's striking here isn't just the tug-of-war, but what it reveals about the evolving centre-state dance in election management. Traditionally, states could nudge who goes where and when. Not this time. The EC's firm stance signals a more assertive poll machinery, determined to keep its house in order.

There is, undoubtedly, a bit of theatre in this. With Bengal already a political eye of the storm, the optics of its own Home Secretary being dispatched out of state as an impartial watchdog is eyebrow-raising. Critics sense heavy-handedness; supporters see necessary rigour.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

A woman always has her man, but the man unconsciously leans on his roots, his heritage. He feels like an orphan without his parents

RAJ KAPOOR

JAMES CAMERON

ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

Nature's imagination is so boundless compared to our own meager human imagination

JAMES CAMERON

Good cinema is what we can believe, and bad cinema is what we can't believe

ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1542: King Henry VIII of England had Catherine Howard, the fifth of Henry's six wives, beheaded on charges of adultery.

1694: Following the Glorious Revolution, William and Mary were proclaimed King and Queen of England. They ruled jointly as King William III and Queen Mary II until her death in 1694.

1960: France detonated its first atomic bomb in the Sahara desert.

1997: The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished above 7,000 for the first time.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

HIGH SEAS TREATY MATTERS

The world recently passed an important milestone: the agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the High Seas Treaty, has now come into force. The treaty enshrines a fundamental truth that: without a healthy ocean, life on this planet cannot endure.

More than a thoroughfare for travel and trade, the ocean is indispensable to human lives and livelihoods, not just in coastal regions but also in landlocked communities. Globally, the blue economy employs more than 500 million people and provides food security for around three billion. The ocean influences climate and rainfall patterns around the world, even in inland countries like Malawi, where around 80% of us rely on rain-fed agriculture. And crucially, the ocean absorbs 30% of human-produced carbon dioxide, making it an indispensable carbon sink.

Moreover, coastal and inland regions alike are vulnerable to catastrophic climate events fueled by rising ocean temperatures, and to marine exploitation from overfishing and bottom trawling. In 2023, Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical storm on record, hit Malawi with an unprecedented amount of "accumulated cyclone energy," owing to higher ocean temperatures. Freddy's destructive force displaced more than 659,000 Malawians, demonstrating that an unhealthy ocean threatens us all, regardless of geography.

All countries have a responsibility to protect and restore ocean systems. That is why in February 2025 Malawi became the first landlocked country to ratify the High Seas Treaty. In doing so, we affirmed that the



Coastal and inland regions alike are vulnerable to catastrophic climate events fueled by rising ocean temperatures, and to marine exploitation from overfishing and bottom trawling

high seas are our global commons, belonging equally to all countries.

Alongside other African countries, we have advocated for robust conservation and more just and equitable governance of humanity's common heritage. That means expanding access to, and sharing the benefits from, ocean resources, as well as building greater capacity for all countries to implement the High Seas Treaty effectively. In this spirit, Malawi's position aligns with the adage that came to define the negotiations: "nothing about us without us." Decisions affecting the ocean's future must reflect the meaningful participation of all countries, so that no one is left behind.

Ocean stewardship is not defined by proximity to the sea, but by a willingness to act in the common interest by safeguarding humanity's shared life-support system. The new treaty is a monumental step forward in this respect, as it provides the first-ever framework to create marine protected areas outside national jurisdiction on the high seas, an area covering nearly two-thirds of the ocean.

We now have a path way to preserve ecosystems whose protection promises to deliver outsize global benefits. Safeguarding critical areas like the Salwa de Malha Bank sea grass system in the Indian Ocean, the biologically rich Walvis Ridge off southern Africa, and ecologically significant areas in the Gulf of Guinea will allow marine life to recover and thrive, ultimately strengthening the ecosystems on which we all depend.

The High Seas Treaty offers further proof of what inclusive international collaboration can achieve. But it is only a starting point. We must do more to ensure a climate-resilient future by setting more ambitious yet attainable goals. For example, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with its target to protect at least 30% of all land and ocean areas by 2030, offers an opportunity to aim higher.

To succeed, we must harness the momentum generated by the High Seas Treaty. In Malawi, we have seen firsthand how important international cooperation is for achieving conservation goals. To safeguard Lake Malawi, Africa's third-largest lake, we protected key areas by having them recognized as a UNESCO

World Heritage site, ensuring that biodiversity could be conserved through consistent monitoring and community engagement. We hope this effort will serve as a model for others. Safeguarding nature must be science-based, inclusive, and designed to protect future generations.

Regional networks will be essential to translate ocean goals into real-world policies, while also ensuring that ocean guardianship aligns with all countries' and regions' priorities. The Economic Community of West African States' commendable effort to protect biodiversity within the Canary and Guinea currents' convergence zone (in the Eastern Atlantic) is one such example. It has already shown what is possible when cross-regional collaboration is directed toward ocean stewardship.

African leaders must continue lighting the path ahead of us. African countries now represent one-quarter of the High Seas Treaty's 145 signatories, and 18 of its 85 ratifications. We must build on this momentum at the upcoming Our Ocean Conference in Kenya, placing African leadership firmly at the center of ocean governance.

When Malawi became the first landlocked country to ratify the treaty, we helped redefine what ocean guardianship looks like. Our decision made clear that every country – no matter how far from the coast – has a stake in the issue. We are now urging all others to do the same ahead of the first Conference of the Parties to the High Seas Treaty (COP1), which will be held within the next year. This is a pivotal moment for the ocean's future, and for our own.

The writer is President of the Republic of Malawi.

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SPECTRUM UNION BUDGET

Ailing health sector gets short shrift



Dhurjati Mukherjee

REDUCTION IN PRICES FOR 17 CANCER DRUGS DOESN'T SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE GENERAL POPULATION

India's large population—about 30-35% of whom live at or near the poverty line—needs strong healthcare prioritisation. However, governments have long neglected this sector, leaving many rural and underprivileged health centers without sufficient staff or basic equipment like operational x-ray machines. A thorough examination of the recent Budget is necessary to determine if the government adequately addresses the essential needs of the population.

Prior to budget, the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) stated the Centre's health spending had stagnated at 0.29% of the GDP. It noted the central health outlay must rise at least 1% of the GDP for the country's total public health spending, including that of states, to reach 2.5%. It requires the health allocation to increase to about ₹350,000 crore from roughly ₹100,000 crore in 2025-26. "We're asking for at least a doubling of the Centre's outlay for health to something like ₹200,000 crore for 2026-27," said Indranil Mukhopadhyay, a health

economist and JSA co-convenor.

At same time, note that economist and social activist, John Drèze has pointed out that India's public expenditure on health stood at just 1.3% of the GDP, lower than 1.9% of sub-Saharan Africa, 2% in West Asia and North Africa, 2.8% in East Asia, 4.1% in Latin America and 8% in the European Union.

