

Smt. Droupadi Murmu

Hon'ble President of India



PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CONVENTION 10th January 2025

Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar

in the august presence of -

Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati Governor of Odisha

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi Chief Minister of Odisha

Dr S Jaishankar Union Minister of External Affairs Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Union Minister of Education

Shri Jual Oram Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Kirtivardhan Singh

Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Shri Pabitra Margherita

Union Minister of State for **External Affairs and Textiles**

Scan for **Programme Details**



Programme Highlights

Plenary Sessions on Diaspora Divas : Celebrating Women's Leadership and Influence - Nari Shakti

Diaspora Dialogues : Stories of Culture, Connection, and Belongingness

atithi devo bhava

Watch live on DD News and DD Odia | on Youtube: DD News / DD ODIA

Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Odisha



elsure

NE FORECAST

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accuracy 🖕 reliability 🖕 trust

Now at last you have realised that you have been

preoccupied with work at

the cost of your family life. Making

up to them now is going to take a lot

more effort. Ganesha savs be ready

to open your purse strings for eithe



JESSICA ALBA, CASH WARREN HEADING FOR DIVORCE

Hollywood star Jessica Alba and her producer husband Cash Warren have reportedly split after 16 years of marriage. As per sources, the two are nearing a divorce. The couple got married May 19, 2008, and has three children together.

BALDONI TO TAKE BOLD STANCE AGAINST BLAKE

Justin Baldoni has accused Blake Lively of banishing him and his loved ones to the basement during the *It* Ends With Us premiere. He claims this overshadowed what should have been a significant career moment.



LA BLAZE

PeeCee's shout out to 'brave' first responders

MUMBAI: Indian actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas praised "brave" first responders for working through the night and continuing to help affected families in the wake of the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles.

Priyanka took to her stories, Instagram where she shared a post of "first responders" trying to control the wildfire, which has destroyed thousands of acres of land.

Thanking them, she wrote: "A huge shoutout to incredithe bly brave first responders. Thank you for working tirelessly overnight and continuing to help families affected. @lasdhq @losangelesfiredepartment @

The actress had earlier shared a clip of the wildfire engulfing the Los Angeles neighbourhood. She could be heard saying in the video, "it's crazy. Her post also included the caption, "My thoughts are with everyone affected.

Hope we are all able to be safe tonight."

Priyanka dropped another glimpse of the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles, "Fast-moving Palisades fire in LA scorches thousands of acres, destroys homes"

> On the work front, the global head turner has several exciting projects lined up, including Heads of State, where

> > she stars alongside Idris Elba and John Cena. Heads of State an action comedy film di rected by Ilya Naishuller.

eating out, going out for a movie or shopping at the best places.

TAURUS

You are likely to turn excessively self centred today, says Ganesha. This could cause you to be very insecure. You will have a tendency to control and dominate others. There is all likelihood that you will thereby jeopardize mportant relationships. You are advised to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of all those you come across.



The day promises sensitivity and compassion for you, predicts Ganesha. You may plan a trip with your family members. You may also

invest your money in various financial companies, as securing the future of your family will be foremost on your mind. Moreover, you will also save some hefty amount to meet future needs.



A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesha's blessings in tow.

Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today. your home is where your

troubles will be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesha. So, scooting off may not be the best solution. Some people around you may try to blow things out of proportion; the best way to keep them in check is with a smile.

VIRGO

Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom. Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesha advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day.



LIBRA Ganesha says those of

you who are married or in love will experience a good time today. As you spend more time with your life partner by going out for a drive or for dinner, you will come closer to them. Today is a day full of joy, vigor and happiness for you.

Rakul on unreal beauty standards

been dealing with this in my

head for a while. I've always

been into wellness, and I like

the fit way of being. But hav-

ing said that, there is a fine

line before it can become your

obsession, which has happened

to me in the past. But I had to

constantly tell myself that it's

okay; you don't have to weigh

yourself daily, and that's not

my validation. This is the

first time I'm speaking

Rakul addressed the

routines.

girls,

guilt many feel after

indulging in food or

stepping away from

especially during

vacations. She

highlighted how

influenced by

social media

about it.'

fitness

young

often

MUMBAI: Rakul Preet Singh, seek validation through appearknown for her films, has beances, which can lead to eating come a vocal advocate for welldisorders. "It's not just actors but Gen-Z and younger generness, fitness and balanced living. Recently, in an interview ations who struggle with this. with Hindustan Times, Rakul Many young girls are bulimic opened up about the pressure to or anorexic. We need more open conversations and food experts maintain physical appearance to guide healthier living," she and how it can lead to internal conflict. She admitted, "I've said.

