

Trudeau steps down

AGENCIES

Toronto, Jan 6: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation Monday in the face of rising discontent over his leadership, and after the abrupt departure of his finance minister signalled growing turmoil within his government.

Trudeau said it had become clear to him that he cannot "be the leader during the next elections due to internal battles". He planned to stay on as Prime Minister until a new leader of the Liberal Party is chosen.

"I don't easily back down faced with a fight, especially a very important one for our party and the country. But I do this job because the interests of Canadians and the well being of democracy is something that I hold dear," he said. **P10**



FINAL TOUCHES: A worker applies fresh paints on a mermaid model near Acharya Vihar Square in Bhubaneswar as part of the beautification drive ahead of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which begins January 8 **PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK**

9 killed in Red attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bijapur, Jan 6: In their biggest strike on security forces in Chhattisgarh in two years, Naxals blew up a vehicle using an improvised explosive device (IED) weighing 60 to 70 kg, killing eight security personnel and their civilian driver in this district Monday, police said.

Police suspect the powerful IED was planted a long time back along the route used by security personnel.

The explosive device went off near Ambeli village under Kutruru police station area around 2:15pm when District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel from Dantewada district were returning in their Scorpio vehicle after conducting an anti-Naxalite operation, said Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P.

Eight security personnel, four each from DRG and Bastar Fighters- both units of state police- who were travelling in the



SUV and the driver were killed on the spot, the official added. Reinforcement was rushed to the spot and bodies were being evacuated. A search operation was launched in the area by security forces to hunt down those responsible for the killings, Sundarraj said.

the blast site, around 150-metre-long wire connected to the trigger of the command IED was recovered, officials said.

Visuals from the spot showed a more than 10-foot deep crater that split the concrete road after the blast. The vehicle was completely destroyed while dismembered bodies were seen placed on plastic sheets.

President Droupadi Murmu, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka and CM Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief over the death of DRG personnel and the civilian driver in the blast.

"I am deeply saddened by the news of the loss of DRG soldiers in the IED blast in Bijapur (Chhattisgarh). I express my deepest condolences to the families of the brave soldiers. It is impossible to express this grief in words, but I assure the sacrifice of our soldiers will not go in vain. We will end Naxalism from India by March 2026," Shah said in a post on 'X'.

VIRUS SCARE AGAIN

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 6: A palpable fear gripped the country Monday morning after the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) confirmed the detection of 'first' three cases - two in Karnataka and one in Gujarat - of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV). Later in the day, two more cases were found in Tamil Nadu.

A three-month-old girl with a history of bronchopneumonia was diagnosed with HMPV after being admitted to Baptist Hospital in Bangalore. She has already been discharged, the health ministry said.

Similarly, an eight-month-old boy with a history of bronchopneumonia tested positive for HMPV January 3 after being admitted to Baptist Hospital. He is recovering, it said. Neither of

the two have any history of international travel, the ministry underlined.

In Tamil Nadu, two more children tested positive for the virus. These two are the first cases to be reported from Chennai and are currently undergoing treatment in two hospitals, officials said.

The fifth case was reported from Ahmedabad where a two-month-old boy tested positive. Meanwhile, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said the government is closely monitoring the situation and there is no reason to worry. He said HMPV is not a new virus and there is no surge in any of the common respiratory virus pathogens has been observed India.

"WHO has taken cognisance of the situation and will share the report shortly with us," Shah added. **P3**

Stone for Rayagada Rly Div laid virtually

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday laid the foundation stone for Rayagada Railway Division building through virtual mode.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh attended the meeting in Rayagada while, Odisha Governor Kamhampati Hari Babu joined the event through videoconferencing from Bhubaneswar.

After laying the foundation stone, Modi said Rayagada Railway Division will strengthen the railway connectivity in Odisha, particularly in the southern region that houses most of the tribals of the state. "This railway division will help boost tourism, trade and employment in the region," the PM added.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Everybody respects the supreme leader. But the supreme leader respects only him - he controls the teleprompter

All set for PBD convention from tomorrow

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: The state government has made elaborate arrangements for the upcoming 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention to be held here from January 8 to 10.

Overseas Indians have started reaching the city to take part in the event. About 50 guests

arrived at the airport Monday. Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said that the guests would visit 31 places of tourist interest in the state. The state government has also collaborated with different private tour operators and made 'home stay' accommodations ready for some international guests so that they can experi-

ence Odia culture and tradition during their stay in the state, Parida said.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived here Monday evening to take part in PBD convention. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CM Parida and state BJP president Manmohan Samal welcomed Jaishankar at the airport here.

DSPL-301

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ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଭାରତୀୟ ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୪

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leisure



HOLLAND, ZENDAYA SPARK ENGAGEMENT RUMOURS

Zendaya sparked engagement rumours with Tom Holland as she arrived at the 82nd edition of the Golden Globe Awards wearing a \$200k diamond 'engagement ring'. Zendaya was nominated for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy for her role in *Challengers*

VIN CALLS OUT DWAYNE AMID FAST AND FURIOUS FEUD

Vin Diesel and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson are drifting to a new stage in their relationship. The *Fast and Furious* costars, who began feuding almost a decade ago, reunited at the 2025 Golden Globes, when Vin gave the former wrestler a shoutout on stage



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are in high spirits today. This is a good time to do all those things that you have been procrastinating for a long time. You may do all the things you dislike doing, like arranging your wardrobe. If you are planning to introduce a new strategy, Ganesh says go ahead.

TAURUS
This day you could be wasting your time and energy in thankless activities. You are not likely to get the results you seek, says Ganesh. This is mainly because you will be trying to play the good guy and going out of your way to make everyone happy at the same time. That is not likely to happen. You should not waste time and energy and, instead, concentrate on doing things that are useful and beneficial for you.

GEMINI
There are indications that you will most certainly guard against going off on a tangent in important meetings today, foresees Ganesh. You are also likely to let your brains on an overdrive to get things done at the workplace. You will have a fabulous dinner with your sweetheart in the evening.

CANCER
Chances are that your day will be filled with a lot of fun and celebration, says Ganesh. In the afternoon, you can expect a breakthrough in a very important business deal. At night, you will be busy partying.

LEO
You will open your heart to someone special today, and spill all your hidden desires and feelings. You will say everything you feel truthfully. Your love and attention is likely to be reciprocated. It is a good day, for romance is in the air, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Partnership deals and money spinning will occupy most of your time as business and work top your priority list, predicts Ganesh. You will face stiff competition and animosity at various levels throughout the day. In the evening, your chances of winning are very bright in cut-throat business competitions.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will finally get ready to propose to your beloved today. To attract your future life partner you will try to improve your appearance too. You will try to get emotionally closer to your loved one by sharing your past happy memories with them.

SCORPIO
Lots of work and less of time may make things difficult for you today. This may disappoint you, and you may feel agitated and irritated. But, after all what are friends for? Call them, talk to them and they may be the best counsellors. Go for a walk to take a break from a boring routine.

SAGITTARIUS
Expect to be on the go for business related work. Money matters will be a pressing issue in the afternoon. Be the team player and catch all that comes your co-workers' way. Expect to relax and end the day on a cheerful, romantic note.

CAPRICORN
Personally as well as professionally, you'll have the best of both worlds today, assures Ganesh. Some unexpected turn of events will keep you charged up. As the day progresses, you will come across more and more such events that will keep you in a happy mood.

AQUARIUS
xxxxx A romantic encounter may leave you breathless! Naturally, your whole day is tinged with hues of love. You will be in no mood to work or study, but you just have to go along with the world. It's a bittersweet experience, and you may as well enjoy it, says Ganesh. You may want to be alone in the evening, and that is perfectly okay.

PISCES
It is best to avoid speculating in the stock market today, as the risks you take today are unlikely to bear fruit. On the contrary you could end up having to face heavy losses. On the personal front, you will be busy entertaining and being entertained and will have some of the best moments of your life, says Ganesh.

The 'jinx' around Madhuri



Mumbai: Veteran actor Madhuri Dixit, now celebrated as a superstar, faced a challenging start in her Bollywood career. Before her rise to fame, she endured a string of box office failures, earning the label of a "jinxed girl" in the late 1980s. Director Indra Kumar, who worked with her on *Dil* and *Beta*, revealed this during an interview on YouTube channel. Indra shared that Madhuri's career struggles initially deterred filmmakers from casting her. He recalled, "At that time, Aamir Khan had only one hit, *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*, and none of Madhuri's films had worked. When I signed her for *Dil* with Aamir Khan, it was still fine, but when I signed her for *Be-*

ta too, people thought I was crazy. They believed her presence would lead to failure." Despite the doubts, Indra trusted Madhuri's potential. "There was something special about her," he said. His belief paid off when the *Dayavan* actress broke the jinx with consecutive hits—*Tezaab* and *Ram Lakhn*. Indra recounted how Madhuri transformed into a superstar almost overnight. "After that, I was also lucky. I started the film in October, and *Tezaab* released in December in 1988, and in January 1989, *Ram Lakhn* released. My next schedule was directly after six months from October, when Madhuri came there, she was already a superstar. She was down to earth on her first day, and she still is. There is no change," he said.

Urmila's favourite song

Mumbai: Actress Urmila Matondkar revealed that she loves the song *Yeh Mera Dil Yaar Ka Diwana* by Asha Bhosle from the 1978 film *Don*. Urmila took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures in a glamorous avatar. In the images, the *Rangeela* actress is seen striking poses, which accentuates her svelte figure. "Love this song and somehow this pose reminded me of it. Bollywood Legends Timeless Classy Bold n Beautiful," she wrote as the caption. *Don* is an action thriller film directed by Chandra Barot from a story written by Salim-Javed. The film stars Amitabh Bachchan in dual roles. Zeenat Aman, Pran, Iftekhar, Om Shivpuri and Satyen Kapru too featured alongside the megastar. December 31, Urmila bid farewell to 2024 with gratitude. She shared a couple of beautiful photos and wrote, "Goodbye 2024... what a ride you have been!! I'm only grateful for everything that you brought with you. I accept, with all humility, everything you gave me with a smile and move forward." Meanwhile, Urmila recently made headlines for filing for divorce from her husband Mohsin Akhtar Mir after eight years of marriage. In September, the actress reportedly submitted the divorce petition in Bandra, Mumbai.



The Brutalist dominates with three wins

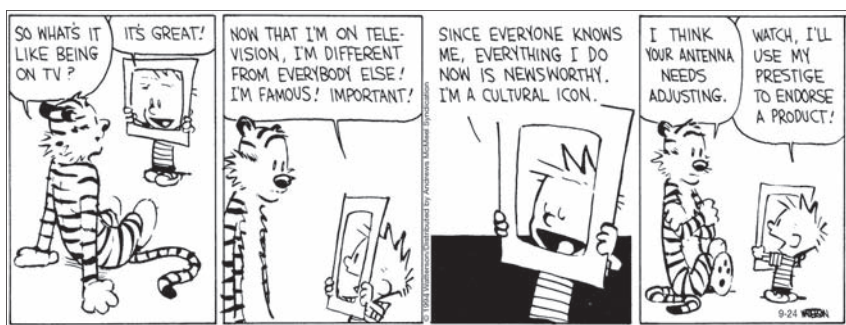
NEW DELHI: *The Brutalist* turned out to be the jury's favorite at the 82nd Golden Globe Awards, winning three major honours: Best Motion Picture – Drama, Best Actor for Adrien Brody and Best Director for Brady Corbet. The epic immigrant drama, centered on a Jewish architect fleeing Europe after World War II, was a standout at Sunday's ceremony and is now a strong contender for the Academy Awards. Adrien Brody's portrayal of a Hungarian Holocaust survivor earned him the Best Actor award, marking a significant career comeback. Over two decades ago, Brody became the youngest ever Oscar winner for *The Pianist*. His riveting performance in *The Brutalist* has been widely praised as one of his best. Brady Corbet's victory for Best Director highlighted his

GOLDEN GLOBES 2025
THE BRUTALIST
bold vision for the sprawling three-and-a-half-hour film, which delves into themes of survival, identity and artistic ambition. "I was told no one would watch it," Corbet said in his acceptance speech, "but it works." The category for Best Motion Picture – Drama included strong competition from *Conclave*, *A Complete Unknown*, *Dune: Part Two*, *Nickel Boys* and *September 5*. Meanwhile, French director Jacques Audiard's surreal narco-musical *Emilia Perez* emerged as another major winner, taking home four prizes, including Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9		10			
11	12			13	
			14		
15		16		17	18
			19		
20				21	22
23				24	

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Across
7 Frolic
8 Owl, for one
9 Fail utterly
10 Photographer's setting
11 As a rule
13 Parlour piece
15 Competitor
17 Movie promo
20 Type of vinegar

Down
21 Yielding
23 Drawing
24 Renounce
1 Effrontery
2 Major publicity
3 Spire
4 Sometimes they're on shoulders
5 Dwarfed ornamental tree
6 Ease off
12 Major tea exporter (3,5)
14 Heavy fabric with a woven design
16 Ledger column
18 Take a firm stand
19 Asian nurses
22 Poultry

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Visitors looking at paintings at 'Utkalika', a painting exhibition by the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai which was inaugurated at the Lalitkala Akademi here, Monday



downtown

Govt clears over ₹44K-cr investment proposals

Five major projects, spanning across Jajpur, Dhenkanal, and Cuttack districts will generate 23,005 jobs



an Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited to set up a 4.00 MMT crude oil storage facility in Jajpur, expected to generate 5,130 jobs. Inox Solar Limited will invest ₹4,000 crore in Dhenkanal to establish a solar module and photovoltaic cell manufacturing unit with a capacity of 4.8 GWeach, creating 3,400 jobs.

ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited plans to invest ₹4,050.03 crore in Cuttack for a sustainable protein manufacturing plant focused on mushroom root fermentative protein, generating 3,475 jobs.

Similarly, Tata Steel Limited will expand its operations with a ₹26,175 crore investment in a 2.2 MTPA cold rolled and coated steel products facility and 2 MT-

PA plate mill in Jajpur, creating 8,000 jobs.

Himadri Green Technologies Innovation will invest ₹1,825 crore in Cuttack to establish a facility for mineral oil and tire recycling products, generating 3,000 jobs.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, "The approval of these big projects before Utkarsh Odisha 2025 is a clear sign of our state's growing industrial strength. These investments will create thousands of jobs and will directly benefit the people of Odisha. Our focus is to ensure that Odisha remains a top investment destination, driving progress and prosperity for our people."

This HLCA meeting underscores the state's focus on innovation and sustainability, which will have a positive impact on the economy. "With these projects, Odisha is entering a new phase of industrial growth and further establishing itself as a major player in India's economic development. Utkarsh Odisha 2025 will continue to build on this momentum, focusing on innovation, sustainability, and job creation," the release added.

NO CASE OF HMPV VIRUS IN ODISHA YET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Amid the nation-wide Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) scare following the detection of two cases in Karnataka Monday, Odisha's Public Health Director Nilakantha Mishra said no cases of the viral infection has been reported in the state so far.

"No case of HMPV virus has been reported in Odisha yet," Mishra said adding that so far no specific public guidelines have been issued by the Centre. "The Government of India has issued a press release sharing information on the virus and the situation arising out of it in the country. We are waiting for the guidelines," he said. The Public Health Director said the Odisha government is fully geared up to tackle any situation. "Surveillance is the most important thing. This is a moderately, and not highly, transmissible virus," he added.

He said as per reports, the virus has been detected in two children. "They have no foreign visit history. The HMPV was first discovered in 2001," Mishra said adding that surveillance has been intensified. He urged people to avoid coming in contact with those having cold-like symptoms such as cough.

Meanwhile, the Health and Family Welfare department held a crucial meeting, headed by minister Mukesh Mahaling, to review preparedness for HMPV detection and treatment. The department also issued a press release urging people not to fear or panic in the backdrop of reports of HMPV cases detected in Karnataka.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Five major industrial projects worth ₹44,793.03 crore which are set to generate 23,005 jobs were approved by the state government Monday. The clearance came during the 38th high-level clearance authority (HLCA) meeting, chaired by chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

These projects, to come up in Jajpur, Dhenkanal, and Cuttack districts, span across sectors such as refinery and petrochemicals, green energy equipment, biotechnology, steel, and chemicals.

This 38th HLCA meeting marked the first of the current year and came ahead of the Utkarsh Odisha 2025, a press release stated.

The approved projects include a ₹8,743 crore investment by Indi-

Odisha to sponsor Indian kho kho team for 3 years



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Odisha government Monday announced a three-year sponsorship deal for the Indian national kho kho team, marking a significant step forward in promoting indigenous sports in the country.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said the state will invest ₹5 crore annually from January 2025 to December 2027, with funding provided through the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC).

The total sponsorship package of ₹15 crore demonstrates Odisha's continued commitment to

sports development, following its successful partnership with Indian hockey. This initiative aims to elevate Kho Kho's status and provide essential support to the national team.

"This is a watershed moment for kho kho in India. By supporting our indigenous sports, we are not only preserving our cultural heritage but also creating new opportunities for our athletes," said Majhi.

"Just as we transformed Indian hockey, we envision a similar renaissance for kho kho, positioning Odisha as a catalyst for sporting excellence."

Sudhanshu Mittal, President of

CM Mohan Charan Majhi said the state will invest ₹5 crore annually from January 2025 to December 2027, with funding provided through OMC

the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI), welcomed the announcement, as the country prepares to host the sport's first ever World Cup from January 13-19 in New Delhi.

"Odisha's commitment to kho kho represents a turning point for this traditional sport. This sponsorship will significantly enhance our ability to develop world-class athletes and promote Kho Kho on the global stage," Mittal said.

The sponsorship will facilitate team development, training infrastructure, and participation in national and international competitions.

Officials note that this partnership will also provide valuable branding opportunities for Odisha at national and international sporting events.

Patnaik slams govt over price rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik Monday participated in a protest rally, organised by the party over soaring commodity prices in Odisha, for the first time in the last 25 years, and termed the 'Mohan Majhi' government in the state as the 'Mahanga Mada (price rise) Sarkar'.