A dedicated ₹10,000 crore five-year programme has been allotted in the budget to the bio-pharma sector to develop the country as a global manufacturing hub through Biopharma SHAKTI, which is welcome. Additionally, there's a proposal to set up NIMHANS-II at Ranchi designed specifically for mental health and trauma care. But why just one? The government is placing particular emphasis on Ayurveda, planning to establish three All India Institutes and upgrade Ayurveda pharmacies. This initiative, it's hoped shall benefit the public.

While the reduction in prices for 17 cancer drugs and import cuts on treatments for

rare diseases, alongside the promotion of medical tourism, may represent progress, these measures do not sufficiently address the needs of the general population, particularly those in lower-income segments who continue to face barriers to adequate healthcare and must often travel significant distances for specialized services. In a populous country such as India, there is a clear need to focus on rural and underdeveloped districts. Expectations existed that plans would be announced to establish 50 to 100 specialty hospitals within the next three to five years; however, no such initiatives were mentioned by Sitharaman. Furthermore, it is notable that the Health Mission's allocation of ₹39,390 crore for strengthening primary healthcare, maternal and child health services, and disease control programmes appears insufficient to meet the actual demand in a nation of this size.

It is indeed tragic that India's low spending on public health have, over the past two decades or so, has been acknowledged by successive governments, but very little has been done by way of increasing allocation.

It was expected that the Budget would substantially increase allocation and help in setting up at least one centrally funded hospital in each district, to start with the backward ones. But nosuch measures have been announced so far. Amends do need to be made.

Duty of advocates

Sir, The recent observations of the Supreme Court regarding an advocate's social media posts against a complainant in a pending criminal case deserve serious reflection. The right to defend an accused is fundamental to our justice system. However, that right does not extend to publicly vilifying or intimidating a survivor outside the courtroom. Their primary duty is to assist in the administration of justice, not to conduct parallel campaigns in the court of public opinion. Social media cannot become a substitute for cross-examination, nor should it be used to cast aspersions on witnesses in a manner that may prejudice proceedings. While freedom of expression is constitutionally protected, professional responsibility imposes higher standards of restraint. The Supreme Court's remarks serve as a timely reminder that institutional integrity must prevail over momentary publicity. It may now be appropriate for Bar Councils to frame clearer digital conduct guidelines to preserve the dignity of the legal profession..

Civic sense lesson

Sir, The video of an elderly woman, stopping a scooterist from using the footpath and refusing to step aside until the man takes the main road has gone viral and making rounds in various social media platforms. The elderly citizen has been applauded and praised for her civic sense and many have described it as an exemplary act of civic responsibility. The irresponsible practice of two-wheeler riders using footpaths to bypass traffic blocks and putting pedestrians life at risk is a common sight in many of our towns and cities. The video of the elderly woman teaching basic civic sense lesson to the scooterist is not just a lesson for the rider but to every one - drivers who take short cuts risking others lives and also a lesson to civic authorities including traffic personnel to be more alert and not to forget their duty to serve the public and avoid putting citizens life at risk.

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

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Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

M Pradyu, KANNUR

national

of the day quote

Deeply humbled to be part of the consecration and inauguration of the new administrative block of Sera Jey Jamyang Choekhorling Monastery, in the august presence of Venerable Geshe Lobsang Norbu la, chief administrator of Sera Jey Monastery, Karnataka, His Eminence Dolhe Rinpoche Tenzin Kunkhyen la, Abbot of Sera Jey Jamyang Choekhorling Monastery and other dignitaries

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

There is a chance for a few more parties to join our alliance. We cannot say which party will be where right now; that can only be confirmed after the election notification is released

EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI | AIADMK GENERAL SECY

The AAP is trying to hide its wrongdoings by diverting public attention

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

NEET-aspirant ends life in Kota

Kota: An eighteen-year-old girl studying for the NEET-UG allegedly died by suicide after consuming a poisonous substance in her rented accommodation under Dadabari police station limits here late Thursday, an officer said. The deceased teen was identified as Juhi Patel (18), a resident of Chatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The arrived in Kota around two-and-a-half months ago on her own volition and had been self-studying for NEET-UG and taking offline mock tests while living in a rented room in Basant Vihar area of the city, Dadabari Station House Officer Baldevram said.

Zubeen death case hearing held

Guwahati: The court hearing the case of singer Zubeen Garg's death Friday examined documents submitted by two accused, Shyamkumar Mahanta and Siddhartha Sharma, while the singer's wife and sister demanded that the fast-track court promised by the state government be set up at the earliest for daily hearings. The Kamrup Metropolitan District and Sessions Court admitted Mahanta's petition seeking the release of his frozen bank accounts and also heard three petitions of Sharma, including one seeking the handing over of the report of the Singapore Coroner's Court regarding Garg's death.

Ex-aide of Mukhtar Ansari shot dead

Barabanki: A former aide of slain gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari was allegedly shot dead by unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants on the Ayodhya highway here Friday, police said. The deceased, identified as Shoaib Kidwai alias Bobby, was a suspect in the high-profile murder of District Jail Superintendent R K Tiwari in Lucknow. That daylight killing near Raj Bhavan in February 1999 had shocked the then Kalyan Singh government.

CIC pulls up SAI

New Delhi: The Central Information Commission has rapped the SAI for failing to disclose information on complaints and action taken against the Roller Skating Federation of India, holding that the information cannot be said to be available with the skating federation alone.



Our true success will lie not merely in conducting innovative trainings, but in enabling our people to become self-reliant and entrepreneurial, rather than limiting their aspirations solely to white-collar employment

PREM SINGH TAMANG | SIKKIM CM

SC GRANTS BAIL TO VIKRAM BHATT'S WIFE

The Supreme Court Friday granted bail to filmmaker Vikram Bhatt's wife Shwetambari Bhatt in a multi-crore rupees cheating case



Rahul Gandhi meets farm unions, discusses protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 13: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi met farm union leaders from across the country in the Parliament House complex Friday and discussed with them the need for a nationwide movement to oppose the India-US interim trade deal as well as safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers and farm labourers.

Posting a video of the meeting on X and taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gandhi said, "Narendra 'surrender' Modi has betrayed India's farmers - and they understand this."

"This is not just a trade agreement, but a direct attack on the livelihoods of our food providers. At a meeting with a delegation of farmers' unions in Parliament today, the concerns were evident. Farmers, already struggling with inflation, rising costs and uncertainty over MSPs, are now being pitted against foreign crops equipped with heavy subsidies and mechanical power, unprepared," he said in his post in Hindi.