On the work front, Rakul will star in De De Pyaar De 2, where she will reprise her role of Ayesha Khurana opposite Ajay Devgn, with R. Madhavan reportedly playing her father. AGENCIES

who ignores The elder sister of Ka-Ka reena poor Khan, who is lovingly called as Lo-

lo, had earlier shared a picture of herself dressed in an all-black outfit. She completed her look with her hair tied-up neatly, subtle make-up and dangling earrings. She captioned the post as: "Black and

MUMBAI: Actress Karisma Kapoor has

revealed the rules she will be abiding by

Karisma took to Instagram stories,

where she shared a post which had the

"rules for 2025" clearly mentioned. Going

by the post, the actress seems to be prior-

The post she re-shared read: "Rules for

2025: Call who calls you. Visit who visits

itising herself in the new year.

bold."

in 2025.

you. Ignore

you.'

Last month, during her grandfather Raj Kapoor's 100 years, Karisma shared a heartfelt anecdote about the late star on a special episode of Indian Idol.

The episode saw the actress sharing heartfelt anecdotes and cherished memories, highlighting the Kapoor family's contributions to Indian cinema. Playback singer Shreya Ghoshal, music composer Vishal Dadlani, and rapper Badshah along with the contestants came together to pay the tribute to the cinema legend.

In the mood for samosa and dahi-bara?

or those unaware of why theyear- end mood in one of the top-mostengineering institutes of our (Indigo) nation soured, allow me to Gee!.. spot it for you. A sponsor's attempt at a cheeky promotional withpun-drippingstandeesclaimed to be up forcreating awareness on certain safe practices, was screwed in a quickie...err... jiffy, after the display gave the organisers and students premature fest-y vibes and they were in no mood to compromise on institutional ethics

> leadership True ethics were likewise displayed in the land down under when a certain Indian gentleman-

CARDS!



admitted to his bat not being in the mood to talk and graciously stepped down.

Meanwhile in homeland, cold wintery evenings may be getting us in the mood for desi-samosa parties but quite

batches of desi-origin videshi samosa entrée refreshing their parties. There is due caution in the air, but what they need to understand is that *frying* and *trying* even a single samosa

seem to be in no mood to have

idli have long gone global, having settled inwith a stamp of NRI (non- resident item), unsettling French fries and the likes and spreading their desi-ness outside Bharat, we diligently continue to make more. We are also not far behindin celebrating their contributionto 'Viksit Bharat'once in every 2 years, this time around in ourstate that happens to be home to the traditional dahibara as well. Given our expanding diaspora, one cannot help but mood-i- ly wonder about the extent of indigestion that will followat Uncle Sam's if a dahi- bara caucus or chhena-poda caucus gets built!

As the celebrated samosa or



SCORPIO

Being a workaholic may divert your attention from your family and you may have to bear the consequences. It's time to sort differences with your spouse. But, all this while, you need to be calm and patient. Watch your words in case of any arguments, warns Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Good Samaritans around you may give unsolicited, but valuable advise. Take it as a hint, and consider it for your betterment. Take your decision after following the advise, and this may definitely yield benefits, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You want to enhance your knowledge by exploring for-eign shores, but luck hasn't favoured you yet. Ganesha predicts today to be a favourable day for you to try again for higher studies. If associated with the Stock Market or speculation, you are likely to make profits. You will come across many opportunities, but you need to identify and explore them to the fullest.

Meeting people from differ-ent walks of life, having a good conversation with them and widening the horizon of your knowledge - this will be the highlight of today for the Bull. At work, you will have a busy dav with plenty of meetings, discussions planning and execution, feels Ganesha.