He dubbed the BJP government in the state "insensitive" to the people's plight, and alleged that the administration was "not taking action" against skyrocketing prices of essential commodities.

Accusing the BJP-led government of betraying public trust, he said the administration has "no control" over the markets.

"The BJP government came to power by giving false narratives and promises," he alleged while addressing workers of the party at the rally.

"Instead of helping the people, the 'double engine' has become a double 'mada' (blow). The double-engine government is hitting people from two sides — price hikes and GST."

The term "double engine" is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state.

"The BJP-led Central govern-



ment has imposed GST on every product, even on medicines. Poor people are bearing the brunt of price rise and paying more GST than ever before," Patnaik alleged.

Taking a jibe at the BJP dispensation for its performance, he claimed, "The BJP had shown a rosy picture in its trailer. But the film that followed is 'MM (Mohan Majhi) Sarkar—Mahanga Mada (price rise) Sarkar'. Seven months have passed since the BJP government came to power in Odisha. We hear tall talks, but work is not visible."

The BJP dispensation presented itself as a people's government, but it "doesn't have any connection" with residents of the state, Patnaik, who was Odisha's chief minister five times, alleged.

"The BJP government feels happy by narrating different stories to people. But, the common man is facing hardship. Farmers are ending their lives over crop loss due to unseasonal rain in the state while women are crying in kitchens over commodity price rises," he claimed.

Thousands of BJD workers from across Odisha gathered at the Lower PMG near the Master Canteen area in the state capital to participate in the demonstration against the price rise.

They held placards and banners and raised slogans against the BJP government, while some of them were seen wearing garlands of potatoes and onions and carrying empty cooking gas cylinders, as a symbolic protest against soaring commodity prices.

Patnaik ensured that all senior leaders of the party remain present on the dais to project that there was no internal feud among the top brass of the party.

Reacting to the BJD's protest, senior BJD leader and state minister KC Patra accused the regional party of "enacting drama" over the price rise issue.

Compared to other states, prices of essential commodities, including pulses, edible oil, and vegetables, are lower in Odisha, the minister claimed.

Odisha BJD vice-president Biranchi Narayan Tripathy said, "When the BJD was in power, Odisha was on the list of states where commodity prices were higher. They are now doing all these dramas."

Patnaik had also joined a signature campaign against the Centre over the Mahanadi water dispute.

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ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ରାଜ୍ୟ ସଂଗ୍ରହାଳୟର

୯ ଗୋଟି ନୂତନ ଗ୍ୟାଲେରୀ ଓ ତାଳପତ୍ର ଚିତ୍ରରେ ରାମାୟଣ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନୀ

ଶୁଭ ଉଦ୍ଘାଟନ

୭ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ୨୦୨୪ | ମଧ୍ୟାହ୍ନ ୧୨:୦୫

ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ରତା : ପ୍ରଥମଥର ଭୂତଳରେ କଳାସାମଗ୍ରୀ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ

- ବିକ୍ରମବେତାଳ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅସ୍ଥିତା ଓ ଇତିହାସ ଦର୍ଶକଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇବା
- ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗ୍ୟାଲେରୀରେ ଡିଜିଟାଲ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା
- ତାଳପତ୍ର ଚିତ୍ରରେ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣାଙ୍ଗ ରାମାୟଣର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନୀ

ଗରିମାମୟ ଉପସ୍ଥିତି

ଶ୍ରୀ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟବଂଶୀ ସୂର୍ଜ

ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷା, କ୍ରୀଡ଼ା ଓ ଯୁବସେବା ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-0303013/0006/2425

Odisha to set up bird museum: Dy CM Parida

The tourism department, in collaboration with the Chilika Development Authority (CDA), is preparing a master plan for the project



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida Monday said the Odisha government is planning to set up a bird museum, the first-of-its-kind in the state, to celebrate the annual congregation of avian guests in Chilika Lake.

The proposed museum will aim to promote tourism and conservation efforts in the region, she said.

Inaugurating the 5th National Chilika Bird Festival, which will continue until January 12

attractions to PBD delegates. Chilika, the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia, spans the districts of Puri, Khurda, and Ganjam.

Globally, it is recognised as the second-largest bird lake after Lake Victoria in South Africa. Migratory birds travel to Chilika from Siberia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Central and South-east Asia, Mongolia, America, Ladakh, Tibet, and the Caspian Sea to escape harsh winters.

The Deputy Chief Minister described Chilika's mild climate and Nalabana's sheltered environment as ideal for birds, with Mangalajodi near Chilika being a renowned bird haven.

"This festival aims to bring global attention to bird tourism in destinations like Chilika, Sattkoshiya, Bhitarkanika, and Hirakud," Parida said.

According to the 2024 bird census, Chilika hosted approximately 11.37 lakh birds representing 187 species.

Parida invited bird enthusiasts to visit Chilika, describing it as a "bird heaven".

and coincide with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) event in the Capital city from January 8 to 10, Parida said the government is considering potential sites for the museum, including Chilika, Barkul, and Nalabana.

The tourism department, in collaboration with the Chilika Development Authority (CDA), is preparing a master plan for the project, she added.

Parida, who is also the tourism minister, said the state government is keen to showcase Chilika Lake and the Nalabana Bird Sanctuary as major tourist



IN SYNC: Tribals perform a traditional dance on the second day of 'Adivasi Mela 2025' at Idco Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Adivasi Mela attracts huge footfall with tribal displays

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Day two of the Adivasi Mela 2025 is drawing large crowds, featuring mesmerising cultural dances performed by various tribal groups, highlighting the rich traditions of Odisha and beyond.

The state-level fair, organised by the ST and SC Development department at the Idco Exhibition

Ground in City, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday.

More than 140 stalls at the fair are offering a wide array of forest products, tribal jewelry, and various types of rice and pulses at affordable prices. Tribal jewelry, including earrings, nose rings, necklaces, bracelets, and anklets, is selling quickly, with most items crafted by tribal women with

great care.

This year, the fair is transforming a part of the City into a tribal village. Key attractions include a tribal village, a tribal haat, art and craft stalls, tribal food courts, live demonstrations, and the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Pavilion. A total of 20 tribal huts and 147 stalls are set up to sell tribal goods, with 40 stalls dedicated to art and

craft and 15 stalls showcasing live demonstrations.

Each evening, the fair comes alive with tribal dance and music performances, accompanied by a laser show based on the life of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Additional highlights include a drone show, a light and sound show focusing on tribal freedom fighters, a fashion show, and a fireworks display.

Sati stone at Rajendra University deciphered

BHUBANESWAR: An inscribed Sati stone located on the premises of the History department at Rajendra University, Bolangir, has been deciphered by Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, a member of the Epigraphical Society of India. The stone was initially noticed by Raj Kumar Rate, a lecturer in History at Khariar Autonomous College. Rate came across the Sati stone during his PhD field study in December 2021. With the assistance of colleagues Subhransis Barik and Chitta Ranjan Jena, as well as university staff Rupdhar Gomango and Pruruba Swain, he informed the then vice-chancellor about its significance. The dilapidated stone was recovered from an open drain and shifted to the History department of Rajendra University. In November 2024, Rate contacted Adhikari, who helped decipher the inscriptions. The three-panel Sati stone features symbols of the sun, crescent moon, and two female palms in Abhayamudra in its upper section. The middle section depicts two human figures worshipping a Shivalinga, with a male figure holding a chhatra (parasol). The lower section contains a four-line inscription in Nagari script.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	27.6°	24.5°
Min Temp	14.5°	12.5°
Humidity	94%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		
Fog/mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later.		

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE	PERCENTAGE
SENSEX	77964.99	↓	1,258
NIFTY	23616.05	↓	388.70
DOLLAR	85.88	↓	0.07
EURO	89.42	↑	0.90
GOLD	₹77,106	↓	₹211
SILVER	₹90,626	↑	₹405

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EKAMRA UTSAV 2025

Flea market showcases Odisha's rich handicrafts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: The 2nd Ekamra Utsav 2025, organised by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), is drawing large crowds and offering a vibrant showcase of Odisha's rich culture. Running from January 5 to 16, the festival features a range of events, including the Park Utsav, food festival, flea market, and Ekamra Walks.

One of the main attractions is the flea market, where visitors can explore a wide array of traditional handicrafts and artworks. The market is filled with intricately designed jewelry, handloom textiles, silver ornaments, terracotta pieces, Pattachitra paintings, and palm leaf art, all reflecting Odisha's cultural heritage.

Purna Chandra Ghosh, an exhibitor at the market, spoke about his Applique work, which has been showcased for 20 years with support from the Odisha government. He shared, "During Ekamra Utsav, we usually earn about ₹2 lakh, which helps sustain our livelihood and preserve our art."

Kanak Handicraft, another



exhibitor, specialises in hand-painted and screen-printed artworks. The owner explained that their paintings range from ₹250 to ₹40,000, each telling a story of Odisha's culture.

Ankit Das, a Bhubaneswar student, expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "I'm amazed by the richness of our culture and crafts. Ekamra Utsav truly highlights the beauty of Odisha's handicrafts."

With its festive atmosphere and steady footfall, the flea market is set to attract more visitors as the event progresses.

Classical dance & music festivals kick off today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: The Rajarani Music Festival, Mukteswar, and International Odissi Dance Festivals are set to take place in the Capital city from January 7 to 11, coinciding with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations. The Odia Language, Literature, and Culture department will host this five-day extravaganza, showcasing Odisha's classical dance and music.

The International Odissi Dance Festival will be held at Rabindra Mandap, the Rajarani Temple, and the Mukteswar Odissi Dance Festival on the Mukteswar Temple premises. These venues will witness spectacular performances by eminent artists.

This year's International Odissi Dance Festival will fea-



ture celebrated performers, including Kunkum Mohanty, Ileana Citaristi, Durga Charan Ranbir, Jhelum Paranjape, and Sharon Lowen. A special photo exhibition will also highlight the festival's history and significance.

The Mukteswar Odissi Dance Festival will showcase solo, duet, and group performances by prominent Odissi dancers, while the Rajarani Music Festival will offer captivating recitals of Hindustani, Carnatic,

and Odissi music.

Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj remarked that classical dance and music are integral to Odisha's cultural identity and heritage. These festivals, he said, aim to highlight the state's rich cultural legacy and attract international attention. "Through these events, we celebrate our classical art forms, drawing the artistic community's focus to Odisha's traditions," the minister added.

Odisha sets sights on becoming leading aviation hub

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: The Odisha government has initiated a series of measures to establish the state as a key aviation hub in India. Monday, the Commerce and Transport (C&T) department hosted a high-level stakeholder consultation to discuss the development of Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities in the state.

This effort is part of the government's broader vision to transform Odisha into a leader in aviation, aligning with its "Viksit Odisha" goal focused on innovation, infrastructure, and industrial growth.

The consultation, chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, was attended by C&T department principal secretary Usha Padhee, along with prominent industry players such as representatives from GMR Group, Star Air, Safran, Max Aero-



space, Pritnee Aerospace, and the MRO Association of India. Senior officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation also participated in the event.

During the meeting, discussions centered around creating an investor-friendly policy framework to position Odisha as the preferred destination for MRO operators, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), and airlines in the

eastern region.

The focus was on implementing the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022 to build the necessary infrastructure and boost the state's aviation sector.

Padhee highlighted Odisha's strategic potential, with key airports in Jharsuguda, Bhubaneswar, and Puri being positioned as integral parts of the state's vision to become a global aviation hub.

She emphasised the state's competitive advantage, noting its leadership in aluminum production and its established industrial ecosystem, which she said makes the state an ideal location for world-class MRO facilities.

Additionally, Padhee outlined financial incentives, including a 30 per cent capital subsidy for MRO investments, and stressed the importance of skill development programmes to build a qualified workforce.

The state is also collaborating with the government of Singapore to adopt global best practices in aviation and MRO operations, aiming to bring international standards to the state's aviation ecosystem. This partnership is expected to enhance operational efficiency and serve as a benchmark for the sector across India.

Ahuja underlined Odisha's proactive approach to policy-making, stating, "Our goal is

to establish Odisha as a leader in India's aviation sector. We are focused on creating policies that support growth, offer incentives, and empower local talent to ensure the long-term success of the industry."

The consultation also focused on sustainability, global partnerships, and skill development strategies to create a holistic MRO ecosystem in the state. With its strategic location, abundant resources, and progressive policies, Odisha is well-positioned to become a hub for MRO operators, OEMs, and airlines, further enhancing India's aviation infrastructure.

"With its strategic location, abundant resources, and progressive policies, Odisha is uniquely positioned to become a hub for MRO operators, OEMs, and airlines, strengthening India's aviation infrastructure and creating employment opportunities," the state government concluded.

Modi, Shah greet Majhi

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi turned 53 Monday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and Union Home Minister Amit Shah extending greetings to him on the occasion. In a post on X, Modi said Majhi is making noteworthy efforts for Odisha's progress. Shah said Majhi is giving new direction and acceleration to public welfare and development in Odisha.

Consultation held to address missing women, girls in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: A consultation programme was organised here recently to address the alarming issue of missing women and girls in Odisha.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 16,649 girls and 70,222 women have gone missing in the state over the last three years.

The event was led by Odisha Parents Federation president Basudev Bhatta and attended by experts, including former Election Commission Advisor Bhagaban Prakash, former Women's Commission chairperson Lopamudra Mohanty, and social activist Namrata Chadha. They emphasised the need for immediate government action to rescue the missing individuals and ensure their rehabilitation.

The consultation body resolved to mount pressure on the government, seeking meetings with the Chief Minister, Home Secretary, DGP, and constitutional authorities, including the High Court, to prioritise the issue.

Notable participants included former CWC Member Manasi Parhi, journalist Soumya Parida, Advocate Bibhuti Choudhury, former SP Sonepur Sitaram Satapaty, researcher Smruti Jena, and activists like Baby Nayak and Pravatī Rout. Members of organisations like Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Rotary Club, and others also provided suggestions to address the crisis in a mission-mode approach.

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Farmers resort to distress sale of paddy to AP traders

CHECKPOINTS FAIL TO CURB FLOW OF PADDY TO NEIGHBOURING STATE



POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Jan 6: Paddy farmers here have been forced to resort to distress sale of their harvest to Andhra traders due to lack of a clear and precise policy on paddy procurement by the district administration. Moreover, lack of strict surveillance at border checkpoints has intensified the illegal sale and transportation of paddy to neighbouring states.

The state government has directed strict surveillance at border checkpoints, including the installation of CCTV cameras, to curb the illegal transportation of paddy to neighbouring states and prevent unscrupulous business practices. However, these measures appear ineffective in Gajapati district, where traders from Andhra Pradesh are purchasing paddy freely.

Reports indicate that tokens bearing the names of Odisha farmers are being issued in

Andhra Pradesh, enabling traders to buy paddy from Odisha. These tokens, along with receipts for weighing the paddy, serve as evidence of the transactions.

Andhra traders are allegedly transporting paddy from Gosani and Kashinagar blocks in Gajapati district. Each day, 30 to 40 tractors loaded with paddy are being sold at prices ranging from ₹1,500 to ₹1,700 per quintal without restrictions. According to some sharecroppers, traders do not consider the quality of the paddy, focusing only on bulk purchases.

On the other hand, some farmers say they have lost trust in the state government and district administration. Initially, the district administration announced that paddy procurement would begin December 30, but this was postponed to January 7. Farmers are unsure if procurement will take place even on the revised date.

Meanwhile, unseasonal rains have damaged standing crops, and delay in opening of mandis has added to farmers' woes. Many Telugu-speaking farmers in Gajapati district face additional financial pressure as they prepare for the Pongal festival, which necessitates urgent cash.

"Left with no choice, farmers are selling their paddy to Andhra traders at throwaway prices," said farmer leaders Surya Narayan Pattnayak, Babula Patra, and Lakshmi Narayan.

When contacted, Supply Officer Prafulla Kumar Behera said 45 mandis will be opened at Gumma, Gosani, Kashinagar, and Rayagada blocks. A target has been set to collect 5,85,000 quintals of paddy from these mandis.

This year, despite the price of paddy per quintal being higher in Odisha compared to Andhra Pradesh, it is unfortunate that farmers have been forced to sell their produce at lower prices. Farmers can sell their produce at their discretion, and the district administration cannot intervene to prevent this.

He further stated that farmers with surplus paddy beyond the target are selling it to Andhra Pradesh at lower rates. The supply officer's remarks seem to suggest that instead of curbing illegal traders in the district, the administration may be indirectly encouraging them.



ENTHRALLING AUDIENCE: 'Dulduli' artistes perform with traditional musical instruments like 'dhol' and cymbals on the concluding day of Sambalpur Lok Mahotsav held at the PHD ground in Ainthapali in Sambalpur, Monday

Driver detained for death of 2 BJP leaders in mishap

Bhubaneswar: Sambalpur police Monday detained the driver of a heavy vehicle in connection with the deaths of two BJP leaders in what appeared to be a deliberate accident. Sambalpur SP Mukesh Kumar Bhambhani reported that the driver of the heavy vehicle had deliberately rammed into the car, resulting in the deaths of the two BJP leaders. The SP said the driver has been detained by the police and is currently being interrogated. He also mentioned that the police are investigating whether any other individuals were involved in the incident. Based on video footage, it was evident that the driver of the heavy vehicle intentionally hit the car from behind. The car was carrying the BJP leaders and their supporters at the time of the collision. The truck driver, identified as Prasanna Jenamani (30), is a resident of the Athmallik area in Angul district. Police sources stated that the accident occurred around 1:30am Sunday.

Six arrested for witchcraft, sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Korukonda, Jan 6: Police arrested six persons on charge of witchcraft practice at Chitapari-4 village under the Orkel police limits in Malkangiri district.

Orkel police registered a case (12/25) and produced the accused persons in court Sunday. The accused were identified as Tikendra Dehari, 25, Khirendra Kumar Nag, 27, Ramu Mandavi, 44, Jagannath Nag, 22, Kamalaram Nag, 23, and Mangaturam Baghel, 40.