This is not a fight based on equal terms, but one-sided pressure, Gandhi said.

"The government's hollow assurances will no longer work. The future of farmers cannot be compromised without their consent," the Congress leader asserted.

He said no matter what happens, the Congress and he stand with India's food providers for their rights, security and dignity.

During the meeting, the farm union leaders expressed



- Rahul Gandhi met with farm union leaders to discuss the potential negative impacts of the India-US trade deal on Indian farmers
- Farm leaders expressed concerns about the trade deal's impact on the livelihoods of farmers growing corn, soyabean, cotton, fruits, and nuts
- Gandhi and the farm leaders discussed the need for a nationwide movement to oppose the trade deal and protect farmers' interests
- Gandhi accused the government of being anti-farmer and compromising the country's food security through the trade deal

their opposition to the India-US trade deal and conveyed their deep concern for the livelihoods of the corn, soyabean, cotton, fruits and nuts growers,

Khaira said a delegation of leaders from various farm unions met Gandhi in his Parliament office to discuss the "anti-farmer" Indo-US treaty. He alleged that the deal is nothing but a complete surrender before the United States.

The meeting came a day after Gandhi asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre can file cases or a privilege motion against him but he will stand strongly with farmers. He also accused Modi of being "anti-farmer" and "selling" the country through the India-US interim trade deal.

bourers, it added.

The farm leaders who met Gandhi included All India Kisan Congress chief Sukhpal S Khaira, Ashok Balhara of the Bharatiya Kisan Mazdoor Union-Haryana, Baldev S Zira of the BKU-Krantikari, R NandKumar of the Progressive Farmers Front, Amarjeet S Mohri of the BKU-Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Guramneet S Mangat of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha-India and Hameed Malik of the Jammu and Kashmir Zamidara Forum.

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The forest officials visited the affected villagers in Churchu Block and met the family members of those killed.

4 of family among 6 trampled to death by wild elephants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Feb 13: At least six people, including four members of a family, were trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants in a village in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district Friday when the people tried to flee, a forest officer said.

The herd, which had attacked several people over the last few days, entered Gondwar village in Churchu block Thursday night and trampled six people to death early on February 13, Hazaribag East Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Vikas Kumar Ujjwal told PTI.

"Among those killed were four members of a family. One child was also seriously injured," Ujjwal said.

The child has been admitted to the Sadar Hospital in Hazaribag, he said.

The group of jumbos had been roaming in Bokaro, Ramgarh and Hazaribag districts for the past few days and had earlier caused casualties in Bokaro, Ujjwal added. "We had alerted villagers through the public address system as the herd entered the block. Unfortunately, when people tried to flee from their houses, six of them were trampled to death," he said.

Poonam Devi, one of the relatives of the deceased, said that two of the children were left alone when the elephants came and trampled them. The process of providing compensation of ₹ 4 lakh each to the kin of the victims has been initiated, another official said. A quick response team has also been deployed to drive out the herd from the block.

The forest officials visited the affected villagers in Churchu Block and met the family members of those killed.



Women purchase heart-shaped soft toys and gift items ahead of Valentine's Day at a market in Guwahati, Assam

MP Kirti Azad questions Railway Minister on Amrit Bharat Station scheme in Bengal

New Delhi: MP Kirti Azad raised concerns about the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in West Bengal. In response, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted a significant Budget increase for the state - ₹ 14,205 crore, up from ₹ 4,300 crore during the UPA era. Vaishnaw explained that while funds have been allocated, delays in the execution of railway projects in West Bengal are primarily due to challenges in land acquisition. He revealed that only 57% of the required 4,662 hectares of land have been acquired, with several key projects facing a standstill due to zero land acquisition. The Railway Minister urged MP Azad to approach the Chief Minister of West Bengal, requesting support in facilitating the land acquisition process to ensure timely completion of critical railway infrastructure projects under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

SNIPPETS

Ranveer Singh, Rohit Shetty get Bishnoi gang threat

Mumbai: Hindi film industry actor Ranveer Singh and filmmaker Rohit Shetty Friday received a threat through an audio clip with the sender claiming to be "Harry Boxer", a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, police said. While "Dhurandhar" star Ranveer Singh received a threat for the second time this week, five rounds had been fired at Shetty's multi-storey residence in the city earlier this month. The audio clip circulated on various social media platforms following which Mumbai Police launched a probe, an official said, adding that it is suspected that similar threats were issued to many others across the country. Police are probing, among other things, whether the voice heard in the clip was genuine or generated using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, he said. Earlier this week, Singh's manager received a threat through WhatsApp. The crime branch of Mumbai police is probing the case.

Congress scores emphatic win in T'gana municipal elections

Hyderabad: In a boost to the A Revanth Reddy-led government, the Congress in Telangana Friday scored an emphatic victory in the municipal elections, while the BRS and BJP too made their presence felt. Of the total 2,582 wards in 116 municipalities where elections were held February 11, the Congress bagged over 1,300 wards, followed by BRS (about 700 wards) and BJP (about 275 wards). In the seven municipal corporations that went to the polls, the Congress won three and was ahead in one, while the BJP secured a majority of seats in Karimnagar and Nizamabad. Congress and CPI were engaged in a keen contest in Kothagudem municipal corporation.

7 killed in multi-vehicle chain collision in K'taka

Bangalore: Seven people were killed in a multi-vehicle pile-up on the outskirts of Hoskote near Bangalore early Friday, police said. The accident occurred near M Satyavara village on the Hoskote Dabaspete National Highway at around 4.30 am when an SUV car travelling from Hoskote towards Devanhalli allegedly struck a motorcycle from behind. According to police, the driver of the SUV allegedly lost control after the initial impact and crashed into a canter vehicle. Another car was also drawn into the wreckage, resulting in a severe pile-up. Six occupants of the SUV car and the motorcycle rider died on the spot, police said.

Man faints, dies at TVK rally in Salem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Salem (Tamil Nadu), Feb 13: A 37-year-old man fainted at a TVK rally here Friday addressed by party chief Vijay and died on the way to hospital, police said.

The man, identified as Suraj, a native of Maharashtra and residing here, collapsed after complaining of chest pain, and was immediately rushed to a local hospital.

"He was declared brought dead at the medical facility," a police official said. He also claimed that Suraj had undergone angioplasty sometime ago. The police have registered a case and are investigating.