PISCES

Today you will get attention from the opposite sex and this will play an important role in your success in the near future. Due to the favourable alignment of the planets you will recieve more than your expectations. Ganesha feels that even though you are a calculative and cautious person, you will tend to be aggressive, outgoing and willing to take risks today.

PEANUTS I THOUGHT YOU WENT SOUTH FOR HOW DISGUSTING! YOU'RE SOMEBODY STOLE ALL HIS CREDIT 1111 BACK ? THE WINTER ... 1111 1,11

CALVIN AND HOBBES





BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

	Α	S	С	0	Т		М	0	н	Α	1	R
P		Ρ		V		С		R		R		Α
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D	Е	N		D	1	S	S	1	Ρ	A	Т	Е
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SPORTS | BACK PAGE

P1

Three Naxalites killed in Sukma encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur/Sukma, Jan 9: Three Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Thursday, state Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said.

The security forces have achieved success in the anti-Naxal operation in Sukma, he said.

So far, bodies of three Naxalites have been recovered and the search operation is still un derway, Sharma, who holds the Home portfolio, told reporters in Raipur.

Referring to the IED blast triggered by Naxalites January 6 wherein eight security personnel and a civilian driver of their vehicle were killed in Bijapur district, the Deputy CM said. "There is a huge anger among security forces after what Naxalites have done."

"I have met them (security forces). I reiterate that with the strength and courage of our jawans, the (Naxal) menace will be eliminated within the stipu lated time," he said.

Vowing to eliminate Naxals from the country by March 2026, Union Home Minister Am it Shah had Monday asserted that the sacrifice of those killed by the extremists in Chhattisgarh will not go in vain.

On Thursday morning, the encounter broke out in a forest along the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, police said.

Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard, Special Task Force and CoBRA (an elite unit of CRPF) were involved in the operation, they said.

With this, nine Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters in the state so far this year.

Last year, 219 Naxalites were neutralised by security forces in separate encounters in the state.



Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Modi said India is not only the mother of democracy, but democracy is a part of people's lives here. Emphasising that he has always considered the Indian

diaspora as ambassadors of India, the PM expressed his jov in meeting and conversing with fellow citizens around the world and said the love and blessings he receives from them are unforgettable. "I have always believed that our diaspora is our 'Rashtradoot', and I closely interact with them during my visits overseas," he said.

Underlining India's growing global role, the PM said, "Today's India not only firmly asserts its point, but also strongly amplifies the voice of the Global South." He highlighted the unanimous support for India's proposal to make the African Union a permanent member of the G-20, emphasising India's commitment to 'Humanity First'. Noting that at the time when the world was witnessing the expansion of empires by the power of the sword. Emperor Ashoka chose the path of peace, he said this was the strength of India's heritage. "Due to this heritage,



dha)," he said. "We are not just the mother of democracy, but democracy is part of our lives, our lifestyle. We don't have to be taught diversity rather, our life runs on diversity. That's why wherever Indians go they become part of the society of that particular place. We respect the rules and traditions of that

Kangaloo hails India's contribution to world

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Jual Oram, Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw are seen

Addressing the diaspora through virtual mode as a chief guest, President of Trini-dad and Tobago Christine Carla Kangaloo said India has made some of the 'greatest contributions' to the world civilisation in various fields such as mathematics. medicine and navigation. "India's contributions to the world's development are remarkable. The world's first university

was established in Takshashila in 700 BC India's Ayurveda is widely acknowledged as an earlier school of medicine and the art of navigation was born in the Sindhu river about 6,000 years ago," she said, adding Algebra, trigonometry and use of

Take part in state's growth journey: CM

Asserting that Odisha is a land of limitless opportunities, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi called upon the Indian diaspora to participate in the state's growth journey. Majhi said, "Odisha is not just about its glorious past and natural beauty, it is a land of limitless opportunities for the future." "I urge you all to explore these opportunities and contribute to the growth and prosperity of your homeland. I invite you to join hands with us in shaping a bright future for Odisha, and India as well. Together, we can realise 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047," Majhi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves during the inauguration of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief

The PM said it was because of the diaspora that he keeps his head high wherever he goes. "I do not forget the love, affection and prestige I receive across the world. I would like to say thank you. This is because of you, I keep my head high across the world. During the last 10 years, I have met several leaders across the world. The world leaders praise the Indian diaspora. It's because of the social values you add to their society," he said.