Police said that the suspects hail from the Kotwali and Darbha police jurisdictions in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. A car used by the accused persons and ritual items from the shrine were also seized by the police. Further investigations were on.

The investigation is being led by SI Ajit Singh Bariha, Orkel police station Officer-in-Charge Dhiren Patnaik said.

The local administration had granted permission for a religious programme to be conducted from Friday to Sunday at Chitapari-4 village. However, on the second day of the ritual, some residents informed the police that a group

of individuals were performing suspicious activities like witchcraft and sorcery.

A police team, led by the Orkel IIC rushed to the spot to conduct a probe. During probe they found that some individuals, including priests from Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur area, were conducting rituals with a cot locally called Khatuli in the village. Villagers claimed the rituals were linked to the deaths of some villagers and animals last year in quick succession. This fuelled suspicions of witchcraft and sorcery practice.



The situation escalated when villagers identified a 67-year-old woman Bati Khil and labelled her a witch. Later, they tried to ostracise her from the community by banishing her from the village. Police rescued the elderly woman and arrested six individuals in this connection.

NHRC orders measures for welfare of journalists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 6: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Information and Public Relations department to take measures to ensure the welfare, protection, and social security of journalists.

The NHRC issued the order January 1 in response to a petition filed by senior lawyer and human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathi October 24, 2024. Tripathi's petition was based on Justice Malathi's report concerning the welfare of journalists.

In his petition, Tripathi highlighted that financial benefits recommended by the Central government for journalists' welfare have not been implemented, and the human rights of journalists are being violated. He presented evidence to the apex rights body regarding the various challenges faced by journalists, steps taken by the government in the past, and the need for these measures to be effectively implemented.

The NHRC has instructed the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as well as Chief Secretaries of all states, to provide a comprehensive report on the matter.

Int'l seminar on 'Viksit Bharat-2047' at FMU

Balasure: The PG department of Social Science at Fakir Mohan University here organised a two-day international seminar on 'Viksit Bharat-2047' Monday. The programme has been organised on the theme "Modernisation, Social Change and Development: A way forward to Viksit Bharat-2047". Vice-Chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy presided over the first session of the programme which was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University Gitanjali Das while PG council chairman Bhaskar Behera, joined as the guest of honour. Anand Kumar, CSSS of Jawaharlal Nehru University, addressed the gathering and discussed modernisation in relation to various social changes observed in modern times. He shed light on many important issues facing the changing society with the aim of improvement and presented the possible shape of 'Viksit Bharat-2047'. Professor Triloki Nath Pandey of University of California highlighted various aspects related to India's changing social conditions and the impact of modernisation in his address. VC Prof Gitanjali Dash informed about the importance of study of sociology focusing its role in social development in relation to current modernisation.

Vedanta's stall at Chaiti Mahotsav praised

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Jan 6: Vedanta Aluminium's stall at the 'Chaiti Mahotsav', organised in Rayagada district, was a major attraction at the festival that featured a captivating fusion of heritage art showcasing Saura paintings, Dokra art forms, traditional tribal art and crafts alongside products from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) prepared by the Project Sakhi which empowers women as micro-entrepreneurs.

The stall garnered significant interest from the visitors through its live Saura art hand painting counter.

Additionally, the stall featured an array of exhibits from Vedanta's newly-acquired hockey team - Kalinga Lancers, the defending champions in the ongoing Hockey India League



(HIL). The display included the team's mascot, player highlights, and the trophy creating an impressive engagement platform that delighted the visitors.

The stall not only attracted over 25,000 visitors during the festival, but was also graced by dignitaries like Rayagada MLA Kadraka Allapaswamy, Bisamcuttack MLA Nilamadhab Hikaka, Rayagada Collector & District Magistrate Parul Patawari, and Rayagada Superintendent of Police Swathy S Kumar, among others.

Emphasising the significance of such an initiative, the Rayagada MLA remarked, "Vedanta Aluminium's involvement in Chaiti Mahotsav not only highlights their dedication to cultural heritage, but also plays a crucial role in enhancing the socio-economic fabric of our community. Their efforts to support local artisans and promote traditional crafts are commendable."

Speaking on the initiative, Sunil Gupta, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Vedanta Aluminium said, "Our participation in Chaiti Mahotsav reflects our commitment to supporting the local artisans and promoting indigenous art forms. By engaging with the community in this way, we foster a spirit of entrepreneurship that empowers individuals and enriches our cultural landscape."

Mid-winter status survey of wetland birds January 18

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Jan 6: The Mid-Winter Status Survey of Wetland Birds-2025 is scheduled to be carried out January 18 in five forest and wildlife ranges under Bhitarkanika National Park. Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav, the DFO of Rajnagar Mangrove Forest and Wildlife Division said the field survey will be held January 18 at Kanika, Gahirmatha, Rajnagar, Mahakalapara and Kujanga ranges within Bhitarkanika National Park.

As many as 18 survey teams will be engaged to conduct the survey. The Bhitarkanika Forest officials along with renowned ornithologists, bird experts, and researchers will conduct the bird status survey at Dangamala, Khola, Chinchiri mouth, Jaudia, Bhitarkanika Mouth, Rajgarh, Satabhaya, Raitapatia, Barunei Muhana, Chataka, Prarahapur Jaudia, Ekakula, Nasi, Nasi-1, Nasi-2, Jatadhar tanda, Hawakhana, Bandar, Devi river mouth and other places in Bhitarkanika National Park.

The Forest officials generally count the avian species with the traditional method "Direct Sighting" during the bird status survey. The wildlife researchers and ornithologists would use VHF handsets, binoculars, and GPS to count birds in the park.

Every year with the arrival of winter, migratory birds fly thousands of miles to Bhitarkanika to escape the harsh winter in Siberia, Afghanistan, Iraq, northern Asia, and some central European countries. They generally stay in Bhitarkanika for about three months before starting their homeward sojourn

CROCODILE CENSUS BEGINS IN SATKOSIA

Anguli: The annual crocodile census at Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in this district began Monday morning and will continue through January 9. To facilitate the counting, boating activities in the Mahanadi river have been suspended for tourists, and fishing has been prohibited. The census is conducted every winter when the cold weather prompts crocodiles to emerge from the water and rest on riverbanks or sandy areas, making them easier to spot and count. Forest department personnel use binoculars, cameras, and small boats to conduct the census. Observations are typically carried out between 6am and 12pm, as crocodiles are more visible during this time. The sanctuary has deployed 14 teams for the census, each consisting of three observers and two forest personnel, totaling 70 trained forest workers. These teams will carry out the counting at various locations within the sanctuary, where crocodiles are most commonly found. Saroj Panda, Divisional Forest Officer of Satkosia Wildlife Division, said the census aims to identify crocodile populations in the Mahanadi river and its surroundings.



from the park. During last year's status survey, a total number of 1,51,421 avian guests of 121 types of bird species came to Bhitarkanika National Park. A total of 18 teams were deployed in all the 5 ranges of the division for this exercise.

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Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) settles claims prepared by liquidators in terms of provisions contained in Sections 17 and 18 of DICGC Act, 1961. The claims of insured depositors who were marked unidentifiable (depositors who were not paid due to non-availability of KYC documents at the time of sanction of main claim) / untraceable (depositors whose claims were sanctioned but remain undisbursed and refunded to DICGC) by liquidators is provided for by DICGC. Instructions have been issued to Registrar of Co-operative Societies and liquidators of banks (liquidated before December 31, 2014) to contact such depositors and submit the claims, if any, to DICGC. Depositors of these banks are advised to approach the respective liquidators with officially valid document/s of identity in case of unpaid claims. The list of banks is available on DICGC website www.dicgc.org.in.

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DEMAND NOTICE
Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with our Rourkela Main Branch: Classified as NPA
We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower(s) that their A/C. mentioned below have been classified as NPA & pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of Union Bank of India, Rourkela Main Branch, but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties because of their non-availability in the given address which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The outstanding amount in the account is shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below.

Name and Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s)	Nature / Date of NPA	Date of Demand Notice/Outstanding	Details of Property Mortgaged
Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s): 1) Sohail Ahmed, S/o- Late Wasi Ahmed, of Budejore, Plot No.: 6/1726, Ashiyana High School Lane, Birsra, Sundergarh, Odisha-770036. 2) Wasim Ahmed, S/o- Late Wasi Ahmed, of Gajanand Lane, Old Station Road, Rourkela, Sundergarh, Odisha-769001.	Home Loan / 14.10.2024	07.11.2024 / ₹22,19,297.41 as on 15.10.2024 plus further interest at contractual rate & charges thereon	Residential building located at Plot No.: 6/1726 vide Khata No.: 88/1289, Mouza: Budejore, PS: Birsra, Tahasil: Birsra, Dist.: Sundergarh, of Area: Ac.0.040 dec. Owned by- Sohail Ahmed. The said Property is Bounded by- North: Plot No. 6/701/P, South: Road, East: Plot No. 6/701/P, West: Road.

In spite of our repeated demands you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account, you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned above against your notice together with interest from the date mentioned above at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan document executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the following securities created by you in favour of the Bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. 1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues together with contractual rate of interest from the date mentioned above within 60 days as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you, and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act, and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debts Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. 2) As per Sec. 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note any violation of this section entails serious consequences. Your kind attention is also invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Rourkela, Date: 06.01.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
BIRMAL BRANCH, BIRMAL, At: Birmal Chari Chowk, P.O: Birmal, Dist.: Bargarh, Odisha, PIN-768029

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 14.02.2025 between 12.00 Noon to 5.00 P.M. for recovery dues as mentioned hereunder to the Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest money deposit also mentioned hereunder.

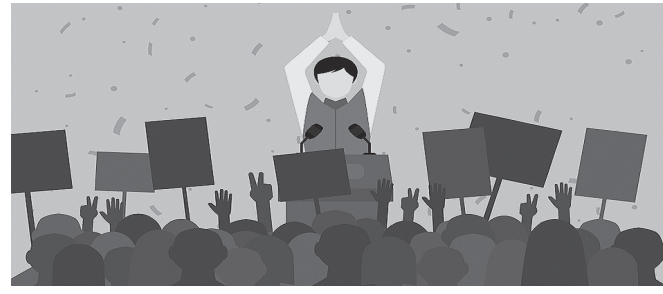
Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Mortgagor	Description of Property to be Auctioned	Pending Litigation Related to property	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/ EMD / Bid increment	Contact Person / Contact No.
1.	Borrower: Mrs. Rajani Dash, W/o: Mr. Loknath Dash, At: Bheunria, P.O: Padampur, Via: Rajborasambar, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768036 Mouza: Bheunria, P.S./ Tahasil: Padampur, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768036 belonging to Mrs. Rajani Dash admeasuring an Area: Ac. 0.070 Dec., Bounded by North: Land of Kala Prasad Sahoo, South: Land of Dalimba Purohit, East: Road, West: Land of Mahendra Mishra	All that part of the property consisting of Land & G + 1 Residential Building thereon bearing Plot No.: 772/1668, M.S. Khata No.: 246/143, situated at Mouza: Bheunria, P.S./ Tahasil: Padampur, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768036 belonging to Mrs. Rajani Dash	NA	₹18,61,438/- as on 06.01.2025 + further interest, charges and costs thereon	₹34,51,000/- / ₹3,45,100/- / ₹34,510/-	Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Mob.: 8658208108

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Place: Bargarh Date: 06.01.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India

FOCUS NATION

RETIRING FROM POLITICS



Currently, Indian politics is dominated by baby boomers. Understanding the aspirations of the electorate, which consists more of generations other than their own warrants a direct connect with them

“There are domains in which expertise is not possible. Stock picking is a good example. And in long-term political strategic forecasting, it has shown that experts are just not better than a dice-throwing monkey.”
“A leader is a dealer in hope,” is a statement attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte. Currently, the global society comprises people of different generations. It is understood that the Silent generation-1925-1945, baby boomers-1946-64, Gen X-1965-79, Millennials-1980-94, Gen Z-1997-2012, Gen Alpha-2012 (to now), are all there navigating the vagaries of their own lives. Their hope, aspirations, priorities and even preferences are not always common. Many of the choices made by the politicians don't meet the hopes and aspirations of different generations.
Even Meera Naik, a Puppet theatre (that plays on cognitive fantasy) veteran suggests that there should be a retirement age for politicians in order to make way for a younger generation. Apparently, she is conscious of cognitive decline with age.
Currently, Indian politics is

dominated by baby boomers. Understanding the aspirations of the electorate, which consists more of generations other than their own warrants a direct connect with them. Many of the senior politicians are not even physically fit to travel and be in touch with their voters regularly. When they are defeated or are likely to be defeated in the poll, they make a quiet entry into the Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Council.
In quite a few cases politics becomes a self-nurturing way of life. They seek to bask in the goodwill of the era gone by, which often becomes overbearing. Love of office, limelight and perquisites that go with political positions, encourages such politicians to make compromises. The ideology, if any, dissolves in partnering with the political formation of diagonally opposite ideologies.
In fact, the decision to hang on has given rise to the perpetuation of political dynasties. Successors like their parents or grandparents are not trained at the grassroots to understand the nuances of politics and often are not com-

petent to occupy the seat of authority. Their politics produces sub-optimal outcomes, and society is deprived of the benefits of the democratic franchise.
“I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders and not followers,” says Ralph Nadar, American Political Activist. Dynasties believe in in-breeding and distribute political offices to family members, kin and clan. They indulge in identity politics and filibustering of bills even for the national good. The language of bi-partisan consensus gets lost in the din of narrow sectarian interests.
That said, there are quite a few well-meaning septuagenarian politicians who genuinely seek to serve society. They, like elder statesman, should work for the politics of change. Change to subordinate narrow political interests to the larger national good. Change to bring younger generation in politics who have the aptitude to serve society rather than themselves, who are prepared to slog and make sacrifices. As King Arthur tells Sir Bedivere, the last of the Knights of the Round Table, in Tennyson's poem “Morte d'Arthur”: “The old order changeth, yielding place to new.”
Freedom fighters and the first-generation political frame that emerged post-independence consisted mostly of such individuals. Their love for office, if at all it was, was to serve the deprived. Alas! That creed is disappearing fast. Millions of deprived Indians are beckoning for a change in the polity.
The writer is the former Chairman SEBI & LIC, and is author of 'A Game Changer's Memoir'. Views are personal.
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GN Bajpai

MANY OF THE CHOICES MADE BY THE POLITICIANS DON'T MEET THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF DIFFERENT GENERATIONS

Politicians irrespective of their age and state of health usually don't choose to retire. Some just fade away, while others cling on till the last breath. There have been some honourable exceptions across the political spectrum, like Jai Prakash Narayan (JP as he was called) and Nanaji Deshmukh.
Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the Congress, while releasing the autobiography of former Union Minister, Sushil Kumar Shinde, “Five Decades in Politics,” observed, “I think nobody should retire from politics. I am saying those who believe in an ideology, those who want to serve the nation and serve the community they have to do until the end...”
In a democratic order, politicians do contribute substantially to shaping the future of the nation. Their decisions and contributions impact the lives of millions. They are expected to make informed choices. “A good shepherd always feeds his sheep first, even when he is hungry,” said Mashona Dhaliwayo, Canada-based philosopher and author of ‘Lalibela's Wise Man’.
JP was persuaded to step out of retirement to lead the agitation for the restoration of the constitutionally enunciated democratic order in India. The experience and expertise gathered during a political career is helpful and probably that is why he was persuaded to lead the agitation.
However, in a dynamic society where the socio-political-economic order is transforming with the speed of light, experience is not enough. Expertise is relevant to a given environment and circumstances. Noble Laureate, Daniel Kahneman wrote,



THE MOTHER

Creative Feminism

Interesting information about the current state of women in China is trickling down despite Chinese authorities' efforts to put facts in a veil of secrecy. Three films this winter have clicked at the box office for their careful, cautious handling of feminine issues. These celluloid portrayals of the plight of women in China are being regarded as a reflection of the reality prevailing in the country. The response the films have evoked from women audiences, as reports suggest, in hundreds of thousands is also a pointer to the fact that all is not well for women in China.
Of these, ‘Her Story’ – a hit comedy - has received such rave reviews that in a way it proves the film has struck a chord with Chinese women. The film celebrates female friendships and showcases misogyny perpetrated by the male population in general. Just about a year back, China's President Xi Jinping told the national women's congress that the Communist party must “actively foster a new type of marriage and childbearing culture.” This is believed to be a restatement of putting women in their place. Such a view is not an exaggeration since there has not been a single woman on the 24-strong Politburo for the past two years. In fact, no woman has ever found a place in its standing committee, China's most senior political body. Activism on women's issues, as in other areas, has virtually been snuffed out.
But, whatever the political ground reality, the unexpected success of the low-budget comedy ‘Her Story’ shows that feminism has gone mainstream in China. It has already topped the Chinese box office. Some have compared it to the recent Hollywood blockbuster Barbie, despite its shoe-string budget. Both films use a lighter vein to mask the real intent of exposing the plight of women. Her Story deals with issues such as pornography, consent, menstruation and single motherhood. While female strangers in the film display kindness towards each other, male characters are shown to be indifferent and busy proving their manliness in a crude, unsympathetic manner. The film refers to a book on Japanese feminist, Ueno, that has become a bestseller in China in recent times. The very mention of it caused such boisterous response from women viewers that China watchers believe women in China are slowly shaking off their hesitation to make public their anger at the way they are treated in the Communist system.
Another film - The Unseen Sister – that has been well received by the Chinese female audience, touches on issues of childhood abuse, sexual harassment and assault in the entertainment industry. It appears entertainment is being used in China to address sensitive issues as they come wrapped in drama and may be more appetising for the unconverted. Production companies seem to be realising that young, financially independent women are a lucrative market. Other recent hits include ‘Yolo’, about a reclusive woman who reinvents herself as a boxer, and ‘Like a Rolling Stone’, inspired by the real life story of a middle-aged woman who left behind her unhappy marriage to embark on an epic road trip.
In the early 2010s, Chinese feminists were up in arms against issues ranging from domestic violence to unfair university admission procedures and the lack of facilities for women. However, a crackdown in 2015 led to the detention of the ‘Feminist Five’ for planning to protest against sexual harassment on public transportation. The Feminist Five is a group of five women who were arrested in Beijing on 6 March, 2015 for planning a protest against sexual harassment on public transportation. Li Maizi, Wu Rongrong, Zheng Churan, Wei Tingting and Wang Man were detained for 37 days after planning to hand out sexual harassment stickers on the subway ahead of the International Women's Day. They were released on bail on 13 April, 2015 following global protests. In 2018, there was a second spurt in feminine activism inspired by the #MeToo movement, seen on campuses and elsewhere. But courts and censors stifled it and one of its key figures, journalist Sophia Huang Xueqin, was jailed for five years in a verdict a few months back.
The fact that such repressive measures have not been able to crush the spirit of women and sympathetic film directors is now becoming increasingly evident from the way creative mediums like films are chosen as a means to ventilate grievances.