According to the police, the man had gone to see Vijay. He complained of uneasiness while waiting at the rally venue and fainted. Those near him initially attempted to revive Suraj, but later rushed him in an ambulance to a private hospital. However, the doctors who examined him said he was brought dead. Police claimed that the incident happened even before Vijay arrived for the district functionaries' meeting. Prelim-



The man, identified as Suraj, a native of Maharashtra and residing here, collapsed after complaining of chest pain, and was immediately rushed to a local hospital

inary enquiry by a team from the Annadhanapatti police who arrived at the hospital revealed that Suraj was a heart patient and underwent a procedure. This is the first casualty at the TVK rally since the tragic September 27, 2025, stampede

in Karur that claimed 41 lives. Describing the demise as "heart-breaking", TVK joint general secretary C T R Nirmal Kumar, said Suraj had come to witness the TVK rally and fainted due to ill health. He was immediately given first aid by the party members and was rushed to a hospital without losing time.

"However, he died due to a heart attack. It is heartbreaking. We express our deepest condolences for the untimely death of Suraj," Kumar said in a post on 'X'. BJP senior and former Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan flayed the TVK for the "poor arrangements" at the event and said the party should have provided water to its members.

DGCA slaps ₹1cr fine on Air India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, Feb 13: Aviation safety watchdog DGCA has imposed a fine of ₹ 1 crore on Tata Group-owned Air India for operating an Airbus A320 neo plane without the requisite airworthiness certification on at least eight routes last year, according to sources.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), December 2 last year, said it was probing the incident of Air India operating an A320 neo plane without the requisite airworthiness certification on at least eight routes.

The sources Friday said the regulator has slapped ₹ 1 crore fine on Air India for the



violations.

"Air India acknowledges the receipt of a DGCA order in relation to an incident that was voluntarily reported back in 2025. All identified gaps have since been satisfactorily addressed and shared with the authority," the airline said in a statement.

Meanwhile, aviation safety regulator DGCA has put in place stricter breath analyser test requirements for pilots, wherein those found repeatedly violating the norms could even face cancellation of their pilot license, according to a source.

Under the revised norms, which came into effect from February 9, FATA (Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation) of an expatriate pilot operating in India will be cancelled and not considered again if that cockpit crew tests positive for alcohol consumption during pre-flight breath analyser examination.

Among other provisions, the license of a pilot who tests positive in a Breath Analyser (BA) test before operating a flight on three occasions will be cancelled, the source said.

Over 8K complaints against sitting judges since '16: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 13: Over 8,600 complaints against sitting judges have been received by the office of the chief justice of India (CJI) since 2016, the Lok Sabha was informed Friday.

In a written reply, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said 8,639 complaints have been received against sitting judges between 2016 and 2025. The highest number of complaints (1,170) was received in 2024 by the office of the CJI against sitting judges.

Complaints received against judges and chief justices of the high courts are handled by the judiciary through an "in-house mechanism". He recalled that in May 1997, the Supreme Court adopted two resolutions - "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life", which lays down



certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by SC and HC judges; and "In-house Procedure", which takes suitable remedial measure against

judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those in the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life".

According to the estab-

lished in-house procedure for the higher judiciary, the CJI is competent to receive complaints against SC judges and chief justices of the high courts.

Similarly, chief justices of high courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the high court judg-

All transfers are to be made in public interest: Govt on HC judges' transfers

New Delhi: All transfers are to be made in public interest, the government told the Lok Sabha Friday as it explained the entire process of transferring high court judges in response to a question on instances of "interference" by the executive in such transfers. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said, "All transfers are to be made in public interest -- for promoting better administration of justice throughout the country." He was asked whether the government is aware of the "recent instances of interference by the executive in the transfer of judges of lower judiciary and high courts." On the issue of the transfer procedure followed for HC judges, the Union minister said that as per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of high court judges, the proposal for transfer is initiated by the chief justice of India in consultation with four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

es. Complaints against members of the higher judiciary received on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) or in any other form

are forwarded to the CJI or chief justices of high courts competent to receive such complaints, he explained.

national



After seeing the news (in a section of foreign media) that the pilot himself had turned off the fuel switch in the Ahmedabad aircraft crash, the suspicion expressed regarding Ajit Dada's plane accident has gained further strength

ROHIT PAWAR | NATIONALIST CONG PARTY (SP) MLA

AGITATING AD-HOC TEACHERS KEEP HUNGER STRIKE ON HOLD

The All Nagaland Ad-hoc Teachers Group (ANATG)-2015 Batch Friday kept its indefinite hunger strike on hold while continuing its agitation for long-pending service regularisation of 1,166 members, as the protest entered ninth day



EPSTEIN FILES

Cong seeks Puri's resignation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Members of Indian Youth Congress stage a protest demanding resignation of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri after his name figured in the 'Epstein Files' in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

New Delhi, Feb 13: The Congress Friday demanded Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri's resignation as his name figures in the "Epstein files" released in the United States and asked on whose behalf was he interacting with Jeffrey Epstein, who was convicted for sexual crimes with children.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera asked under whose authority was Puri meeting Epstein and alleged that the needle of suspicion points towards only one direction.

"In 2017, Hardeep Puri was the president and chairman of the Governing Council of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a Delhi-based think tank funded by the Government of India. Why was a representative of the Government of India e-mailing Epstein in 2017? Why was he communicating with Epstein -- a convicted sex offender and criminal?"

Even earlier, between 2014 and 2016, under whose author-

ity and instructions was Puri interacting with Epstein, the Congress leader asked.

"Even more disturbing,

In 2017, Hardeep Puri was the president and chairman of the Governing Council of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a Delhi-based think tank funded by the Government of India. Why was a representative of the Government of India e-mailing Epstein in 2017? Why was he communicating with Epstein -- a convicted sex offender and criminal?"

PAWAN KHERA | CONGRESS'S MEDIA AND PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

Pothole deaths rise 53 per cent in 5 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Security personnel keep vigil amid high alert ahead of Pulwama attack anniversary, in Srinagar

SC: Spectrum a public resource, not IBC asset



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TRAI extends to making recommendations to the Union government and discharging the functions under the TRAI Act.

"The statutory regime under the IBC cannot be permitted to make inroads into the telecom sector and re-write and restructure the rights and liabilities arising out of administration, usage, and transfers of spectrum which operate under the exclusive legal regime concerning telecommunications."

"The disharmony caused by applying IBC to the telecom sector, which operates under a different legal regime, was never intended by Parliament," the bench said.

It added that the statutory interpretation adopted by the corporate debtors like Aircel Group entities for applying IBC to the material resource of spectrum on the one hand, and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is the regulator on the other, and taken together, they occupy the entire province of telecommunications.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and A S Chandrakar ruled that the Union government is the owner and trustee of spectrum on the one hand, and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is the regulator on the other, and taken together, they occupy the entire province of telecommunications.

It said while a licence and allocation of spectrum may, in abstract terms, constitute an intangible asset, it is always subject to the telecommunication laws of the nation like the Telegraph Act, 1885, Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1993, and the TRAI Act, 1997, followed by rules and regulations.