The PM said the diaspora played a major role in Independence in 1947, and sought their

help to make India a developed country by 2047. He said India is not only a young country but also a country of skilled youths. "The government is trying to ensure that whenever Indian youths go abroad, they go with

Naren

Prime

skills," Modi said. "In just 10 years, 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in India. In just 10 years, India has become the fifth largest economy in the world from the 10th. The day isn't far when India will be the third-largest economy. India's success is being witnessed by the world," he said. MORE P6

Tuhin Pandey joins as Revenue Secy

AGENCIES

RING OF FIRE TIGHTENS JND LOS ANGEL

country and also honestly serve that country and its society, contributing to its growth and pros-Zero (0) were also first developed in India.

18" PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS ८-१० जनवरी, २०२५, भुवनेश्वर, ओडिशा

18ण प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | JANUARY 10, 2025

www.orissapost.com Future not in war, but in peace: PM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Asserting that the world today listens to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said due to the country's heritage, it is able to tell the international community that the future does not lie in 'yudh' (war) but in 'Budh' (Buddha, a symbol of peace).

Addressing the diaspora during the inaugural session of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Janata

UK launches sanctions to combat illegal migration

perity," he said.

AGENCIES

London, Jan 9: The UK Thursday announced the 'world's first' new sanctions regime to combat people smuggling crime rings and block the illicit finance fuelling such operations as part of measures to crack down on illegal migration. The government said the

new standalone sanctions are dedicated to targeting

irregular migration and organised immigration crime, which will allow the authorities to target individuals and entities enabling dangerous journeys.

The new sanctions regime is expected to come into force within the year as experts from across government work with law enforcement and operational Home Office colleagues to stem finance flows at their source and deter smugglers facilitating irregular migratory movements, including dangerous sea crossings across Europe.

"We must dismantle the crime gangs facilitating breach-

SHORT TAKES

District-level squads to curb malpractice: CHSE

Bhubaneswar: District-level squads will be formed to curb malpractice during the upcoming Class XII (Plus II) examination, **Council of Higher Secondary** Education (CHSE) Controller of Examination Prasanta Kumar Parida said, Thursday. The CHSE had formed districtlevel squad in three southern Odisha districts last year to check malpractice during the examination. As the experiment was successful, the authorities have decided to implement it in all districts this year.

illicit finance rings allowing smugglers to traffic vulnerable people across Europe, we will deliver on our Plan for Change and secure UK borders," said Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"That means being bold and innovative in our policy making to ensure we are leaving no stone unturned. My govern-

WORLD'S FIRST thing in our power to save lives and protect our borders for years to come," he said.

ment will do every-

The Labour government's Plan for Change is designed to reduce dangerous small boat crossings across the English Channel and end the routine

use of asylum hotels as part of measures to bring down soaring net migration. UK Foreign Secretary David

Lammy laid out the details in a speech as he noted that it was "completely unrealistic" to combat irregular migration without a role for his department - the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

CISF constable shoots

self dead in Rourkela

Rourkela: A Central Industrial

Security Force (CISF) constable

shot himself dead while on duty

inside the Rourkela Steel Plant

native of Kerala. Around 2.30am,

when his colleagues heard a loud

noise, they rushed to the spot and

found that Abhinandan shot himself

from his service pistol on the right

side of his head, a police officer

said. The constable was taken to

IGH, where he was declared dead

by the doctors, the officer said.

es of our borders. By crippling REUTERS

> Los Angeles, Jan 9: A terrifying wave of wildfires squeezing Los Angeles on multiple fronts pushed closer to the symbolic heart of the US film industry Thursday after a new blaze ignited in the hills overlooking Hollywood Boulevard and its Walk of Fame.

The crescent of flames squeezing Los Angeles - including a huge fire between Santa Monica and Malibu on the city's western flank and a conflagration in the east near Pasadena - was so expansive that it was visible from space as a huge pincer.

More than 100,000 people



have been ordered to evacuate as dry, hurricane-force winds spread flames across parched ground that has seen no rain for months. At least five people have died since the fires erupted Tuesday.