Do not look behind, look always in front, at what you want to do - and you are sure of progressing

WISDOM CORNER

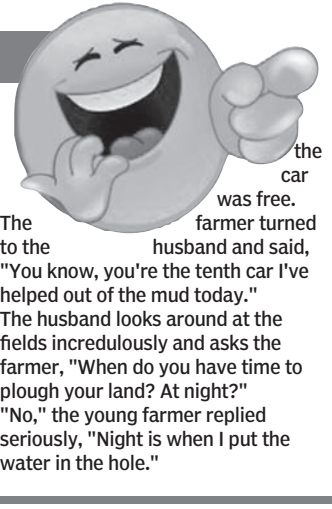
- The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself**
RUDYARD KIPLING
- Knowledge can be communicated, but not wisdom. One can find it, live it, be fortified by it, do wonders through it, but one cannot communicate and teach it**
HERMANN HESSE
- It is a bit embarrassing to have been concerned with the human problem all one's life and find at the end that one has no more to offer by way of advice than 'try to be a little kinder'**
ALDOUS HUXLEY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1610:** Galileo Galilei discovers the Galilean Moons. The Italian astronomer spotted the four largest moons of Jupiter that day: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.
- 1785:** Hot air balloon crosses the English Channel. French inventor Jean-Pierre Blanchard took about 2½ hours to fly from Dover (UK) to Guines (France).
- 1927:** The first transatlantic telephone service is established. A 3-minute call between New York and London cost about \$45 USD, which is roughly \$550 in today's dollars.
- 1968:** Uncrewed U.S. space probe Surveyor 7 was launched and, a few days later, made a soft landing on the Moon.
- 1979:** Vietnamese forces took control of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, ousting the Khmer Rouge and its leader, Pol Pot.

LOL

PLOUGHING THE LAND
A husband and wife were driving down a country lane on their way to visit some friends. They came to a muddy patch in the road and the car became bogged. After a few minutes of trying to get the car out by themselves, they saw a young farmer coming down the lane, driving some oxen before him.
The farmer stopped when he saw the couple in trouble and offered to pull the car out of the mud for \$50. The husband accepted and minutes later



SPECTRUM SOCIETY

The lost art of collaboration

AT A TIME OF RISING INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AND DEEP POLARISATION IN MANY COUNTRIES, TRUST-BUILDING AND COOPERATION SEEM LIKE FORGOTTEN ARTS



Vanessa Badré

At a time of rising international tensions and deep polarisation in many countries, trust-building and cooperation seem like forgotten arts. To reconnect with them and devise creative solutions to shared challenges, it is worth seeking insights from artists themselves.
In his 1870 work “L'Atelier de Bazille,” the 28-year-old French impressionist painter Jean Frédéric Bazille depicts the Paris studio on Rue de la Condamine that he shared with the 29-year-old Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Toward the left-hand corner of the room, three men are clustered around an easel, the work obscured from view. The figure in the middle – the French modernist painter Edouard Manet – commands the others' attention as he observes the work, brush in hand. To Manet's left, at the center of the composition, stands Bazille, apparently taking a break from his painting – he is still holding brushes and a palette – to listen to Manet, who is nine years his senior.
Meanwhile, the figure on the right, Bazille's friend Edmond Maître, plays the piano. Three other friends populate the room, one listening to Manet and Bazille, and the other two chatting casually on the stairs. It is not known for certain who

these figures represent, but possibilities include Renoir, Claude Monet, and Alfred Sisley – all friends of Bazille who attended the same art academy.
“L'Atelier de Bazille” is a snapshot of the artist's life, his work, and his community – much like the photos one might see on Instagram today. It memorialises a moment, the same year he was killed in the Franco-Prussian War, when he was flourishing creatively, surrounded by peers and mentors. The painting invites us to consider the role of these connections – of mutual trust, shared space, and engaged conversation – in supporting the artist's development and productivity.
Manet, deeply admired by Bazille and his peers, has taken the time to come to the studio, comment on the younger artist's work, and even contribute to it. This mirrors Bazille's real-life experience: it was Manet, with his characteristically vigorous brushstrokes, who painted Bazille's figure in “L'Atelier de Bazille.” The painting is a collaborative work about the beauty of collaboration.
The collaboration was probably not planned. One cannot imagine that Bazille arranged with Manet to come to his studio at a specific time, in order to con-

tribute a pre-determined image. Rather, mutual trust and respect led Manet to spend time in Bazille's studio, and it led Bazille to hand Manet a paintbrush to add his own touch to Bazille's work. Ego was irrelevant; the goal was to enhance the art – and, by extension, the artists. And they achieved it by creating space for unplanned cooperation.
“L'Atelier de Bazille” does not just welcome painters. Maître is a musician, collector, and patron of the arts. Some argue that the figure depicted on the stairs is the novelist and playwright Émile Zola. By bringing their knowledge, energy, and perspectives into the space, by engaging in face-to-face exchanges of ideas, the studio's visitors invigorate, enrich, and inspire one another. Today, we would refer to this phenomenon as “cross-fertilization.” The paintings within the painting show that these artists supported one another in other ways as well.
Other elements of the space enhance the sense that this is a place for creative expression, human engagement, and impromptu cooperation. Natural light beams in through a large window, with a semi-transparent curtain that the artists can adjust. High ceilings create a sense of openness and space,

while soft seating invites visitors to relax. A stove, glowing in the foreground, warms the room. The image contrasts sharply with modern workplaces, which raises the question: How can we expect to bring out the best in people – to maximize their ability to create and collaborate – by placing them in secluded cubicles, austere offices, or squares on our computer screens? Physical presence, in welcoming surroundings, seems essential to the collaborative creative process that Bazille depicts.
Of course, “L'Atelier de Bazille” does not depict every factor that might contribute to a creative and collaborative working environment. But the painting does highlight critical elements of the creative process, including presence, engagement, camaraderie, trust, flexibility, and perseverance. Finding ways to adapt these elements to schools, workplaces, and the halls of power could go a long way toward supporting more open, resilient, and innovative societies, capable of working together to address the defining challenges of our age.
The writer is a lawyer and art historian.
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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



Go domestic

Sir, Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has rightly asked the Indian cricket “stars” to revive their skills by playing in the last round of the Ranji trophy cricket which kickstarts from January 23. There was a time when Indian cricket stalwarts never missed their domestic engagements. Then, of course, there were fewer international tournaments. However, there is no better way for a jaded and failing cricketer to regain form than playing in domestic cricket. Even a stalwart like Sachin Tendulkar, who himself was adept at picking and choosing his matches, played an occasional Ranji trophy match. Ranji trophy matches will help players sharpen their dwindling skills, and this prestigious national tournament is far better than any intense net-practice. The senior cricket selection committee must ensure that Indian players play consistently in the Ranji trophy and the Duleep trophy when there are no international engagements.
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Rupee management

Sir, Last week, the rupee reached an all-time low of 85.81 against the dollar during intraday trading before recovering slightly to hover around 85.7-85.8. This gradual depreciation, though modest, signals a necessary adjustment long overdue. It is a welcome move for the RBI to appear willing to let the currency find its equilibrium, moving away from perceptions of an unofficial dollar peg. This shift is critical to instill confidence that the rupee's value reflects market fundamentals rather than excessive central bank intervention. Despite the rupee's decline, it weakened by less than 3 per cent in the last calendar year—significantly less than its global peers. Market consensus suggests further depreciation ahead, driven by expectations of a stronger dollar amid the US Federal Reserve's reduced monetary easing. The rupee, lagging behind its peers in adjustments, must address this misalignment to remain competitive globally, particularly as external pressures mount. The RBI's rupee management has also begun to strain domestic liquidity. An overvalued rupee hampers export competitiveness, a critical lever for India's growth revival. Historical evidence, including recent studies by RBI economists, highlights the strong relationship between depreciation in the real effective exchange rate (REER) and trade balance improvements.
Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

'HISTORIC MILESTONE'

PM inaugurates Jammu Rly Div



An OHE inspection car is seen on a railway track of the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, in Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir, Sunday, ahead of inauguration of the newly created Jammu railway division, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Jammu, Jan 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday virtually inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division, terming it a historic milestone. "The inauguration of the Jammu railway division is a historic milestone in the integration of J&K into the national railway network as also in the development of infrastructure and connectivity of J&K," he said. The PM added that the inauguration of the Jammu division has finally made the Indian railways a global leader.

Calling the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) a marvel of engineering, PM Modi said the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab River, which is the world's highest railway bridge, are feats of engineering excellence and efficiency achieved only by the Indian Railways. He said the USBRL was an example of India's commitment to 'Sabha Saath, Sabka Vikas'. "The Jammu Railway Division will not only benefit Jammu and Kashmir, but it

will also be advantageous for neighbouring Punjab, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh," PM Modi said. He said to achieve a truly developed Bharat, the development of railways is very essential. "It is because of this realisation that during the last decade, the Indian Railways has undergone transformational changes with regard to modernisation, facilities and connectivity," he added. The PM said the inauguration of the Jammu Railway Division was the living proof of the fact that the country is

moving forward. "In the last decade, 30,000 km of railway track, reaching close to 100 per cent electrification of railways was achieved as against just 35 per cent in 2014. There are new and hitherto unknown opportunities for trade, employment, education and business because of the modernisation of the Indian Railways. Lakhs of youths have been employed by the railways in the last 10 years and initiatives like the Gati Shakti University will further enhance the employability chances," PM Modi said. He revealed that more than 50 Vande Bharat trains are presently operational reducing distances between places and saving precious time for the passengers. While referring to the metro train facility that has grown to 21 cities today, he said time is not very far when bullet trains will operate in the country. "The launch of rail infrastructure projects in Jammu-Kashmir, Telangana and Odisha will promote tourism and add to socio-economic development in these regions," PM Modi wrote on his X handle. Those present in Jammu when the virtual inauguration was being done by the Prime Minister included Minister of State (PMO) and Lok Sabha member from Udhampur constituency Dr Jitendra Singh, J&K Lt Governor Manoj Singh, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Lok Sabha member from Jammu constituency Jugal Kishore Sharma and senior officers of civil, police and railway administration.

Graffiti marks of TN sites similar to Indus Valley Civilisation signs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Jan 6: Nearly 90 per cent of the graffiti marks found during excavations at ancient archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu have parallels to those found in the Indus Valley Civilisation signs, claims a recent study by the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department. Apart from graffiti, archaeologists had tumbled upon carnelian beads, agate, black and red ware and other items during the dig. Over 700 artefacts including terracotta spindle whorls, terracotta smoking pipe, bangles in glass, shell, etc. that were discovered at the Sivagalai site in Thoothukudi district indicated that this ancient civilisation had thrived more than 3,200 years ago. The paddy husk found in one of the 120 burial urns found at the site proved to be 3,200 years old after carbon dating. The morphological study by

Prof K Rajan and Joint Director TN Archaeology Department R Sivananthan led to the digitisation of over 15,000 graffiti-bearing potsherds obtained from 140 archaeological sites. The comparative study showed that there could be a possibility of exchanges between the Indus Valley Civilisation and the Iron Age settlements. But more evidence were needed to conclusively establish the link, which is now being attempted at, the authors said. More than 90 per cent of the graffiti marks obtained in Tamil Nadu were found to be similar to the Indus script. The comparative study released during the centenary of the discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation showed the possibility of exchanges between the two. Carbon dating of the artefacts recovered from Keeladi in Sivaganga district and Sivagalai sites in Tamil Nadu, archaeologists say, reveals that these sites

are 2,600 and 3,200 years old. A majority of the graffiti inscribed potsherds were found at Thulukarpatti in Tirunelveli, Keeladi, Ariamedu, Uraiyur, Korkali Alangulam, Adichanallur Kodumandal, and Kilnamandi. The similarities between the Indus Valley Civilisation and Iron Age settlements of Tamil Nadu and they hypothesised that they could have been contemporary were being demonstrated through script, material culture, and trade and cultural exchanges, the researchers said.

\$1mn prize for decoding Indus valley script: Stalin

CHENNAI: The Indus Valley script remains an unsolved riddle for over a century, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said here Sunday and announced a prize of US dollar 1 million to those who decipher it. Stalin said the Indus Valley Civilisation's (IVC) discovery announcement by Sir John Marshall in 1924 was a turning point in the history of the Indian subcontinent, which altered the understanding of the country's past. "Many were telling before that the Aryan and Sanskrit were India's roots; imagination was claimed as history. John Marshall's studies changed that," he said inaugurating a 3-day international conference to commemorate the centenary of the announcement of the discovery of the IVC. "Marshall's voice that Indus valley civilisation preceded Aryan and that the language spoke there could have been a Dravidian language has now gained strength," the chief minister underlined. "We are still unable to clearly understand the writing system of the Indus Valley Civilisation, that once flourished," the CM said. Archaeologists, Tamil linguists, scholars and several others, across the world, continue their great efforts to this day to solve the Indus riddle that has not been answered for over a 100 years.

TN Guv walks out of House, refrains from reading out address

'Childish' says Stalin; DMK calls state-wide protest against Guv Ravi Tuesday



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

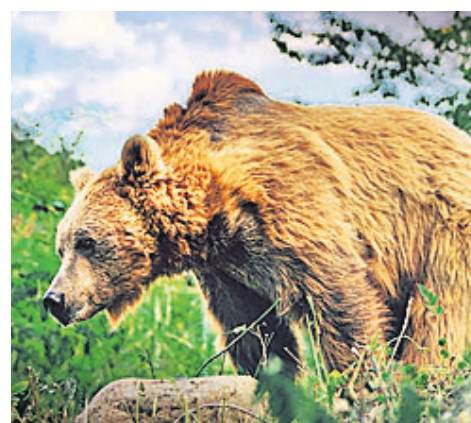
Chennai, Jan 6: In yet another Governor versus government face-off in Tamil Nadu, the former walked out of the Assembly without delivering his customary address Monday, opposing what he described as 'disrespect' to the Constitution and the national anthem by the ruling DMK. Chief Minister MK Stalin dubbed Ravi's behaviour 'childish', and accused him of continuously insulting the people of the state, the elected government and the Assembly as well, which was unbecoming to the post he holds. DMK announced a state-wide protest against Ravi Tuesday for 'continuously insulting' state anthem, (invocation to Mother Tamil) and the state. The matter snowballed into a war of words between the Raj Bhavan and the ruling dispensation and Ravi said he had always upheld the sanctity of the state song, Tamil Thaaai Vazhthu, and he said he sings it with reverence at every event. On the arrival of Governor, the state song was played in the Assembly and when the proceedings were about to commence, and a few moments before Ravi began making his remarks, members of the main opposition AIADMK gathered in front of him, and raised slogans, holding placards. At the same time, as Congress MLAs too moved forward and raised slogans against Ravi while wearing black badges, what transpired could not be properly understood in the din. The AIADMK members were evicted en masse by marshalls

following Speaker M Appavu's order for causing disruption and they continued to raise slogans by gathering in the corridors. Leader of the Opposition, Edappadi K Palaniswami later told reporters outside the House, they intended attracting the government's attention over the Anna University student sexual assault case by carrying placards inside the assembly. Congress staged a walkout condemning the Governor, the BJP and PMK over the varsity student assault case. While Appavu gave directives in respect of proceedings in the House, Governor Ravi slammed, "total censorship of proceedings of Tamil Nadu Assembly today, reminds the country of Emergency days". After the Governor left the House, Speaker Appavu read out the Tamil version of the customary address, which Palaniswami said was Speaker's address, not Governor's address, a first in history. Such an address, though appeared like an air-filled balloon, there was nothing inside except for DMK regime's self-publicity, the AIADMK chief alleged. The AIADMK's aim is to get justice for the victim and punishment for the true perpetrators of the crime. BJP leader K Annamalai said the Governor only sought playing of national anthem after the state song was sung in the House. He posted on 'X' a TN Assembly record of 1991 and said in July that year, for the first time, both the state and national anthems were played during commencement and conclusion of the Governor's Address when late J Jayalalithaa was the CM.

NGT notice over protection of Himalayan Brown Bear habitat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 6: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to the CEO of Sonmarg Development Authority, Director General of Rural Sanitation and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) on the issue of protecting the habitat of Himalayan Brown Bear, which is depleting due to un-planned disposal and treatment of waste in Sonmarg region of Jammu and Kashmir. The original application was registered suo motu by the green tribunal on the basis of the news item titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race Against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Dept. take challenge" appearing in a media outlet in July 2024. Saying that proper adjudication of issue required assistance of CEO of Sonmarg Development Authority, Director General of Rural Sanitation, and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), the NGT issued notices to them and asked them to file their responses by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing. The matter will be heard next April 22. The news item related to the depleting habitat of the Himalayan Brown Bear due to the un-planned disposal and treatment of waste in Sonmarg region of Kashmir. As per the article, Wildlife SOS has initiated a research project with J&K Wildlife Protection Department in studying Himalayan brown bears and identifying factors leading to human-brown bear conflict in Sonmarg. The news item highlighted that in a study by Wildlife SOS in 2021, 75 per cent of the diet of bears was human-made garbage dumps including plastic, chocolates and organic food waste. The article claimed that very little is known about the ecology and behaviour of bears in India, and hence its population is being severely affected due to various factors like tourism, construction activities, livestock grazing, agriculture, settlements, highways, railroad, tunnelling and poaching. In its order, the NGT said that the news item raised substantial issues relating to compliance of the environmental norms, especially compliance of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Earlier, it had implemented Wildlife SOS, PCCF, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), J&K Pollution Control Board, Kupwara's District Magistrate.