"We hold that spectrum allocated to telecom service providers (TSPs) and shown in their books of account as an 'asset' cannot be subjected to proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016," the top court ruled.

The bench said the regulatory jurisdiction for the telecommunication sector through

"The decision will have ramifications in the telecommunication sector where telecom firms such

as Aircel Group of Companies have invoked moratorium on the basis of voluntary corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for restructuring of their assets.

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SHORT TAKES

Security forces defuse IEDs; unearth 2 dumps

Bijapur: Security forces

Friday recovered 14

improvised explosive

devices (IEDs) planted by

Maoists in a forested area

of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

district, police officials said.

They also unearthed two

Maoist dumps containing

explosive materials and other

items, the officials added.

The recoveries were made during

an anti-Naxal operation

conducted in Tadpala hills

area under Usor police

station limits by personnel

of 196th battalion of Central

Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

and 204th battalion of COBRA

(Commando Battalion for

Resolute Action- an elite unit

of CRPF), an official said.

From Day 1, BJP

tried to build the

narrative that

the trade deal is

a 'masterstroke.'

They even

felicitated

Modi for the 'achievement.'

Unfortunately, people are not

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@PunsterX

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narrative that

international

of the day **Quote**



Often we move forward with the speed of the slowest and the enhanced cooperation avoids that. The pressure and the sense of urgency is enormous, and that can move mountains

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT



We may not like the action (U.S. tariffs), but we must take the signal that we need to reform many of the things with the world trading system



Russians are not winning (the war) as some are thinking. This so-called Russian bear is not there. It is basically still the speed of a garden snail, what we are seeing in Ukraine - this is how the Russians are moving inside Ukraine, very slow, staggering losses

MARK RUTTE | NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

US carrier advances to Middle East

Washington: The United States will send the world's largest aircraft carrier to the Middle East to back up another already there, a person familiar with the plans said Friday, putting more American firepower behind President Donald Trump's efforts to coerce Iran into a deal over its nuclear program. The USS Gerald R Ford's planned deployment to the Mideast comes after Trump only days earlier suggested another round of talks with the Iranians was at hand. Those negotiations didn't materialise as one of Tehran's top security officials visited Oman and Qatar this week and exchanged messages with the US intermediaries. Already, Gulf Arab nations have warned any attack could spiral into another regional conflict in a Mideast still reeling from the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

2 men jailed in UK over IS-inspired plot

London: Two men were jailed Friday for plotting to kill hundreds in an Islamic State-inspired attack on the Jewish community in England, a plan prosecutors said could have been deadlier than December's mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach. Walid Saadaoui, 38, and Amal Hussein, 52, were both convicted after a trial at Preston Crown Court, which began a week after an unrelated deadly attack on a synagogue in the nearby northwest city of Manchester. Prosecutors said the pair were Islamist extremists who wanted to use automatic firearms to kill as many Jews as they could. Judge Mark Wall sentenced Saadaoui to a minimum term of 37 years and Hussein to a minimum term of 26 years, saying: "You were very close to being ready to carry out this plan."

French tourist found dead in Chad

Paris/N'djamena: The Chadian army has found the body of a French national who went missing in recent days in the country's north-east, local authorities said Friday, adding that early indications point to an accidental fall. The mayor of Amdjarass said the army leading the search informed him earlier this Friday that the tourist had been found dead, and that local medical staff confirmed the death. An official at Chad's Tourism Ministry said the man, who had appeared weak, likely died after falling from a cliff, and added that further details would be released once the body arrived in the capital N'Djamena.



Schools, the justice system, elected officials: everyone must be mobilized

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

NEW ASTRONAUTS LAUNCH TO ISS

A new crew rocketed toward the International Space Station (ISS) Friday to replace the astronauts who returned to Earth early in NASA's first medical evacuation. SpaceX launched the replacements as soon as possible at NASA's request, sending the US, French and Russian astronauts on an expected eight- to nine-month mission stretching until fall



China hands over satellite ground station to Namibia

REUTERS

Beijing: Feb 13: Chinese officials Thursday handed over a satellite ground station to Namibia outside the southern African nation's capital Windhoek, Chinese state media reported, marking another step forward in China's expanding space programme overseas.

The Chinese-built ground data receiving station will "significantly enhance Namibia's ability to receive and process remote-sensing data from satellites," the state-run Xinhua news agency said Friday.

As the US has pulled back from aid to African countries, China has been building alliances and widening its space footprint on the continent, offering satellites, laboratories, and monitoring stations. Beijing says it is helping boost African space programmes because it wants no country left behind.



Tarique Rahman emerges as new face of Bangladesh

The 60-year-old leader's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has bagged 209 out of 297 seats, while right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami, known to be close to Pakistan, secured 68 seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Feb 13: Tarique Rahman, who lived in London in self-exile for 17 years, has emerged as the new face of Bangladesh, with the party founded by his father set to return to power after a 20-year gap.

The 60-year-old leader's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has bagged 209 out of 297 seats, while right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami, known to be close to Pakistan, secured 68 seats. The Awami League party of Hasina was barred from contesting the elections, which recorded 59.44 per cent voter turnout.

The result is a major turnaround for the BNP, long targeted under the 15-year rule of

Rahman became the chairman of the BNP in the absence of his mother at a time when the party was facing a state of political wilderness ahead of the polls.

The evolving scenario did not allow him to spend some private days amid personal loss, as events unfolded so quickly, he scarcely had time to reflect.

Rahman is widely seen as a

product of dynastic politics, but his family's political background earned him a sort of acumen. He is credited with manoeuvring his party in a complicated scenario to ensure its key stake in the politics ahead of the general elections.

A soft-spoken Rahman drew massive crowds as he spearheaded the campaign for his party.

Since his return, Rahman noticeably adopted an approach of avoiding inflammatory rhetoric and calling

instead for restraint and reconciliation despite the bitter relations of his family and himself in particular with the deposed Awami League regime. BNP eventually won the landslide victory, and Rahman is set to be the next prime minister.

Rahman was born November 20, 1965, in Dhaka. As a boy, he witnessed Bangladesh's liberation struggle in 1971. He was arrested along with his mother and brother, only to be released December 16, 1971, when Ban-

OLD GLOBAL ORDER CRUMBLES

MERZ CALLS FOR RESET WITH US

REUTERS

Munich/Berlin, Feb 13: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz Friday called for a stronger Europe to reset its ties with the United States, wanting Washington to "repair and revive trust" in a dangerous new era of great power politics as the old global order crumbles.

In a speech to open the Munich Security Conference, Merz warned the US could not go it alone but also said Europe must beef up its own defences and mentioned confidential talks with France on nuclear deterrence.