The homes of movie stars and celebrities were among those consumed by flames, which tore through some of the world's most lavish real estate, and in the case of the Hollywood Hills fire, above showbiz landmarks instantly recognisable around the world.

"This firestorm is the big one," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass told a press conference after rushing back to the city, cutting short an official trip to Ghana.

At least six separate wildfires were burning in Los Angeles County Thursday morning. Three of them were listed as 0% controlled, including the Palisades fire in the west, the Eaton Fire in the east and the smaller Sunset Fire in the Hollywood Hills. **MORE P8**

New Delhi, Jan 9: Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey Thursday took charge as Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet Wednesday appointed Pandey, who was holding the charge of the Secretary of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), as the Revenue Secretary. The order also stated that Pandey will continue to be designated as the Finance Secretary.

In September last year, Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer from Odisha cadre, was appointed the Finance Secretary.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Try migrating to Greenland. If you're lucky, you might become an American citizen soon!

2.8km drilled to pull 1.2mn-yr-old ice core from Antarctic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago, Jan 9: An international team of scientists announced Thursday they've successfully drilled one of the oldest ice cores vet, penetrating nearly 2 miles (2.8 kilometres) to Antarctic bedrock to reach ice they say is at least 1.2 million years old.

Analysis of the ancient ice is expected to show how Earth's atmosphere and climate have evolved. That should provide insight into how Ice Age cycles have changed, here in the early hours of Thursday. and may help in understanding The deceased constable has been how atmospheric carbon changed identified as Abhinandan PK, 23, a climate. they said.

'Thanks to the ice core. we will understand what has changed in terms of greenhouse gases, chemicals and dusts in the atmosphere," said Carlo Barbante, an Italian glaciologist and coordinator of Beyond EPICA (European Project for

Ice Coring in Antarctica), the project to obtain the core. Barbante also directs the Polar Science Institute at Italy's National Research Council.

The same team previously drilled a core about 800,000 years old. The latest drilling went 2.8 kilometres deep, with a team of 16 scientists and support personnel drilling each summer over four years in average temperatures of about minus 35 degrees Celsius.

Italian researcher Federico Scoto was among the glaciologists and technicians who completed the drilling at the beginning of January at a location called Little Dome C, near Concordia Research Station.

"It was a great a moment for us when we reached the bedrock," Scoto said. Isotope analvsis gave the ice's age as at least 1.2 million years old, he said. Both Barbante and Scoto said



that thanks to the analysis of the ice core of the previous EPICA campaign they have assessed that concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, even during the warmest periods of the last 800,000 years. have never exceeded the levels seen since the Industrial Revolution began.

"Today, we're seeing carbon dioxide levels that are 50 per cent above the highest levels we've had over the last 800,000 vears." Barbante said.

The European Union funded Beyond EPICA with support from nations across the continent. Italy is coordinating the project.

The announcement was exciting to Richard Alley, a climate scientist at Penn State who was not involved with the project and who was recently awarded the National Medal of Science for his career studying ice sheets.

Alley said advancements in studying ice cores are import ant because they help scientists better understand the climate conditions of the past and inform their understanding of humans' contributions to cli mate change in the present He added that reaching the bedrock holds added promise because scientists may learn more about Earth's history not directly related to the ice record itself.

"This is truly, truly, amazingly fantastic," Alley said.















OrissaPOST

FRIDAY | JANUARY 10, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

state



BOLANGIR FOREST DIVISION Misuse of CAMPA fund alleged



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 9: Serious allegations of large-scale corruption have emerged regarding the use of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund in the Bolangir Forest Division over the past 10 years.

It is claimed that funds allocated for compensatory afforestation have been misappropriated under the guise of forest restoration. Hemant Panda, an RTI (Right To Information) activist, has called for a high-level investigation into the corruption.

Speaking at a press conference in Bolangir, Panda provided details of the alleged financial irregularities in the disbursement and utilisation of funds under the CAMPA scheme.