TN has 6.36cr voters, women outnumber men

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Jan 6: Tamil Nadu has an electorate strength of 6,36,12,950, including over 3.24 lakh women voters, according to the integrated final electoral roll of the special summary revision 2025, released here Monday. Of the total electorate, male voters stood at 3,11,74,027, women constitute 3,24,29,803 besides 9,120 third gender

electors. A total of 4,10,069 electors in the age group of 18-19 have been enrolled. The Shozhinganallur Assembly Constituency in Chengalpattu district with 6,90,958 voters (including 3,45,184 men; 3,45,645 women and 129 third gender,) has the highest number of electors followed by Kavundampalayam Assembly Constituency of Coimbatore district with 4,91,143 electors (2,43,839 men, 2,47,153 women and 151 third gender.) The Kilvelur Assembly Constituency in Nagapattinam district with 1,76,505 electors (including 86,456 men, 90,045 women, and 4 third gender) has the lowest number of electors followed by the Harbour Assembly Constituency of Chennai district with 1,78,980 electors (92,615 men, 86,296 women and 69 third gender.)

Bank of India		E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE	
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249		E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002	
Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.			
Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers /Guarantors/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	BHUBANESWAR BRANCH (NOW THE BELOW ACCOUNTS ARE TRANSFERRED TO ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, CUTTACK), PH.: 8249067773 / Borrower: M/s. Shree Loknath Stone Crusher, Prop.: Mrs. Puspaxmi Mohanty, W/o.: Subhendra Mohanty, At: Lokeswarpur, Pallahat, Khurda-752056 / Total Dues: ₹75,33,979.11 + interest, costs and expenses less any part amount repaid.	Land and Single Storied load bearing Building including Scrap Plant Machinery situated over Mouza: Chhatrama, SRO/Tahasil: Khurda, PS.: Khurda, P.S. No.: 181, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752018, Khata No.: 400, Plot No.: 1475, Area: Ac. 0.930 Dec. i.e. 40,511 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, Standing in the name of Mrs. Puspaxmi Mohanty, W/o: Subhendra Mohanty, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1474, West: Plot No.: 1498, North: Plot No.: 1468, South: Plot No.: 1478, 1479, 1476	₹31,59,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹13,900/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / Borrowers: 1) Mr. Pandab Baral, S/o.: Mr. Jalandhar Baral, 2) Mrs. Binata Baral, W/o.: Mr. Pandab Baral, Both are at Vill: Badapadar, P.O.: Nachuni, Dist.:Khurda, Odisha-752027 / Total Dues: ₹25,59,522.68 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	G-1 Storied RCC framed Residential Building over Khata No: 320/187, Plot No.: 173/952, Plot Area: Ac.0.067 Dec. i.e 2919 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, Standing in the name of Mr. Pandab Baral, S/o: Mr. Jalandhar Baral, Mouza: Badapadar, PS: Banapur (359), Tahasil.: Banapur (359), Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Bounded by East: Road, West: Hill (Pahad), North: Bibhuti Bhusan Baral, South: Paramananda Baral (N.B.: The Borrower has availed Housing Loan and one covid personal Loan from our Bhubaneswar SME Branch and two business Loans from our Haripur Branch)	₹44,04,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹4,40,400/- / ₹ 50,000/-
3.	JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9938772882 / Borrower: Mr. Sanjit Kumar Sahoo, S/o.: Mr. Durga Charan Sahoo, At: Makundapur (Sipi), P.O./Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103 / Total Dues: ₹21,63,069.90 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Residential Land and Building pertaining to Khata No.: 1119/575, Plot No.: 2531, Area: Ac.0.080 Dec. i.e. 3484 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Makundapur, P.S.: Jagatsinghpur (Thana No.:241), DSRO/Tahasil.: Jagatsinghpur (Thana No.: 241), Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Nimain Chandra Sahoo, S/o: Mr. Kanduri Sahoo and Mr. Durga Charan Sahoo, S/o: Mr. Kanganli Sahoo, Bounded by East: Dipti Ranjan Sahoo, West: Durga Charan Sahoo, North: Road, South: Nimain Charan Sahoo (N.B.: Lease Hold rights in the name of Mr. Sanjit Kumar Sahoo & Lease deed valid from 26.02.2018 to 25.02.2053. So, lease validity is remaining for 28 years).	₹34,97,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,49,700/- / ₹ 50,000/-
4.	JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9938772882 / 1) (For Business Loan (WCFBL-CC) & GECL Term Loan) Borrower: M/s. Maa Agency, Prop.: Mr. Shrikant Patra, S/o.: Late Bipin Bihari Patra, At: Deuligrameshwar, PO./Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103 / Guarantor: Mr. Sridhar Kumar Patra, S/o.: Late Bipin Bihari Patra, At/PO.: Deriki Via: Naugaon, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754113, 2) (For Housing Loan) Borrowers: 1) Mr. Shrikant Patra, S/o.: Late Bipin Bihari Patra, At: Deuligrameshwar, PO./Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103, 2) Mr. Sridhar Kumar Patra, S/o.: Late Bipin Bihari Patra, At/PO.: Deriki Via: Naugaon, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754113 / Guarantors: 1) Mrs. Binati Patra, W/o: Mr. Shrikant Patra, At: Deuligrameshwar, PO./Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103, 2) Mrs. Sandhyarani Patra, W/o: Mr. Sridhar Kumar Patra, At/PO.: Deriki Via: Naugaon, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754113 / Total Dues: ₹58,52,324.10 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Residential Land and Building pertaining to Khata No.: 525/737, Plot No.: 740, Area: Ac.0.050 Dec., & Plot No.: 739/2120, Area: Ac.0.010 Dec., Total Land Area: Ac.0.060 Dec. i.e. 2613 Sqft., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Deuligrameshwar, PS.: Jagatsinghpur (Thana No.: 241), DSRO/Tahasil.: Jagatsinghpur (Tahasil No.: 241), Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Shrikant Patra & Mr. Sridhar Kumar Patra, Both are S/o: Late Bipin Bihari Patra, Bounded by East: Ismile Road, West: Buyer (Vendee), North: Seller (Vendor), South: Mr. Pratap Keshari Mohanty.	₹77,36,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹7,73,600/- / ₹ 50,000/-
Date & Time of E-Auction: 10.02.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.			
Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 10.02.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.			
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 07.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer			
The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.			
This is also a 15/30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://banknet.com			
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 07.01.2025			
Authorised Officer, Bank of India			



The current electricity load being drawn in the valley is 1,200 MW and this will rise as the day progresses. Snow clearance work is proceeding, with priority roads receiving immediate attention

OMAR ABDULLAH | CM, J&K

INDIA'S FIRST 'GENERATION BETA' BABY BORN IN MIZORAM

India's first "Generation Beta" baby, named Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng, was born in Mizoram. Generation Beta refers to children born between 2025 and 2039. Frankie was born January 1, 2025, at 12:03 am at the Synod Hospital at Durtlang of Mizoram capital Aizawl



of the day uote

Today's partnership will set new dimensions in the direction of development and public welfare of the state and will prove to be an important step towards Developed India 2047 and Developed Rajasthan 2047

BHAJANLAL SHARMA | CHIEF MINISTER, RAJASTHAN

Now they (officials) are saying you can't take the lawyer inside. So, I have given my statement whatever I had to give inside the office, I have given my statement to the DSP rank officer of ACB. He has given me acknowledgement

KT RAMA RAO | BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

When the PM talks about USD five trillion economy, we want to contribute USD one trillion economy from Telangana (for the five trillion economy). Railway development is very necessary for that

A REVANTH REDDY | CHIEF MINISTER, TELANGANA

SC-appointed panel meets Jagjit Dallewal

The committee headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nawab Singh reached the Khanauri protest site at around 3.30 pm and requested the septuagenarian Dallewal to take medical assistance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 6: A Supreme Court-appointed high-powered committee Monday met farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on an indefinite fast, and urged him to take medical aid.

Dallewal, who is the convenor of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political), has been on an indefinite hunger strike at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana since November 26, 2024, over several demands, including a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

The committee headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nawab Singh reached the Khanauri protest site at around 3.30 pm and requested the septuagenarian Dallewal to take medical assistance.

During a hearing in the Supreme Court earlier in the day, the Punjab government, through senior advocate Kapil Sibal, informed the bench about the meeting.

The apex court, in September 2024, formed the committee with the aim to amicably resolve the grievances of protesting farmers.

The committee also comprises retired IPS officer BS Sandhu, agriculture expert Devinder



Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman and Dr Sukhpal Singh, agricultural economists from the Punjab Agricultural University.

Addressing the media after meeting Dallewal, Justice (ret'd) Nawab Singh said, "We all repeatedly requested him for medical (help). We want his health to be good."

He said, "I came here today not to say that the agitation should end but to say your (Dallewal) health should be good." Dallewal told the panel that for him, farm issues came first, his health later, Singh said.

He said they can only make a request to him to take medical aid, when asked about the outcome of the meeting.

Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death entered the 42nd day Monday, has so far refused to

take any medical aid despite his prolonged fasting, which has caused his health to deteriorate.

Asked for his response on the farmers' assertion that the committee has no power and that only the Centre can resolve their issue, members said while the panel has "no authority", it will submit a "good analysis" to the Supreme Court, which it said was the highest authority.

Singh added that the report to the court will be submitted in a phased manner.

Referring to a top court's order, he said besides farmers, the committee will also analyse people who are below the poverty line.

When asked for a comment on the farmers' demand for a legal MSP, Singh said, "Our concern is to submit a report to the Supreme Court."

India condemns Pak air strikes in Afghanistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: India Monday unequivocally condemned Pakistani air strikes in Afghanistan that killed many civilians and said it is Islamabad's old practice to blame its neighbours for its "internal failures".

Pakistan carried out air strikes in certain areas in Afghanistan December 24 claiming to target terrorist outfit Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The Taliban regime said

at least 46 civilians were killed in the air strikes by the Pakistani military.

"We have noted the media reports on airstrikes on Afghan civilians, including women and children, in which several precious lives have been lost," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We unequivocally condemn any attack on innocent civilians," he said.

"It is an old practice of Pakistan to blame its neighbours for its own internal failures. We have also noted the response of an Afghan spokesperson in this regard," Jaiswal added.

Following the air strikes, the Taliban regime said the Pakistani military's "aggression" against Afghanistan amounted to a violation of sovereignty of the country.

Atishi alleges 'voter scam' in New Delhi constituency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: Delhi Chief Minister Atishi Monday alleged a 'voters scam' in the New Delhi constituency from where AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal is contesting the upcoming Assembly elections.

While addressing a press conference, Atishi claimed that in the past few days, 10 per cent of new voters had been added to the New Delhi constituency electoral roll, and 5.5 per cent of voters had been deleted.

"In the New Delhi Assembly constituency, which has approximately one lakh voters, between December 15 and January 2, applications for adding 10,500 new voters were submitted. Adding 10,000 new voters in a constituency with one lakh voters could completely alter the election outcome," she said.

Atishi said that between No-



vember 29 and January 2, 6,167 applications for voter deletions were submitted. The 6,167 voter deletions amount to 5.77 per cent of the total votes in the New Delhi Assembly constituency.

"Adding 10 per cent and removing 5.77 percent of votes is a deliberate attempt to alter election outcomes significantly," she said while claiming that out of the 6,167 voter deletion applications, 4,283 were filed by just 84 people.

"When the Election Commission summoned these 84 objectors for a hearing, the scam was exposed. The objectors denied filing any applications," she claimed.

The CM also questioned the role of the election commission in the matter and said that the commission's role is 'suspicious' in this as they have not investigated the matter.

"I have written a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner regarding this scam in the

Main accused Suresh Chandrakar nabbed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bijapur, Jan 6: Suresh Chandrakar, the prime accused in the murder of a journalist in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, has been arrested from Hyderabad by a Special Investigation Team (SIT), police said Monday.

The accused, a contractor by profession, was absconding since the murder of journalist Mukesh Chandrakar came to light January 3, they said.

The SIT, constituted to conduct the probe into the murder case, rounded up Suresh Chandrakar from Hyderabad late Sunday night, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj P told PTI.

The accused was brought to Bijapur Monday morning and his interrogation was underway, the official said.

CHHATTISGARH JOURNALIST MURDER

Suresh Chandrakar's brothers Ritesh Chandrakar and Dinesh Chandrakar and supervisor Mahendra Ramteke have already been arrested in the case, he said.

Mukesh Chandrakar (33), a freelance journalist, went missing January 1. His body was found January 3 in a septic tank on a property owned by Suresh Chandrakar at Chattanpara Basti in Bijapur town, police earlier said.

The deceased worked as a freelance journalist for the NDTV news channel and also ran a YouTube channel, 'Bastar Junction', which has some 1.59 lakh subscribers.

SHORT TAKES

IC814 captain Devi Sharan retires

New Delhi: "It is so beautiful when the full stop comes naturally," said Captain Devi Sharan as he bid adieu to the cockpit as a commercial pilot after four decades. All said, the regret of not being able to save Rupin Kalyal, a passenger of flight IC814 who was killed by hijackers, lingers on. Sharan, who started flying in 1985, operated his last flight from Melbourne to Delhi January 4. And the now 65-year-old pilot was also the captain of the ill-fated Indian Airlines flight IC814, that was hijacked on the eve of Christmas in December 1999. "It is so beautiful when the full stop comes naturally... 40 years have passed by and there are beautiful memories," Sharan told PTI Monday referring to his retirement as a commercial pilot.

Beed sarpanch murder: Leaders meet Maha guv

Mumbai: Political leaders cutting across the party lines Monday called on Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, urging him to remove Dhananjay Munde from the state cabinet to ensure a free and fair probe into the killing of Beed sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh. Amid the controversy and demand for his ouster from the Cabinet, Munde met Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Ajit Pawar Monday. However, details of the meeting were not available. The delegation, comprising Congress MLA Vijay Wadettiwar and BJP MLA Suresh Dhas, submitted a memorandum to the governor, requesting him to take decisive action on the issue that would help uphold the rule of law and regain public confidence in the dispensation of justice.

4 killed as SUV, truck collide amid fog

Sagar (MP): Four persons were killed and three others injured Monday when a truck collided with an SUV in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district amid dense fog, police said. The incident occurred near Hirapur village on the Sagar-Chhatarpur Road, said Shahgarh police station in-charge Sandeep Khare. He said the SUV was carrying people to their workplaces. The three persons injured in the accident were referred to the District Hospital in Sagar, he added.

The medicine 'mixopathy'

Blending ideas and inspiration works wonders. Mixing memory and desire stirs imagination but coupling allopathy and Ayurveda can be painfully punishing. In plain terms it is like fusing chalk with cheese.

If the country's medical fraternity has been in ferment at the BJP government's pre-occupation with 'mixopathy', Gujarat went through a tense last week after the health department of the state government called a meeting to discuss 'practice of allopathy by those who have studied Ayurveda'.

'Mixopathy' is a loosely coined term used to describe the integration of alternative medicine systems, such as Ayurveda, with modern medical science. The turmoil began after the Gujarat Health Department issued a letter December 27 calling for a meeting of senior officials and representatives of the Gujarat Board of Ayurveda, Gujarat Council of Homoeopathy, Gujarat Medical Council, and Unani System of Medicine. The meeting to be held January 3 under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary Dhananjay Dwivedi was called to discuss the issue of allowing doctors trained in Ayurveda to practice allopathy.

As information of the proposed

meeting became public, it unleashed a storm of protests with the Gujarat branch of Indian Medical Association (IMA) venting its spleen at the move. Its president Dr Mehul Shah urged elected representatives to uphold the sanctity and harmony among different medical systems and refrain from supporting the concept of "mixopathy or shortcuts in medical education and practice." The blending of various medical systems into a single practice poses severe risk to public health and undermines the integrity and expertise of each medical system, it said and termed the practice of 'mixopathy' as unlawful.

As numerous medical organisations joined the protest which showed signs of proliferating, the government beat a hasty retreat, advanced the meeting by a day and announced that 'mixopathy' would not be allowed. Also, that under the Clinical Establishments Act only those practicing allopathy would be registered while those practicing other disciplines would have to register under their respective bodies. The crisis building up stands diffused for the time being but the last has not been heard in the matter.

The pre-occupation with the an-



cient as witnessed in the 'monumental' turmoil unleashed in the quest for subterranean structures has other dimensions to it as well. The BJP government at the Centre is burning the candle at both ends in its bid to resurrect traditional medicine systems and fusing the old with the new in medical education through a spanking fresh coinage called 'integrative medicine'. It is this integration that is being vehemently opposed by the IMA. "Integrative medicine is a threat to patient care and safety and 'mixopathy' is a health catastrophe in waiting," the national president of IMA Dr RV Asokan, is on record stating.

The IMA has already voiced its apprehension on the integrative MBBS course wherein students of modern medicine will be learning traditional medicine systems. "Hybridised medical education will produce compromised doctors and imperil the health-

care delivery system," it says. Notwithstanding the vehement opposition, the government which came to power in 2014 set up the Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research at the AIIMS, New Delhi in 2016 besides the AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Centres for Integrated Health Research in four AIIMS in the country.

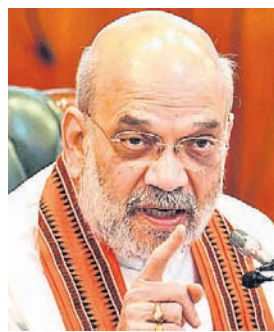
AYUSH stands for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy. These are medical systems practiced in India that are based on ancient medical philosophies. The Department AYUSH was established to focus on research and education in these systems.