The speech underscored how European leaders are increasingly looking to carve an independent path after a year of unprecedented upheaval in transatlantic ties, while also striving to maintain their alliance with Washington.

Taking his cue from those warning that the international rules-based order was about to be destroyed, Merz said, "I fear we must put it even more bluntly: This order, however imperfect it was even at its best, no longer exists in that form."

Switching to English at the end, Merz said, "In the era of great power rivalry, even the United States will not be powerful enough to go it alone. Dear friends, being a part of NATO is not only Europe's competitive advantage. It is also the United States' competitive advantage."

"So let's repair and revive transatlantic trust together," he added.

A YEAR AFTER VANCE BLAST, RUBIO STRIKES WARMER TONE

US Secretary of State Marco



- Speech opened Munich Security Conference
- Merz warns US cannot go it alone
- Rubio also warns of 'defining moment' in ties
- Comes in wake of moves by Trump to upend global order
- Europe seen closing ranks, seeking to become more independent

Rubio had also said transatlantic ties faced a "defining moment" in a rapidly changing world but struck a more conciliatory tone that contrasted with remarks by Vice President JD Vance in 2025.

At the same gathering of top security officials last

year, Vance had attacked European allies in a speech that marked the start of a series of confrontations with Washington's partners, who face myriad threats from Russia's war in Ukraine to massive ructions in global trade.

"I think it's at a defining moment ... the world is changing very fast right in front of us," Vance said before departing for Munich.

"The Old World is gone, frankly, the world I grew up in, and we live in a new era in geopolitics, and it's going to require all of us to re-examine what that looks like and what our role is going to be," he said.

"(The US) is deeply tied to Europe, and our futures have always been linked and will continue to be," said Rubio, who is a potential rival to Vance for the 2028 US presidential race. "So we've just got to talk about what that future looks like."

During an annual, or ring-



shaped, eclipse, the moon just happens to be farther away from Earth in its orbit so it

UK terrorism ban on Palestine Action group unlawful: Court

REUTERS

London, Feb 13: Britain's ban on pro-Palestinian campaign group Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation was ruled unlawful by London's High Court Friday, though the ban will temporarily remain in place and the government said it would appeal against the decision.

Palestine Action was proscribed in July, having increasingly taken "direct action" against Israel-linked defence companies in Britain, often blocking entrances or spraying red paint.

Britain argued the group's escalating actions amounted to terrorism, citing a 2024 raid on a factory of Israel's largest defence firm Elbit Systems, in which prosecutors said activists caused around 1 million pounds (\$1.4 million) of damage and a police officer was hit with a sledgehammer.

BAN FOLLOWED BREAK-IN AT AIR BASE

Palestine Action was banned shortly after a June break-in at the Royal Air Force's Brize Norton air base, in which activists damaged two planes, an action described by Prime Minister Keir Starmer as "disgraceful".

Lawyers representing Huda Ammori, who co-founded Palestine Action in 2020, argued at a hearing last year that the move was an authoritarian restriction on the right to protest.

Judge Victoria Sharp said Palestine Action "promotes its political cause through criminality and the encouragement of criminality". The High Court nonetheless ruled the ban was a disproportionate interference with the right to freedom of expression, though the ban was not lifted ahead of a further hearing to decide whether it should remain pending an appeal.

Interior minister Shabana Mahmood said in a statement, "I intend to fight this judgment in the Court of Appeal."



REUTERS

Munich, Feb 13: Iraq is in talks with other countries including Arab and Muslim states to repatriate Islamic State prisoners, its foreign minister said, and the US military said it had completed a mission to transfer thousands of IS detainees to Iraq from Syria.

Speaking in an interview with Reuters on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, Fuad Hussein said Baghdad would need financial aid to deal with the influx and was worried about a rise in Islamic State activity just over the border in Syria.

Islamic State seized large tracts of Syria and Iraq in 2014 before it was driven out by US-led coalition forces five years later, and many of its militants were detained, although remnants of the jihadist group still operate.

"I think around 3,000 have already been transferred into Iraqi prisons. So the process has started and we are continuing that process," Hussein said Friday.

Separately, the US Central Command said the US military had now completed its mission in Syria after transferring 5,700 adult male Islamic State detainees to Iraq. It had said in January

that it expected to move 7,000.

RESURGENCE IN ISLAMIC STATE IN SYRIA

The rapid collapse of autonomy-minded Kurdish-led forces in northeast Syria since the end of Syria's civil war in late 2024 had raised fears for the security of prisons and detention camps for IS militants that they were guarding.

"We also started talking to some countries so that they can supply us with financial support, because if those thousands of terrorists stay in Iraq for a long time, I mean, security-wise, it's very dangerous, so we need support from various countries," Hussein said in the interview.

"We also started talking to some countries so that they can supply us with financial support, because if those thousands of terrorists stay in Iraq for a long time, I mean, security-wise, it's very dangerous, so we need support from various countries," Hussein said in the interview.

There are also ways to enjoy solar eclipses indirectly. Make a pinhole projector using household materials or hold up a colander or cheese grater to the sky and look down to see images of the eclipse projected onto the ground.

There is a total solar eclipse in the cards in August for sky-gazers in Greenland, Iceland, Spain, Russia and part of Portugal. Swaths of Europe, Africa and North America will be treated to a partial eclipse.

'Ring of fire' solar eclipse to dazzle people, penguins in Antarctica

Clear skies permitting, more people can catch a partial eclipse with small bites taken out of the sun from the tips of Chile and Argentina and bits of southeastern Africa including Madagascar, Lesotho and South Africa

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Feb 13: The first solar eclipse of the year will grace Antarctica, and only a lucky few will get to bask - or waddle - in its glow.

Tuesday's annual solar eclipse, known as a "ring of fire," will only be visible in the southernmost continent, home to research stations and diverse wildlife.

"The penguins down there are going to have a great show," said astronomer Joe Llama with Lowell Observatory.

Clear skies permitting, more people can catch a partial

eclipse with small bites taken out of the sun from the tips of Chile and Argentina and bits of southeastern Africa including Madagascar, Lesotho and South Africa.

Solar eclipses happen when the sun, moon and Earth align just so. The moon casts a shadow that can partially or totally block out the sun's light from Earth.

It's "this beautiful coincidence between the size and the distance of the moon and the sun," said astrophysicist Emily Rice with the City University of New York.

During an annular, or ring-



shaped, eclipse, the moon just happens to be farther away from Earth in its orbit so it



doesn't totally cover the sun. Only a thin sliver remains visible.

"The sun essentially gets its core taken out," Llama said.

Solar eclipses happen a few times a year, but are only visible from places in the path of the moon's shadow. Two partial eclipses happened last year, and the last total solar eclipse swept across North America in 2024.

Looking directly at the sun is dangerous even when most of it is covered so make sure to grab eclipse glasses. They block out ultraviolet light from the sun and nearly all visible light. Sun-glasses and binoculars aren't protective enough.

Eclipse glasses should say

business

of the day quote

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act has brought transparency and accountability in the Indian property market. Now there is a need to further strengthen the RERA law and ensure effective implementation across all states

PARVEEN JAIN | PRESIDENT, NARECO

With India's container market growing steadily, driven by infrastructure expansion, port-led developments, and rising bulk commodity movement, the sector requires materials that can withstand harsh operating conditions while ensuring long-term sustainability

ABHYUDAY JINDAL | MD, JINDAL STAINLESS

In future, we will also incorporate an appeals feature so that a consumer who is not satisfied with the service provider's response can file an appeal through the app itself

ANIL KUMAR LAHOTI | CHAIRMAN, TRAI

Q3 RESULTS

ONGC profit rises

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported a 1.6 per cent increase in net profit for the December quarter, aided by higher realisations from new wells and reduced statutory levies, which offset the impact of lower crude oil prices. The company reported a standalone net profit of ₹8,372 crore for October-December quarter of 2025-26 financial year, compared with ₹8,240 crore earning in the same period a year back, according to a company statement.

Ola Electric's reset

New Delhi: Ola Electric Friday said its consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹470 crore, with total deliveries of 32,680 units in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025. The Bangalore-based firm said the quarter marks a structural reset for the company, as it realigned its retail footprint, cost structure, and operating model to a sustainable steady state amid slower EV penetration growth and the need to strengthen service execution. The company delivered a record consolidated gross margin of 34.3 per cent, expanding 15.7 percentage points year on year and 3.4 percentage points quarter on quarter.

Inox Wind net grows

New Delhi: Inox Wind Friday posted over 14 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹126.65 crore in the December quarter, supported by a growth in revenues. It had reported a profit of ₹110.98 crore in the October-December period of the preceding 2023-24 financial year, the company said in an exchange filing. The company's total income rose to ₹1,238.42 crore ₹994.73 crore during the same quarter a year ago.

Crisil profit surges

New Delhi: Crisil Ltd Friday reported a 7.5 per cent growth in net profit at ₹241.5 crore for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2025. The board also recommended a final dividend of ₹28 per equity share of face value of Re 1 each, taking the total dividend for the year to ₹61 per share, Crisil said. Also, it approved the re-appointment of Amish Mehta as Managing Director & CEO for a further term of 3 years with effect from October 1, 2026.



As markets scale, the quality of regulation becomes as important as the quantity of capital they attract

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | CHAIRMAN, SEBI

RELIANCE BAGS US LICENCE TO IMPORT VENEZUELAN OIL

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited has received a US general licence to purchase Venezuelan crude oil directly, enabling India's largest private refiner to resume imports of discounted heavy feedstock that aligns with its Jamnagar refinery configuration and optimises refining margins



Gold trades at discounts in India for first time in nearly a month

REUTERS

Mumbai, Feb 13: Gold started trading at discounts in India this week for the first time in nearly a month as volatile prices deterred buying, while demand was robust in China ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday.

Indian bullion dealers this week offered a discount of up to \$12 per ounce over official domestic gold prices – inclusive of 6% import and 3% sales levies, down from last week's premium of up to \$70.

"Jewellery demand has not recovered despite jewellers offering discounts on making charges. Retail buyers are not comfortable making purchases at current price levels," said a Hyderabad-based jeweller.

Domestic gold prices were around ₹154,000 (\$1,697.39) per 10 grams Friday after sliding as low as ₹133,687 last week.



AI FEAR WIPES OUT \$50BN FROM IT STOCKS

IT, the second-heaviest weighted index among 16, fell 8.2% this week, their worst showing in 10 months

NSE NIFTY

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

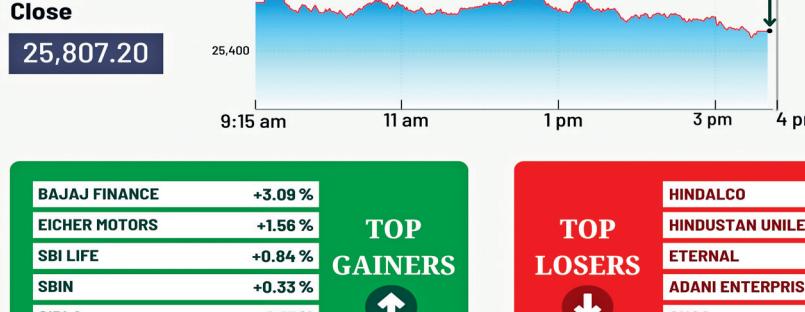
PTI GRAPHICS

Previous Close
25,807.20

CHANGE: -336.10 (-1.30%)

25,471.10

Today's Closing
25,471.10



TOP GAINERS

BAJAJ FINANCE +3.09%
EICHER MOTORS +1.56%
SBI LIFE +0.84%
SBIN +0.33%
CIPLA +0.13%

TOP LOSERS

HINDALCO -6.08%
HINDUSTAN UNILEVER -4.34%
ETERNAL -4.30%
ADANI ENTERPRISES -3.83%
ONGC -3.20%

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Feb 13: Indian IT shares logged their worst week in more than 10 months Friday, extending a rout driven by fears of disruption from artificial intelligence tools that wiped about \$50 billion off the sector's market capitalisation so far in February.

The launch of a tool by tech startup Anthropic last month triggered a global tech sell-off and intensified concerns that rapid adoption of generative AI could upend India's \$283 billion IT services industry.

For the week, the Nifty IT slid 8.2%, its steepest drop since April 2025.

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1 per cent Friday due to a broad-based sell-off, especially in metal, IT and commodity stocks, tracking sluggish glob-

al markets.

A weaker-than-expected earnings season and emerging pressure on technology stocks amid concerns about AI-led disruption also dampened sentiment, traders said.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled

On a weekly basis, Sensex slumped 1.14%, while Nifty dropped 0.86%.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹7,02,017.71cr to ₹4,65,46,643.20cr (\$5.13tn)

Investors' wealth eroded by ₹7.02 lakh crore in a single day Friday

on a weekly basis, Sensex slumped 1.14%, while Nifty dropped 0.86%.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹7,02,017.71cr to ₹4,65,46,643.20cr (\$5.13tn)

Investors' wealth eroded by ₹7.02 lakh crore in a single day Friday

1,048.16 points, or 1.25 per cent, to close at 82,626.76. During the day, the benchmark tanked 1,140.37 points, or 1.36 per cent, to hit an intraday low of 82,534.55.