Meanwhile, medical organisations are aghast at the recent Maharashtra government (FDA) move allowing homoeopaths who have undergone a certificate course in modern pharmacology to prescribe allopathic medicine. Earlier in 2014, the Maharashtra Medical Practitioners Act was amended allowing homoeopaths to practice allopathy after passing the approved course. The Maharashtra unit of the IMA is set to challenge it in court. "How can a certificate course replace an MBBS degree for authorisation to prescribe allopathic medicine," a senior Ahmedabad doctor questions.

Interestingly, in April 2023, the Supreme Court had obliquely answered this question when it set aside a Gujarat High Court order which held that Ayurveda practitioners working in government hospitals are entitled to be treated at par with doctors with MBBS degree and should get equal pay.

"By the very nature of the science that they practice and with the advancement of science and modern medical technology, the emergency duty that allopathy doctors perform and the trauma care that they provide cannot be done by Ayurveda doctors. Same goes for complicated surgeries. Therefore, even while recognising the importance of Ayurveda doctors and the need to promote alternative/ indigenous systems of medicine, we cannot be oblivious of the fact that both categories of doctors are certainly not performing equal work to be entitled to equal pay," the apex court ruled.

So, while medical bodies remonstrate and the government of the day demonstrates its resolve to pursue Integrative Medicine as an approach to medical care, the rest can only keep their fingers crossed. After all, flaws can be fascinating but delusions devour.



It is impossible to express this grief in words, but I assure you that the sacrifice of our soldiers will not go in vain. We will end Naxalism in India by March 2026
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

AERO INDIA TO BE HELD FROM FEB 10-14

India's biennial aerospace exhibition Aero India will be held in Yelahanka on the outskirts of Bangalore from February 10-14 with an aim to project the country as a defence manufacturing hub. The event will include both air displays and static exhibitions of a large array of military platforms from the aerospace sector, the defence ministry said Monday



BPSC EXAM ROW

Prashant Kishor held for 'illegal' protest



The local administration was so ill-prepared that it could not take me to the Beur Central Jail, after judicial remand, since they did not have the requisite papers. They kept driving me along in their vehicle

PRASHANT KISHOR | JAN SURAAJ PARTY FOUNDER

Kishor has thrown his weight behind an ongoing protest by civil service aspirants to press the demand for cancellation of BPSC exams held last month amid allegations of question paper leak

of an FIR lodged against him last week for holding 'Aamran anshan' (fast unto death) at Gandhi Maidan, in violation of a Patna High Court order that forbids any such demonstration at a place other than Gardani Bagh locality in the city.

The former poll strategist was produced before a court here which granted him bail with the condition that, he claimed, he must give a written undertaking not to take part in any "illegal" protest in future.

Kishor and his legal team held that the condition was tantamount to "admitting guilt" and the 47-year-old was remanded to judicial custody. The Jan Surraaj Party founder was later released by the authorities.

Kishor, who addressed the media late in the evening upon his release, claimed, "The local administration was so ill-prepared that it could not take me to the Beur Central Jail, after judicial remand, since they did not have the requisite papers. They kept driving me along in their vehicle".

Patna High Court advocate Kumar Amit, who also spoke on the occasion, said, "After the judge had passed the order, we argued before her that all the sections under which Prashant Kishor was booked, are bail-able. As such, he should have been granted bail by the police itself. The matter need not have been taken to the court".

He added, "We reasoned before the judge that under such circumstances, it was not proper to insist on a written undertaking. We also cited a number of judgements by the higher courts, including the Supreme Court. The judge very kindly agreed to modify her earlier order and granted unconditional bail".

An ebullient Kishor said he would continue his "Satyagraha" at the Gandhi Maidan and remarked, "The concluding point should be the same as where things had commenced".

Notably, Kishor has thrown his weight behind an ongoing protest by civil service aspirants to press the demand for cancellation of Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exams held last month amid allegations of question paper leak.

India, Bangladesh repatriate fishermen in mutual exchange

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 6: In a mutual exchange between India and Bangladesh amid strained bilateral relations, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) handed over 90 Bangladeshi fishermen for 95 Indian fishermen at the International Maritime Boundary Line, a Defence official said here.

The Indian fishermen were handed over by the ICG to the district magistrate of West Bengal's South 24 Parganas near Sagar Island Monday, he said. The operation was the result of mutual efforts of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), West Bengal government and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in maintaining maritime relations between India and Bangladesh, the Defence official said in a statement.

He said that December 9, 2024, ICG apprehended two Bangladeshi fishing trawlers FV Laila-2 and FV Meghna-5 with 78 fishermen on board, engaged in fishing within Indian waters.

The Centre accorded approval for the repatriation of 78 crew members along with two Bangladeshi fishing boats and an additional 12 crew of sunken Bangladesh fishing boat Kausik in mutual exchange for 95 Indian fishermen along with six Indian fishing boats.

US to remove regulations limiting nuclear cooperation with India

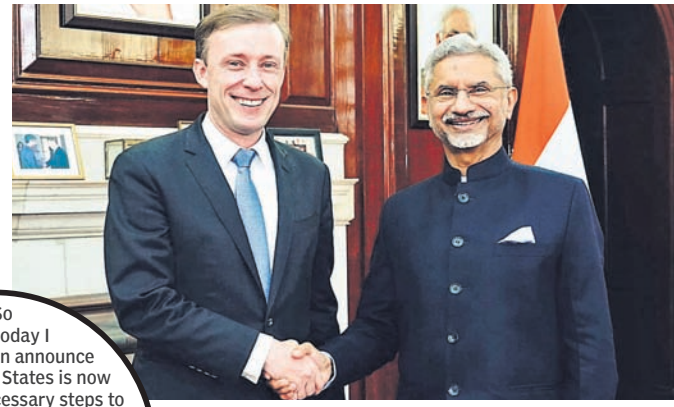
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: The US is finalising necessary steps to remove long-standing regulations that have prevented civil nuclear cooperation between leading Indian and American companies, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Monday.

The significant announcement by the top official of the outgoing Biden administration came hours after he held separate talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval.

India and the US unveiled an ambitious plan to cooperate in civil nuclear energy in July 2005 following then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's meeting with American President George W Bush. The India-US civil nuclear agreement was finally sealed in 2008.

Though the transformative deal changed overall engagement between the two sides by paving the way for building the bonds of a strategic partnership, there was no tangible



So today I can announce that the United States is now finalising the necessary steps to remove long-standing regulations that have prevented civil nuclear cooperation between India's leading nuclear entities and US companies
JAKE SULLIVAN | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, US

progress in the civil nuclear energy sector. "Although former President Bush and former Prime Minister Singh laid out a vision of civil nuclear cooperation nearly 20 years ago, we have yet to fully realise it," Sullivan said in an address at the IIT-Delhi.

He said the Biden administration has determined that it is time to take the next major step in "cementing" this partnership.

"So today I can announce that the United States is now finalising the necessary steps to remove long-standing regulations that have prevented

civil nuclear cooperation between India's leading nuclear entities and US companies," Sullivan said.

"The formal paperwork will be done soon, but this will be an opportunity to turn the page on some of the frictions of the past and create opportunities for entities that have been on restricted lists in the US to come off those lists and enter into deep cooperation with the US," he said.

Sullivan described the move by the US as a "statement of confidence" in the progress the two countries have made and the progress the two nations will continue to make as strategic partners and as "countries who share a commitment to peaceful nuclear cooperation".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Jan 6: Jan Surraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor, who was arrested for an "illegal" fast unto death, claimed that he was released on "unconditional" bail Monday hours after a court remanded him to judicial custody.

Earlier, he refused to secure release, alleging that the bail conditions were "unreasonable".

On a day of dramatic developments, Kishor was picked up from the Gandhi Maidan early in the morning, in pursuance

1984 anti-Sikh riots: SC to hear in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will in July hear the pleas filed by former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and the party's former councillor Balwan Khokhar against sentences awarded in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. A bench of Justice JK Maheshwari and Arvind Kumar on Monday clarified if the final hearing could not take place as scheduled, the petitioners would have the liberty to request the court to consider the prayer of the suspension of sentences. The top court summoned the trial court records, which will be supplied to all parties concerned.

Rahul questions govt on rising soldier martyrdom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Monday condoled the death of soldiers in a Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district and said the increased attacks raise serious questions about the government's ability to maintain national security.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also offered his condolences and said the Union and the state governments should be more proactive to end this menace so



that the precious lives of our soldiers are not endangered.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the martyrdom of many of our soldiers and a driver in the cowardly Naxalite attack in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. I pay my heartfelt tribute to the martyrs and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured

soldiers," Gandhi said in a post on X in Hindi.

Expressing his condolences to the bereaved families in this difficult time, the Congress leader said the entire country is united against terror and violence.

"The increase in martyrdom of soldiers raises serious questions about the government's ability to maintain national security," he said.

Echoing similar sentiments, the Congress president said, "Deeply anguished by the cowardly Naxal attack in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, where

eight of our brave Jawans of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and a driver made the supreme sacrifice serving the nation."

"Our heartfelt condolences to the families of our courageous heroes. The nation is united against the scourge of this mindless act of terror. Naxalism is an internal security threat and has no place in a Democracy," Kharge said on X. "The Union and the State Governments should be more proactive to end this menace, so that the precious lives of our soldiers are not endangered,"

he added. In their biggest strike on the security forces in Chhattisgarh in two years, the Naxals blew up a vehicle using an improvised explosive device weighing 60 to 70 kg, killing eight District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and their civilian driver in Bijapur district on Monday, police said.

The police suspect the powerful IED was planted long back along the route used by the DRG, a state police unit involved in anti-insurgency operations.

ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, BONAI
DIST- SUNDARGARH
Ph.No.: 06626-244429, email: itdabni@nic.in
Govt. of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.02/ITDA BNI of 2024-25
No.CAD-2095 No.21/ Dt.06.01.2025

1 No. of Work	: 09 (Nine) Nos.
2 Estimated Cost	: Rs 10.00 Lakhs to Rs 150.00 Lakhs
3 Period of Completion	: 3 (Three) to 9 (Nine) Calendar Months
4 Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	: 08 January 2025 from 5 P.M.
5 Last date/time for receipt of bids in the Portal	: 20 January 2025 upto 5 P.M.
6 Date of Opening of Bids	: 21 January 2025 at 11.00 A.M.
7 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Project Administrator, ITDA, Bonai

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd./- Project Administrator
I.T.D.A., Bonai
OIPR-260501/11/0002/2425

Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha
Annex Building of SIH&FW, Nayapalli, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012, Phone: 0674-2392480/88
Advt. No. 01/25 Date: 5.1.2025

TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLES
No.E-648: Sealed tenders are invited from registered travel agencies for hiring of commercial light vehicles on a monthly & daily basis. Details regarding eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and the formats of submission of tender (Technical & Price Bid) are mentioned in the tender document which may be downloaded from the website: www.nhmodisha.gov.in (Under Link: "Tender"). Interested agencies may submit their tenders in a sealed envelope super-scribing on the top of the sealed envelope as "Tender for Hiring of Vehicles on Monthly & Daily Basis in reference to Advertisement No.01/25 dtd.5.1.2025". A pre-bid meeting shall be held on 9.1.2025, 12 Noon. Any amendments in the tender document due to decision in the pre-bid meeting shall only be notified in the website mentioned above.

The tenders should reach the office of the undersigned by 21.1.2025 (till 3 PM). The tenders will be opened at 4 PM on 21.1.2025. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Mission Director
NHM, Odisha
OIPR-10084/11/0028/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar
(Phone/Fax : (06821) 241133 / E-mail : eernbng@yahooin)
Ltr. No. 36/Dtd.03.01.2025
No.B-817

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E - BNJ-R&B-27/2024-25

1. Name of work	: Electrical Work
2. No. of works	: 1 No. Electrical Work
3. No. of covers	: Single Cover
4. Estimated cost	: Rs. 35.02 lakhs
5. Period of Completion	: Three Calendar Months
6. Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 12.00 Noon of dated 08.01.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of dated 22.01.2025
7. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Up to 5.00 P.M. of dated 22.01.2025
8. Date of opening of bid documents	: At 11.00 A.M. of dated 24.01.2025
9. Class of contractor	: "HT" Elect. Contractor
10. Name and address of officer inviting bid	: Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division
OIPR-34015/11/0022/2425

[GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
BARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, BARGARH
E-mail - eepwdbgh@gmail.com Phone/Fax - 06646-234819
No.B-816

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B)
e-Procurement Notice
IDENTIFICATION NO.IFB-SE PWD BGH No.19 OF 2024-25
No. 34, Dated - 02.01.2025

1) The Superintending Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division, Bargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single & Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the Civil works as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors.

2 No. of Road & Building work	: 02 Nos.
3) Cost of Tender Paper	: Rs. 6,000/- & Rs. 10,000/-
4) Class of contractor	: "B" Class Contractor
5) Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids	: 11:00 Hrs. of 07.01.2025 to 17:00 Hrs. of 15.01.2025
6) Date of opening of Technical Bid	: 16.01.2025 at 11:30 Hrs.

7) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

8) Any corrigendum / addendum will be displayed in the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer,
Bargarh (R&B) Division
OIPR-34039/11/0016/2425

Government of Odisha No.O-1151
"e" Procurement Notice
Letter No.28, Dated 04.01.2025
Bid Identification No.TENDER ONLINE SNPR-10 OF 2024-25

1. Name of the Work: Road & Building Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

2. Total No. of Work: 03 (Three) Nos.

3. Approximate Estimated Cost : Vary from Rs.5.04 Lakhs to 13.40 Lakh

4. Period of Completion: 02 (Two) to 4 (Four) Calendar Months

5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding : 08.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 17.01.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

6. Date and Time of opening of Tender: 18.01.2025 at 11.00 AM (Technical Bid) & (Financial Bid will be intimated lateron)

8. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : S.E.R.W. Division., Sonapur.

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice

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

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

Sd./- Executive Engineer
OIPR-25054/11/0012/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Email:eerwgunupur@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GUNUPUR
E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.SERWGNP-Online-03/2024-25
No.4795, Date:23.12.2024

No.O-1144:1. Name of the Work: Road & Building Works. 2. Total No. of Works: 39 Nos. (Percentage rate tender). 3. Estimated Cost: As mentioned in Col.3 of Annexure. 4. Class of Contractor: As mentioned in Col.5 of Annexure. 5. Period of Completion: As mentioned in Col. 4 of Annexure.6.EMD: As mentioned in Col.6 of Annexure. 7. Paper Cost: As mentioned in Col.7 of Annexure. 8. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur	SERWGNP-Online-03/2024-25	07.01.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	17.01.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	18.01.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.

9. The amount put to tender is exclusive of 18% GST. The intending bidder should offer their rates which shall be exclusive of GST applicable as per norms. GST as applicable on works contract shall be paid over the bill amount at the time of payment of bill. Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur
OIPR-25170/11/0005/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-812
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
LOWER INDRA CANAL DIVISION, KHARIAR
Dist : Nuapada, Odisha, PIN - 766107
e-Procurement Notice No. SELICD-03/2024-25, Dt. 02.01.2025 (Online)
E-mail ID : eelicd.khr@gmail.com

No. 06
1. Type/Nature of work : Instruction of Right Main Canal & Left Main Canal of Lower Indra Irrigation Project. 2. Total No. of works : 01 (One) No. 3. Estimated Cost of works : Rs. 87.87 lakh (Including GST). 4. Period of completion : 06 (Six) Calendar months. 5. Classification of bidders : Bidders with specialization in Dam Instrumentation & Technology.

Other details as follows :

Procurement Officer	e-Procurement Notice No.	Availability & Submission of bids in online		Date of opening of Technical bid
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Lower Indra Canal Division, Khariar, Dist - Nuapada, Odisha	SELICD-03/2024-25, Dt.02.01.2025	06.01.2025 from 10.00 A.M.	21.01.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	22.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

N.B : Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation to the above notice will be published in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- (Er. Soumya Kishore Jaipuria)
Superintending Engineer,
Lower Indra Canal Division, Khariar
OIPR-32206/11/0003/2425



The Iranian nuclear programme is approaching the point of no return EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

NOBLE INITIATIVE

Indonesia's new government started an ambitious \$28 million project Monday to feed nearly 90 million children and pregnant women to fight malnutrition and stunting although critics question whether the nationwide program is affordable



international

of the day quote

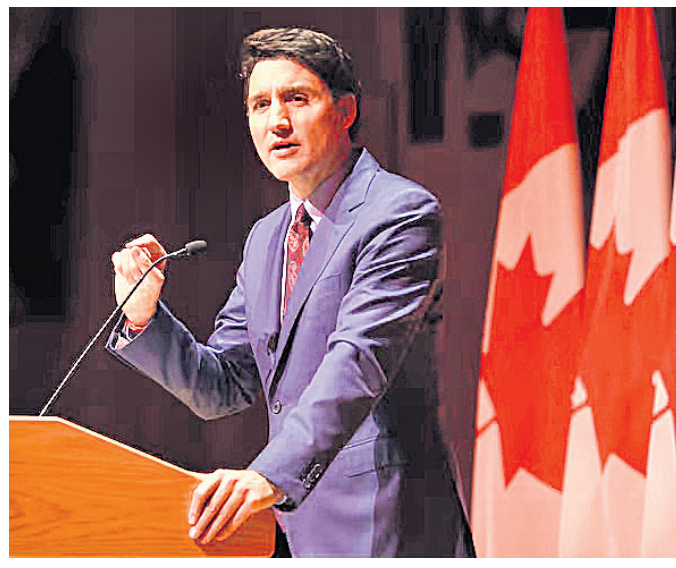
The eradication of the Kurdish YPG militia in Syria is imminent HAKAN FIDAN | FOREIGN MINISTER, TURKEY

America should liberate the people of Britain from their tyrannical government KEIR STARMER | PM, BRITAIN

For some time now, the US side has been playing up so-called Chinese cyber attacks and has even initiated illegal unilateral sanctions against China. China firmly opposes this and will take necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

Canada PM quits

Trudeau says he will step down after new Liberal party leader named



REUTERS

Ottawa, Jan 6: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Monday that he will step down as leader of the ruling Liberals after nine years in office but will stay on in his post until the party chooses a replacement.