A total of 2,960 stocks declined, while 1,253 advanced and 151 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share

NSE Nifty

plunged

336.10

points, or

1.30 per

cent, to

settle at

25,471.10.

In the intraday

trade, it

slumped

362.9 points,

or 1.4 per cent,

to hit a low of

25,444.30.

Analysts at JP Morgan flagged investor concerns that India's IT firms could miss growth targets as AI pushes clients to reallocate spending.

Sat Duhra, portfolio manager at Henderson Far East Income, said IT companies probably haven't done the greatest job in terms of communicating how they can turn AI into an opportunity rather than a threat.

The index fell as much as 5.2% Friday before paring losses to settle 1.44% lower.

The losses Friday were led by a 2.1% drop in industry leader Tata Consultancy Services. Infosys declined 1.2% and HCLTech dropped 1.4%.

Friday's mid-session recovery was largely due to investors "buying the dip" on attractive valuations, Centrum Broking's Piyush Pandey said.

"Investors have largely over-reacted to the threat posed by these AI tools. It is important to note that IT companies remain relevant even in the age of AI, albeit with a leaner headcount."

JP Morgan noted that it's "overly simplistic" to assume that AI can automatically generate enterprise grade software and replace the value IT Services firms create across the cycle.

"IT Services companies remain the plumbers in the tech world, and if enterprise software/SaaS is rewritten on a bespoke basis by agents - it will need significant services plumbing to work in enterprise context and minimise AI slop."

Bullion dealers and jewellers have largely stayed away from purchases from banks, anticipating that the government will allocate around 80 metric tons of gold imports from the UAE at concessional duty this month, said a Mumbai-based bullion dealer with a private bank.

Gold and silver shipments from the UAE attract lower import duties under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries.

In China, bullion traded at a discount of \$8 to premiums of up to \$10 an ounce above the global benchmark spot price this week, ahead of the nine-day Lunar New Year holiday starting February 15.

"The year of the fire horse seasonally (sees) strong demand. My sense is that the very elevated prices have dampened demand reasonably significantly, but it still remains positive on the mainland," said independent analyst Ross Norman.

The Lunar New Year in China and other Asian markets is traditionally seen as a strong period for physical gold demand.

In Hong Kong, gold traded at par to premiums of \$1.80, while in Japan, bullion was sold at discounts of \$6 to a \$1 premium. In Singapore, gold was sold at a discount of \$0.50 to premiums of up to \$3.50.

ROBUST DEMAND

PV despatches in fast lane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Two-wheeler sales rose 26 per cent to 19,25,603 units last month as against 15,26,218 units in January last year, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said in a statement.

Scooter dispatches increased 37 per cent year-on-year to 7,50,580 units while motorcycle wholesales rose 20 per cent year-on-year to 11,26,416 units in January. Three-wheeler dispatches to dealers rose 30 per cent year-on-year to 75,725 units as against 58,167 units in the year-ago period, it added.

"Passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers posted their highest-ever sales of January in 2026, with double digit growth, compared to January 2025," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon stated.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils Gemstone Jewellery Festival

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Malabar Gold & Diamonds has rolled out special offers as part of its Gemstone Jewellery Festival across all showrooms in Odisha Friday.

A celebration of exquisite craftsmanship and timeless elegance, the festival offers customers an opportunity to explore a stunning array of jewellery pieces crafted in gold and adorned with precious gemstones, uncut diamonds, and polki.

The festival was launched by Dr Tanmaini Das, psychiatrist in the presence of kamal Sheel, CGM & State Head, Odisha; Rohit Kumar, CGM (RS), Odisha; Vishal Garg, DRSH, Bhubaneswar DO, other senior officials and channel partners.

The campaign was initially tested on pilot basis at five cities in Odisha and upon successful results, it is now being extended to around 1300 IOCL petrol pumps across Odisha.

As part of the campaign, Srivastava also flagged off a rally to publicise the message among public and also felicitated the Customer Attendants (CAs), recognized as the face of the company.

The offers are valid until March 8 and customers can also book their preferred jewellery by paying just 30% in advance.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the first jeweler to offer 100% HUID hallmarking, guaranteeing complete purity for all jewellery.

MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, stated, "Malabar Gold & Diamonds has earned the title of the most trusted jeweler by upholding reliability, transparency, and quality throughout every step of our process. To celebrate the Gemstone Festival, we have introduced these

enticing offers across all our showrooms of Odisha - Saiseed Nagar, Chandrasekharpur, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Angul, Soubhagyanagar and Berhampur. Our commitment to transparency—from gold mining to the customer's hands—has established us as a responsible jeweller."

The brand also inaugurated Vyana, a striking new collection of gemstone jewellery that celebrates the unique essence of every woman. Inspired by the belief that no two gemstones and no two women are alike, Vyana is a tribute to individuality, inner strength, and self-expression.

Central Bank of India holds Agriculture Credit Outreach Programme

Bhubaneswar: Central Bank of India organised a mega nationwide Agriculture Credit Outreach Programme Friday. Simultaneously, its Bhubaneswar Region also organised an outreach programme at Ambica Convention, Jagatpura, Pir Bazar, Cuttack in the presence of Regional Head Pankaj Kumar, Deputy Regional Head Suresh Chandra and Chief Manager Mukund Kumar Karn along with other distinguished dignitaries. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from SHG members and local customers, where comprehensive awareness was created regarding various agricultural and women-centric financial products, including Cent Nari Shakti, aimed at catering to the credit needs of SHG women. The programme also achieved remarkable business outcomes, recording total sanctions of ₹20 crore and disbursement of ₹26 crore.

The initiative ensures clean toilets, clean drinking water, and free air facilities at every IOCL retail outlet in the state. The users can give feedback by scanning the QR code placed in the ROs.

IOC will verify the feedback and wherever improvement is found necessary, the users will be rewarded ₹100 of Xtrareward points with which they can purchase petrol and diesel.

As part of the campaign, Srivastava also flagged off a rally to publicise the message among public and also felicitated the Customer Attendants (CAs), recognized as the face of the company.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) launched the 'Clean & Care Challenge' campaign across all its retail outlets statewide in Odisha Friday, marking a significant step in enhancing customer service standards.

The campaign was initially tested on pilot basis at five cities in Odisha and upon successful results, it is now being extended to around 1300 IOCL petrol pumps across Odisha.

As part of the campaign, Srivastava also flagged off a rally to publicise the message among public and also felicitated the Customer Attendants (CAs), recognized as the face of the company.

During the festival, customers can avail up to 30% off on making charges for gemstone and uncut jewellery, along with up to 30% off on the stone value of polki jewellery. These offers are available across the brand's popular ERA, PRECIA and VIRAAN collections, known for blending