Trudeau, under heavy pressure from Liberal legislators to quit amid polls showing the party will be crushed at the next election, said at a news conference that parliament would be suspended until March 24.

That means an election is unlikely to be held before May and Trudeau will still be prime minister when US President-elect Donald Trump - who has threatened tariffs that would cripple Canada's economy - takes office January 20.

"This country deserves a real choice in the next election, and it has become clear to me that if I'm having to fight internal battles, I cannot be the best option in that election," Trudeau said.

Trudeau, 53, took office in November 2015 and won re-election twice, becoming one of Canada's longest-serving prime ministers.

But his popularity started dipping two years ago amid public anger over high prices and a housing shortage, and his fortunes never recovered.

Polls show the Liberals will badly lose to the official opposition Conservatives in an election that must be held by late October, regardless of who the leader is.

Parliament was due to resume January 27 and opposition parties had vowed to bring down the government as soon as they could, most likely at the end of March. But if parliament does not return until March 24, the earliest they could present a non-confidence motion would be some time in May.

Trudeau said he had asked Canada's Governor General, the representative of King Charles in the country, to prorogue parliament and she had granted that request.

Trudeau had until recently been able to fend off Liberal legislators worried about the poor showing in polls and the loss of safe seats in two special elections last year. But calls for him to step aside

This country deserves a real choice in the next election, and it has become clear to me that if I'm having to fight internal battles, I cannot be the best option in that election JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

Canadian PM came to power in 2015 after 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and had initially been hailed for returning the country to its liberal past. But the 53-year-old scion of one of Canada's most famous prime ministers became deeply unpopular with voters in recent years over a range of issues, including the soaring cost of food and housing, and surging immigration

have soared since last month, when he tried to demote Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, one of his closest cabinet allies, after she pushed back against his proposals for more spending.

Freeland quit instead and penned a letter accusing Trudeau of "political gimmicks" rather than focusing on what was best for the country.

POLITICAL UPHEAVAL The political upheaval comes at a difficult moment for Canada internationally. US President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods if the government does not stem what Trump calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the US — even though far fewer of each crosses into the US from Canada than from Mexico, which Trump has also threatened.

Canada is a major exporter of oil and natural gas to the US, which also relies on its northern neighbour for steel, aluminum and autos.

Trudeau kept publicly mum in recent weeks, despite intensifying pressure for him to step down.



A man walk's his dog in the heavy snow past scaled miniature famous landmarks which are located in Nenthead, England, as the severe weather continues across England AP/PTI PHOTO

Five Indian-origin men charged with murder of 35-year-old Indian in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Las Vegas, Jan 6: Five Indian-origin men have been charged with murder in the US in connection with the death of a 35-year-old man from India.

Sandeep Kumar, 34, of South Ozone Park, New York, was charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the death of Kuldeep Kumar in Manchester Township around October 22, 2024, according to a statement on Saturday by Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley Billhimer and Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan.

Investigation into Kuldeep's death revealed that Sandeep acted in concert with other defendants in carrying out Kuldeep Kumar's murder.

Other defendants in the case are Sourav Kumar, 23, Gaurav Singh 27, Nirmal Singh 30, and Gurdeep Singh 22, all from Greenwood, Indiana.

On December 14, 2024, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Major Crime Unit was contacted for a report of a deceased individual located in the Greenwood Wildlife Management Area in Manchester Township.

WORLD'S BIGGEST

Dam on Brahmaputra: China moves forward



The massive dam will be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Jan 6: China Monday reiterated its plan to build the world's biggest dam over the Brahmaputra River in Tibet near the Indian border, saying the planned project has gone through rigorous scientific verification and will not have any negative impact on downstream countries — India and Bangladesh.

The project, estimated to cost around \$137 billion, is located in the ecologically fragile Himalayan region along a tectonic plate boundary where earthquakes occur frequently.

"On the hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, China has made its position clear. Let me reiterate that the decision to build the project was made after rigorous scientific evaluation and the project will not have a negative impact on the ecological environment, geological conditions and the rights and interests related to water resources of downstream countries," Foreign Ministry's new spokesman Guo Jiakun said.

"Rather, it will, to some extent, help with their disaster prevention and reduction and climate response," he said, replying to a question that India has expressed its concerns over the dam and the issue figured in the Indian officials talks with the visiting US National Security Advisor Sullivan.

Last month, China approved plans to build a dam over the Brahmaputra River called Yarlung Zangbo in Tibet close to the Indian border. As per the plan, the massive dam will be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh.

In its first reaction to the proposed dam January 3, India urged China to ensure that the interests of downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in upstream areas. "We will continue to monitor and take necessary measures to protect our interests," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Let me reiterate that the decision to build the project was made after rigorous scientific evaluation and the project will not have a negative impact on the ecological environment, geological conditions and the rights and interests related to water resources of downstream countries GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Gunmen kill three

Tel Aviv: Gunmen opened fire on a bus carrying Israelis in the occupied West Bank Monday, killing at least three people and wounding seven others. Violence has surged in the territory since Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack out of Gaza ignited the ongoing war there. The attack occurred in the Palestinian village of Al-Funduq, on one of the main east-west roads crossing the territory. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said two women in their 60s and a man in his 40s were killed, and the military said it was looking for the attackers. Palestinians have carried out scores of shooting, stabbing and car-ramming attacks against Israelis in recent years. Israel has launched near-nightly military raids across the territory that frequently trigger gunbattles with militants. There has also been a sharp rise in attacks on Palestinians by Israeli settlers, leading the United States to impose sanctions.

Emergency landing

Kathmandu: A Buddha Air flight with 76 people on board made an emergency landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) here in Nepal after experiencing a left engine flameout. The flight BHA953, en route to Chandragadi, departed from the TIA at 10:37 am local time. It experienced a left engine flameout and subsequently initiated a VOR (Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range) approach to Kathmandu at 11:15 am, according to a press release circulated by the Tribhuvan International Airport and Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. There were 72 passengers and 4 crew members on board.

New Orleans attacker used Meta glasses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Jan 6: The man who drove a truck into a crowd of people in New Orleans on New Year's Day, killing 14, had previously scouted the French Quarter and recorded video with his Meta smart glasses, the FBI said.

On October 31, Shamsud-Din Jabbar recorded video with the glasses as he cycled through the French Quarter and plotted the attack, said Lyonel Myrthil, FBI special agent in charge of the New Orleans field office. Jabbar also wore the glasses, which are capable of livestreaming, during the attack, but did not activate them.

A spokesperson for Meta, the parent company of Facebook, declined to comment. Here's what the glasses are capable of: What are Meta glasses?

Meta glasses, made in partnership with Ray-Ban, are frames with a built-in camera, speakers and artificial intelligence that can be controlled with your voice, buttons and some simple gestures. Some functions, such as listening to music or interacting with Meta's AI assistant, require the device to be either paired with a phone or able to access the internet.

The wearable does not have a display built into the lens, unlike some past industry at-

TECHNOLOGY, TERRORISM



ing on a pair of glasses that will give users a fully holographic experience.

What the glasses can do? One of the glasses' main selling points is the ability to capture im-

Reminders of Capitol attack fade as Trump returns

As Congress convenes amid a winter storm to certify President-elect Donald Trump's election, the legacy of Jan 6 hangs over the proceedings with an extraordinary fact: The candidate who tried to overturn the previous election won this time, and is legitimately returning to power

no plaque, display or remembrance of any kind.

Lawmakers rarely mention the attack, and many Republicans try to downplay it, echoing President-elect Donald Trump's claims that the carnage of that day is overblown and that the rioters are victims.

In some ways, it's like the insurrection of January 6, 2021, that shook the foundations of American democracy, never happened.

Some of the 1,250 defendants convicted of crimes after January 6 called for the deaths of then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, and Mike Pence, who was Trump's vice president, as the mob violently overran police and breached the building.

Some carried weapons, zip ties, chemical irritants, Confederate flags as they ransacked the Capitol and hunted for lawmakers. They sought to stop the certification of Democrat Joe



It's been erased. Winners write history and Trump won. And his version is that it was a peaceful gathering. Obviously completely untrue PETER WELCH | SENATOR, US

Biden's win over Trump, echoing the Republican incumbent's

It's the largest prosecution in Justice Department history — with reams of evidence, harrowing videos and hundreds of convictions of the rioters who stormed the US Capitol January 6, 2021. Now Donald Trump's return to power has thrown into question the future of the more than 1,500 federal cases brought over the last four years

Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, one of seven Senate Republicans who voted to convict Trump on impeachment charges after January 6, said "it was a very, very dark time." Some lawmakers, she said, "do want to really put that behind us."

There are different reasons for that, however. Former Republican Senator Mike Braun, a frequent Trump ally who left Congress this year and was elected Indiana's governor, said many in the party

think the Justice Department "was weaponised disproportionately against" some rioters. He said many lawmakers who were in the Capitol January 6 want as much distance as possible between then and now.

"I think all of us remember it," Braun said. But, he added, "If you're starting to put plaques up, it looks like it even further emphasises the divide on the issue. And maybe the biggest remedy is just to keep moving forward."

11TH HOUR ACTION

Biden bans offshore oil and gas drilling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Jan 6: President Joe Biden is moving to ban new offshore oil and gas drilling in most US coastal waters, a last-minute effort to block possible action by the incoming Trump administration to expand offshore drilling.

Biden, whose term expires in two weeks, said he is using authority under the federal Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to protect offshore areas along the East and West coasts, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and portions of Alaska's Northern Bering Sea from future oil and natural gas leasing.

"My decision reflects what coastal communities, businesses and beachgoers have known for a long time: that drilling off these coasts could cause irreversible damage to places we hold dear and is unnecessary to meet our nation's energy needs," Biden said.



I can clearly see FDI in India once again growing rapidly and creating millions of jobs. Countries in the Middle East, EFTA region, Japan, and investors from the EU and the US are all realising that India continues to be the most preferred destination for FDI
PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

HOME-COOKED MEALS GET COSTLIER

Prices of home-cooked meals increased in December on dearer key kitchen staples like tomato and potato, a report said Monday. The average cost of preparing a vegetarian thali was up 6 per cent at ₹31.6 per plate in December when compared to the year-ago period's ₹29.7, but was down from preceding November month's rate of ₹32.7, the report by a unit of rating agency Crisil said.



Business

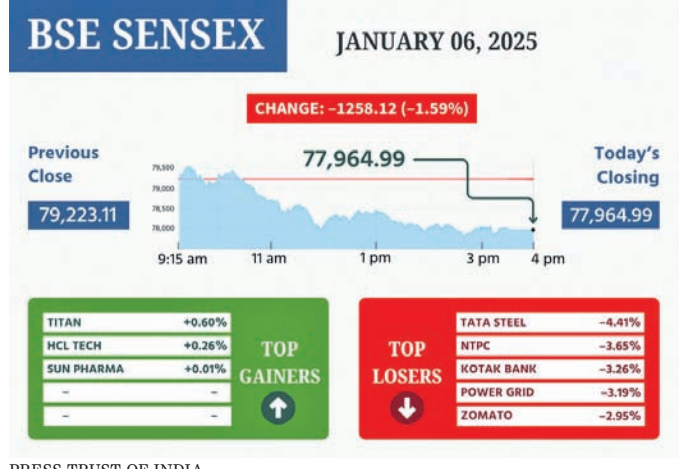
of the day quote

Nayara Energy has steadily grown in India and as new-age India prospers, we believe that bolstering our fuel retail network in upcoming towns is integral to the growth of this thriving economy
ALESSANDRO DES DORIDES | CEO, NAYARA ENERGY

There is an imperative need for a nimble, proactive regulatory approach that adapts to emerging market challenges, particularly in sectors driven by technology and innovation
RAVNEET KAUR | CCI CHAIRPERSON

We are in touch with ADB, World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for fundraising via ECB route
PR JAISHANKAR | IFCL MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sensex slumps over 1,250 pts; investors poorer by ₹ 10.98L-cr



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 6: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty crashed 1.6 per cent Monday due to an across-the-board sell-off, as concerns over third-quarter earnings growth and the continued flight of foreign capital sapped risk appetite. Investors' wealth tumbled ₹10.98 lakh crore in the crash.

Besides, traders said that the new HMPV scare, depreciating rupee and weak trend in Asian markets further weighed on sentiment.

Extending loss for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 1,258.12 points or 1.59 per cent to close below the 78,000 level at 77,964.99. During the day, it plunged 1,441.49 points or 1.81 per cent to 77,781.62.

As many as 3,474 stocks declined, 656 advanced and 114 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The NSE Nifty slumped 388.70 points or 1.62 per cent to 23,616.05.

"Emerging markets are undergoing consolidation due to uncertainties surrounding new

US economic policies, the Fed's hawkish stance on future rate cuts, potential upward revision for CY25 inflation, and a strong dollar, all of which are negatively impacting market sentiment. The primary catalyst for a sharp sell-off in the domestic market appears to be concerns over the human metapneumovirus (HMPV). Additionally, the initial Q3 consensus earnings estimate suggests a potential gradual recovery in domestic corporate earnings, which could explain the domestic market's underperformance compared to global markets led by premium valuation." Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Tata Steel, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Zomato, Adani Ports, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra and Reliance Industries were among the biggest laggards. Titan and Sun Pharma were the only gainers.

"The Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp decline today, with both Nifty and Bank

Nifty slipping below their 200-day moving averages (DMA). The sell-off can be attributed to a rise in Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) selling and concerns surrounding the upcoming Q3 earnings season. Additionally, fears related to the new HMPV have added to the bearish sentiment, triggering fresh rounds of selling after the recent counter-trend pullback rally," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investment, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge cracked 3.17 per cent and the midcap index fell by 2.44 per cent.

"Indian equities faced intense selling pressure amid concerns regarding the outbreak of HMP Virus (Human Metapneumovirus) and sharp fall in banking stocks post lacklustre quarterly updates. Diagnostic stocks were in focus as the first two cases of HMPV were detected in Bangalore. There was broad-based sell-off in the market with midcap and smallcap indices falling between 2-3 per cent each and all sectoral indices closing in the red," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

All BSE sectoral indices ended lower, with utilities tumbling 4.16 per cent, power (3.73 per cent), services (3.45 per cent), metal (3.15 per cent), oil & gas (3.15 per cent), energy (3.03 per cent), industrials (2.97 per cent) and commodities (2.74 per cent).

In Asian markets, Seoul settled higher while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.25 per cent to USD 76.32 a barrel.

Rupee rises 11 paise against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 6: The rupee pared its intraday losses and settled for the day on a positive note higher by 11 paise at 85.68 against the US dollar Monday.

Forex traders said the Reserve Bank of India's interventions aimed at stabilising the rupee, helped in restricting the decline in the local unit.

However, the rupee's outlook remains clouded by a mix of domestic as well as global challenges. Increased dollar demand, a steep fall in domestic equity markets and unabated outflow of foreign capital continue to dent investors' sentiments, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.77 and touched the lowest-ever level of 85.84 against the greenback in intraday trade. The unit pared the losses and finally settled for the day higher by 11 paise at 85.68 against the American currency.

Friday, the rupee depreciated 4 paise to close at 85.79 against the dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.46 per cent lower at 108.45.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.78 per cent to USD 77.11 per barrel in futures trade.

Meanwhile, the country's forex reserves dropped by USD 4.112 billion to USD 640.279 billion during the week ended December 27, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

According to traders the Reserve Bank's interventions aimed at stabilising the rupee have played a significant role in this decline, as the central bank has actively engaged in market operations to support the currency.

Services sector growth hits 4-month high in Dec



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: India's services sector growth touched a four-month high in December, supported by new business inflows on strong demand conditions and easing inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HS-BC India Services Business Activity Index, rose from 58.4 in November to 59.3 in December, highlighting the strongest rate of expansion in four months.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. According to the survey, demand buoyancy continued to drive new business inflows higher, which in turn supported output growth and prompted firms to recruit additional workers. "India's services companies expressed strong optimism in December as business activity growth surged to a four-month high. Forward-looking indicators such as new business and future activity suggested that the strong performance will likely continue in the near future," Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC, said.

On the price front, there was a softer increase in cost burdens, though panellists continued to report greater outlays on food, labour and materials. Selling price inflation also eased in December. "The easing of input price inflation in the month also supported business sentiment. Strength in the services PMI stands in contrast with the growing signs of a slowdown in the manufacturing industry," Lam noted. India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a 12-month low in December, as new business orders and production expanded at softer rates.

Service providers remained confident that output would increase over the course of the coming 12 months. The overall level of positive sentiment fell from November's six-month high but remained above its long-run average.

The combination of new business growth, upbeat forecasts and rising capacity pressures supported another round of job creation across the service economy. "The rate of employment growth softened from November, but was sharp and among the strongest seen since data collection began in December 2005," the survey said.

Meanwhile, private sector companies in India posted a faster increase in output at the end of the calendar year. At 59.2 in December, up from 58.6 in November, the HSBC India Composite Output Index signalled the strongest rise for four months.

price inflation also eased in December. "The easing of input price inflation in the month also supported business sentiment. Strength in the services PMI stands in contrast with the growing signs of a slowdown in the manufacturing industry," Lam noted. India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a 12-month low in December, as new business orders and production expanded at softer rates.

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Coal India and IREL ink pact for critical minerals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 6: Coal India Limited (CIL) and IREL (India) Limited Monday signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate and collaborate on the development of critical minerals.

The MoU aims to promote the development of mutually agreed assets of critical minerals, including mineral sands and rare earth elements (REE), Coal India informed bourses.

The two companies will work together to acquire assets, source raw materials domestically or internationally, and develop mining, extraction, and refining capabilities, Coal India officials said.

This partnership is part of CIL's efforts to reduce India's import dependence on critical minerals including lithium and cobalt.

CIL Chairman PM Prasad in the past emphasised the importance of acquiring these mineral assets in India and abroad to support the country's clean energy goals.

The government in the Union Budget 2024-25 had announced Critical Mineral Mission that aims to expand domestic production, recycling, and incentivise the acquisition of assets.

India is one of the few countries capable of producing rare earth elements, and IREL has been aiming for self-sufficiency in mining, processing, and refining these elements.

Currently, China is the dominant player in critical minerals, officials said.

However, the development of critical minerals also raises environmental concerns, as refining and processing require a significant amount of water and can lead to water depletion and air pollution.

Hallmarking silver jewellery may get mandated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi Monday asked the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to consider implementing mandatory hallmarking for silver and silver artifacts following consumer demands.

"There is a demand from consumers for mandatory hallmarking of silver. You (BIS) can deliberate and take a call," Joshi said at the 78th BIS Foundation Day event.

The work in this direction has already begun and the government will take a decision after completion of stakeholder consultations and feasibility assessment by BIS, the minister told reporters on the sidelines of the event.

"I have asked BIS to work out feasibility and take reactions from consumers and ornament dealers. We will consult all stakeholders and start the process," he added.

Silver hallmarking, which



certifies the purity of the white metal, is currently voluntary.

BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari told PTI that the Bureau could be ready to implement mandatory silver hallmarking within 3-6 months, adding that the stakeholder discussions were underway.

"Several rounds of discussions were held with stakeholders and they are in favour of it. The discussion on printing a unique six-digit alphanumeric code is going on," Tiwari said.

The move follows successful

implementation of mandatory gold hallmarking introduced in June 2021, which now covers 361 districts.

The existing system includes a unique six-digit alphanumeric code (HUID) certifying gold purity.

According to the minister, about 90 per cent of jewellery being purchased is now hallmarked. More than 44.28 crore gold jewellery items have been hallmarked with unique IDs since the launch.

Stakeholders from Gujarat,

Karnataka and other states have requested the extension of mandatory hallmarking to silver, the minister added.

BIS, established under the BIS Act in 1986, is an autonomous national body responsible for setting quality standards for products and services.

Listing out upcoming focus areas, the minister said the BIS is also developing standards for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and is at the forefront of shaping the future of innovation and technology.

"As we look to the future, let us remember that our journey is not just about meeting international standards, it is about setting them. We are not just participants in the global market; we are leaders in the global world of quality," he added.

The minister launched BIS comic books, library and pensioners portals at the event, which was also attended by Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare and other senior BIS officials.

RBI adds 8 tonnes of gold to its reserves in Nov 2024

The gold price dip in November, following the US election, may have provided some central banks with added impetus to accumulate, the World Gold Council said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 6: Central banks around the world collectively, in November 2024, added 53 tonnes of gold to their reserves, of which the Reserve Bank of India's addition was 8 tonnes, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report Monday.

In 2024, central banks - mostly those from emerging markets -

remained keen buyers of gold, driven by the need for a stable and secure asset amid global economic uncertainties.

"Assessing the final act of 2024, central banks around the world continued to play a leading role in the demand for gold. November represented another solid month of gold buying as central banks collectively added a net 53 tonnes to global official holdings," WGC said in a report - Central bank gold statistics November 2024.

The gold price dip in November, following the US election, may have provided some central banks with added impetus to accumulate, WGC said.

WGC further noted that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continued with its 2024 buying streak, adding a further 8 tonnes to its gold reserves in November.

This lifted the year-to-date buying to 73 tonnes and total gold holdings to 876 tonnes, maintaining its position as the



second largest buyer in 2024, after Poland.

According to WGC, the National Bank of Poland (NBP) was a major buyer in November increasing its gold reserves by 21 tonnes in November, taking its total year-to-date purchase to 448 tonnes.

The Central Bank of Uzbekistan's gold reserves rose by 9

tonnes during the month - the first monthly addition since July. The bank's year-to-date net purchases amounted to 11 tonnes and total gold holdings amounted to 382 tonnes, said the report.

Meanwhile, the National Bank of Kazakhstan increased its gold reserves by 5 tonnes, the second successive month of buying as a result, the bank has

flipped to being a net purchaser with a total gold holdings of 295 tonnes.

The People's Bank of China (PBoC) had resumed gold purchases after a six-month hiatus, adding 5 tonnes of gold to its reserves, increasing its year-to-date net purchases to 34 tonnes and its total reported gold holdings to 2,264 tonnes (5 per cent of total reserves), the report said.

Data published by the Central Bank of Jordan showed its gold reserves rose by over 4 tonnes in November - the first monthly increase since July. The country's year-to-date net purchases now total nearly 20 tonnes, lifting gold holdings to 73 tonnes, it added.

The Central Bank of Turkey increased its gold reserves by 3 tonnes during November 2024, and also entered into reverse swap agreements (gold for lira) with domestic commercial banks to manage liquidity.

Gold reserves held by the Czech National Bank rose by

almost 2 tonnes in November - the 21st consecutive month of buying, it said, adding the Czech National Bank's year-to-date net purchases now total almost 20 tonnes, lifting gold holdings to just above 50 tonnes.

The Bank of Ghana continued its gold accumulation as part of its domestic gold purchase programme, adding 1 tonne in November, taking its year-to-date net purchases to a total of 10 tonnes, lifting total gold holdings to 29 tonnes.

The bank also launched a Ghana Gold Coin to the public during the month as part of its efforts to stabilise the economy and promote investment in Ghana's gold reserves, WGC stated.

Meanwhile, the Monetary Authority of Singapore was the month's largest seller, reducing its gold reserves by 5 tonnes, bringing the year-to-date net sales to 7 tonnes and overall gold holdings to 223 tonnes, it added.

BGT NIGHTMARE

India's bench strength in focus

Plenty of batting options; bowling talent sparse as India's next red-ball assignment to Eng starts in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Jan 6: The nightmarish batting performance is deservedly under the scanner after India's meek surrender in the Border-Gavaskar series but a closer look at the team's bench strength would reveal that bowling resources are a bigger concern for the side as it navigates a difficult transition.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's Test future hangs in balance after their poor returns with the bat but the national selection committee has the reserves to ensure that the order remains a solid one even if the two giants were to be phased out.

However, bowling, especially pace, is a different story.

The cupboard in the fast bowling department is bare and it will take some time to prepare another crack line-up that can match up to the aura of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma.

The available names are doing their best but is that enough for the team or for Bumrah, whose workload became a massive concern during the just-concluded series?

The spearhead was forced to watch from the dressing room during the last innings of the decisive fifth and final Test that India lost by six wickets as back spasms prevented him from bowling.

Mohammed Siraj, after 36 Tests, hasn't developed into a game-changer yet and Prasidh



Krishna bowls too many loose balls.

There is the duo of Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar, who are skillful, but they are not really tested at the highest level.

In the Ranji circuit, there aren't too many exciting fast bowling options that the selectors can explore as of now.

The main problem seems to be a dearth of left-arm seamers as Arshdeep Singh hasn't actually set the stage on fire and Yash Dayal doesn't look a finished product.

But when it comes to batting there is some real talent available although the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee will not decide anything till the end of the Ranji Trophy season.

If the panel decides to move away from Rohit and Kohli or the two announce retirements, there are at least half a dozen name ready to stake a claim for the two slots that will open up. One of the prime contenders

could be B Sai Sudharsan of Tamil Nadu.

The elegant left-hander impressed in his appearance for India A against Australia A in Mackay but then he had a sports hernia operation and is undergoing rehabilitation.

As and when Sudharsan is ready and if there are at least a couple of slots, he should be in contention provided he is in form and has the requisite fitness levels.

In the current set-up, there is Devdutt Padikkal, another stylish and sinewy left-hander, who has played a couple of Tests.

Abhimanyu Easwaran has been around the side for three years now but there is a belief in the Indian cricketing circle that he is not cut out for bigger challenges in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia).

A proof of it the recent series, where he travelled with the squad but wasn't even remote-

ly in contention for a playing XI slot in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

For Sarfaraz Khan, his technique against real quick bowling was always doubtful but the manner in which he got out in Pune and Mumbai in the home Tests against New Zealand has made the current team management wary. In most of the venues, Sarfaraz didn't even come out to bat during the customary net sessions, an indication that he is quite low in the pecking order.

There is every chance that he might not make it to squad for the upcoming limited-overs series against England.

There are also three seasoned players who might get a second wind if the second half of Ranji Trophy goes well for them.

They are Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is yet to make his debut, three-Test-old Rajat Patidar and Mumbai's very own

Shreyas Iyer.

Iyer's problem has been the short ball, while Patidar flattered to deceive against England at home last year.

Gaikwad failed in two India A games Down Under but his pedigree is unquestionable.

It is understood that the selection committee won't be looking at just the volume of runs or wickets but would also focus on impactful performances.

A century on a Lahli green top or a five-wicket haul on a Rajkot belter would carry more weight than performances in favourable conditions.

How a young bowler is coming back with the old ball for his third or fourth spell or how a batter is dealing with spinners on rank turners will also hold more credence.

But any decision on who would be elevated to the next level will be taken only after the end of the domestic season in February.

Hurt Bumrah may miss series against England

India will face England in five T20Is and three ODIs from January 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Jan 6: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who sustained back spasms, is likely to be rested for the majority of India's home white-ball series against England, keeping an eye on the ICC Champions Trophy, starting from February 19.

Bumrah, who was India's stand out player with 32 wickets in their 1-3 thrashing at the hands of Australia in the just-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy, couldn't bowl in the final innings of the series here after suffering back spasms.

The 30-year-old Bumrah bowled more than 150 overs in the series.

The injury has a direct link to his excessive workload in the series, and the BCCI medical team will try to ensure the new Test captain is ready for the ICC showpiece where his presence is mandatory to India's fortunes.

According to sources privy to the development, the grade of

Bumrah's back spasm has not yet been ascertained.

India will open their Champions Trophy campaign against Bangladesh February 20 in Dubai. If Bumrah's injury is in grade 1 category, then it will take a minimum two to three weeks of rehabilitation before Return to Play (RTP).

In case of Grade 2 injury, the recovery can go up to six weeks while Grade 3, the most severe in nature, requires a minimum three months of rest and rehabilitation programmes.

It was always known that Bumrah will not play T20I bilateral series as this is not the World Cup year, but with the Champions Trophy around the corner, he would have certainly played two if not three ODIs against England as its the 50-over format.

But now, the grade of his injury will decide whether Bumrah plays the England series at all or at least the last match at his home ground in Ahmedabad February 12 to check on his fitness.



SHORT TAKES

Sagoo new AFI chief

Chandigarh: Asian Games gold medalist shot putter Bahadur Singh Sagoo will be elected unopposed as the president of Athletics Federation of India (AFI) at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) here Tuesday, succeeding the long-serving Adil Sumariwalla for the top post. The 51-year-old Sagoo won a shot put gold in the 2002 Busan Asian Games and also took part in 2000 and 2004 Olympics. He is a member of the outgoing executive council as an Athletes Commission representative. He is also a member of the senior selection committee.

Smriti to lead series

New Delhi: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and pacer Renuka Singh Thakur have been rested for India women's three-match home ODI series against Ireland, the BCCI announced Monday. Opener Smriti Mandhana will lead the side in the series, beginning on January 10 at Rajkot, in the absence of Harmanpreet. Harmanpreet had suffered a knee injury during the home series against the West Indies last month, forcing her to sit out of the last two T20Is before returning to play three ODIs.

OFC sign forward Rahul KP to bolster attack

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Odisha FC have signed talented forward Rahul KP on a permanent transfer from Kerala Blasters FC Monday. The deal will see the 24-year-old join the Kalinga Warriors until the end of the 2026-27 season, with an option to extend for a further year.

Rahul KP joins the Kalinga Warriors after an impressive start to the 2024/25 Indian Super League (ISL) season with Kerala Blasters FC, where he has already made 11 appearances. Notably, he scored his first goal of the campaign in a commanding 3-0 victory against Chennaiyin FC November 24. He has appeared 89 times for the Yellow Army with more than 10 goal contributions across various tournaments.

Rahul KP's football journey began in Thrissur, progressing through Kerala's youth system. He excelled at the FIFA U-17 World Cup and joined the Indian Arrows, making his professional debut in the I-League 2017-18 season. With Indian Arrows, Rahul made 40 appear-



Ready for this new challenge. Odisha FC is the only team that showed interest in me. So, I am super happy to be here. Most importantly it's coach's call so that makes it more amazing. Here to give my best learn and grow. Rest I live to the Good God

RAHUL KP

ances and scored six goals.

Head Coach, Sergio Lobera: "Rahul is a profile of player who can fit very well into our play style. I am sure he will help us improve. I am happy with his arrival." Earlier in the day, Kerala Blasters FC and Jaushua Sotirio have mutually agreed to part ways, bringing his association with the club to an end.

PSG win Champions Trophy

DEMBELE SCORES LAST-GASP WINNER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Jan 6: Ousmane Dembélé scored a stoppage-time winner as Paris Saint-Germain beat Monaco 1-0 to win the Champions Trophy.

The France winger was unmarked at the back post to meet a low cross from the left by Fabian Ruiz in the second minute of added time Sunday.

PSG won the trophy, also known as the French Super Cup, for the third straight time and a record-extending 13th overall. PSG won the league and cup double last season, with Monaco finishing second in the league.

"The result reflects our domination," PSG coach Luis Enrique said, while Monaco coach Adi Hütter conceded PSG played better. "A goal in the last minute always feels like a knife in the back," Hütter said.

"PSG deserved to win if we're being honest, they had more chances."

The match took place at Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar, with PSG owned by Qatar-based QSI



PSG won the trophy, also known as the French Super Cup, for the third straight time and a record-extending 13th overall

since 2011. Désiré Doué hit the crossbar early on for PSG and Monaco

goalkeeper Philipp Köhn made several saves.

Monaco improved after the break and hit the post through Eliesse Ben Seghir and Brazilian defender Vanderson.

Although Köhn made a fine save to deny Achraf Hakimi in the 74th minute, he failed to properly read Ruiz's cross and Monaco missed out on winning the trophy for the first time since 2000.

Soorma Hockey Club beat Delhi SG Pipers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Jan 6: Soorma Hockey Club secured a thrilling 3-1 shootout victory over Delhi SG Pipers after a late brace by Harmanpreet Singh in the final quarter levelled the match in regulation time here Monday.

After a quiet first half, Tomas Domene (43') and Manjeet Singh (45') scored to grant Delhi SG Pipers a two-goal lead in the third quarter.

However, Harmanpreet (48', 57') found the back of the net twice with his drag flicks to get Soorma back on level terms in the last quarter and force penalty shootouts.

Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nicolas Keenan and Boris Burkhardt scored in the penalty shootouts, while Vincent Vansch pulled out three saves to snatch the bonus point for Soorma Hockey Club.

After the first half ended goalless following a series of missed opportunities, Maninder Singh earned Soorma's first penalty corner five minutes into the third quarter but Della Torre's low flick was easily deflected out.

TWO-TIER TEST SYSTEM IN WORKS

ICC, BCCI, CA, ECB explore possibility to facilitate more series between big three nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Jan 6: The ICC in collaboration with cricket boards of India, Australia and England is exploring the possibility of a two-tier Test system to facilitate more series between big three nations.

The Age reported that Jay Shah, the new ICC chairman, is set to meet Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird and his England counterpart Richard Thompson later this month to discuss the finer points.

"Any plan for a move to two divisions in Test cricket would kick in after the end of the current Future Tours Program in 2027," the Age reported quoting its sources.

The BCCI is currently gearing up for its Special General Meeting January 12 in Mumbai



where interim secretary Devajit Saikia is expected to get a full-time role. Saikia was appointed in the interim role after Shah vacated his post last month to take over as ICC chairman.

A BCCI official indicated that the discussion floated around the ICC corridors in 2016, the first-time when a two-tier Test system was seriously considered. "We don't have any news

of any such move as yet. Currently, preparations are being made for SGM and the recent tour to Australia too needs to be discussed. There was such a move sometime back, but we haven't heard anything since," a BCCI source told PTI.

The BCCI and cricket bodies of Zimbabwe and Bangladesh opposed the move, citing the possibility of decreasing revenue.

They had also argued that smaller nations would miss out on the opportunity of playing against top teams if such a system comes into existence.

However, nine years down the road the modalities have changed and even some of the reputed experts such as former Indian skipper Ravi Shastri are supporting the division.

"I've been a firm believer in that if you want Test cricket to survive and be alive and thriving, I think that's the way to go. The top teams play against each other more often, so there is a contest; you want contests," Shastri told SEN during the recent fifth Test between India and Australia. Even some of the top players such as England Test skipper Ben Stokes had criticised the current model of World Test Championship.

Netflix, WWE aim to fuel wrestling fervour

'Raw' debuts on Netflix Monday with John Cena

REUTERS

Los Angeles, Jan 6: Netflix's next venture into live programming starts Monday when the company streams its first episode of "Raw," the weekly World Wrestling Entertainment spectacle that has been a staple of US television for three decades.

WWE executives are moving their flagship show from Comcast's USA Network to the new streaming home with hopes that they can bring in more fans of all ages around the world.

"When you look at Netflix and its global reach and the power of its brand, it was time that our brand met up with theirs," said WWE President



Netflix expanding popular live streams after boxing, football

Nick Khan.

Netflix agreed to pay more than \$5 billion for rights to show "Raw" and other WWE programming including "Smackdown" and "Wrestlemania" over 10 years, part of the streaming service's move into live events that are attractive to advertisers.

WWE rose to popularity with colorful characters such as Hulk Hogan and future movie star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in ongoing sto-

rylines that hooked viewers.

"Raw" will stream live every Monday exclusively on Netflix in the United States, Canada, Latin America and other territories. It will arrive on Netflix in some countries later this year, including India in April.

In 2025, WWE will stage "Raw" and "Smackdown" events in international markets and aims to find superstars around the world.