In 2002, the Central govern-

ment, following a Supreme Court order, established the CAMPA to manage and fund reforestation projects in areas

where forests had been cleared Panda has demanded a thorfor development, he said. ough investigation into the According to information obscheme and has criticised the tained under the RTI Act, the awarding of contracts to local Bolangir Forest Division has recompanies, suggesting that the ceived a total of over ₹197 crore process lacks transparency. over the past 10 years for com-He referred to a controver pensatory afforestation. Funds

sial land acquisition in the to the tune of more than ₹190 Gandhamardan region, where crore have already been spent, land is being bought in the and nearly ₹7 crore unutilised name of afforestation, but he amount has been returned to believes the transactions may be part of a larger corruption Panda also revealed that scheme. of the total ₹197 crore spent,

ties

In light of these issues, Panaround 74,46,708 saplings have da questioned why companies reportedly been planted across like Adani were allowed to purchase land for afforestation in 27,293 hectares of land. He raised doubts about the reported numthe Harishankar Range, hinting that private interests might be ber of saplings planted, pointing out that if the figures were true. influencing the process.

the district would have planted trees five times the total population of its communities, which he described as highly unlikely. Analysing the cost per sapling planted in the last 10 years, Panda noted that each one had cost over ₹250, significantly higher than the standard cost for such planting initiatives. He stressed that while compensatory afforestation is critical for environ-

mental conservation, the misuse

of such funds is jeopardising the

livelihoods of local communi-



OPEN THEATRE: Child artistes enact the roles of Radha-Krushna enjoying a boat ride at Manabandh pond in Mathuranagari on the seventh day of Bargarh Dhanu Yatra Thursday

8 held for assaulting Excise officials, vandalising vehicle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Jan 9: Police Thursday arrested eight persons in connection with an attack on three constables of Excise department during a raid at an illegal liquor production unit at Karnala village under Bhawanipatna Sadar police limits in Kalahandi district the previous day.

The accused were identified as Brudu Majhi, 48, Madan Maihi, 50, Krushna Maihi, 40, Kishore Majhi, 30, Ranjan Majhi, 32, Manu Majhi, 26, Chuka Majhi, 21, and Rukdhar Majhi, 30, in the village. Additionally, it has been reported that at least six others from the village were involved in the attack. Police have launched a manhunt to apprehend them.

The incident occurred when Excise department officials conducted a raid on an illegal liquor production unit in the village during an ongoing fair



the villagers attacked the personnel. Three constables identified as Kishan Goud, Mahadev Majhi, and Rajkumari Sabar of the Excise department were injured. Additionally, the attack ers reportedly vandalised the Excise department's vehicle, with a video of the incident now widely circulating on social media platforms.

Following the attack, Tilak Ram Nayak, the officer-in-charge (OIC) of the local Excise station, lodged a formal complaint at the Bhawanipatna Sadar police station.

Police registered a case and arrested the eight villagers in connection with the incident. The accused were produced in the court Thursday evening.

Following their arrest, several women from the village assembled in front of the Sadar police station and staged a protest. The situation remained tense for a brief period in the area.

Man arrested for selling fake gold

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 9: Rourkela police have Thursday forwarded a man to court after arresting him while he was attempting to sell fake gold at a well-known jewellery shop here.

The accused, Santosh Kumar Sahu, nearly 40, hails from Ranchi. He was caught attempting to sell gold-plated jewellery and 250 grams of silver at MN Jewellers.

Police recovered the original gold ring, fake gold jewel lery, 250 grams of silver, and ₹20,000 from Sahu. Speaking about the incident, Nirmala Chandra Mohapatra, SDPC Zone 1, said, "We have for warded him to court. He has been charged under sections 318, 336, and 340 of the BNS Act." Mahapatra added that Sahu had used a special frame to create counterfeit Hallmark symbols and had gold-plated the jewellery Police are in contact with Ranchi authorities to investigate his background further.

CLASSIFIED 2 students drown in Nagavali

CAMPA.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Pinky Samantaray, wife of Chittaranjan Mohanty residing at of Plot - 55/977, Soudamini Niwas, Vishnu Vihar, Atala Road, near Eminence Coral. Balianta, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 752101, Odisha, declare by this Affidavit No. - 22 dated 08 Jan 2025 that now onwards I shall be known as PINKY SAMANTRAY for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit in the Court of Executive Magistrate, Puri, I Subhashree Nanda. D/o- Prahallad Nanda, Puri hereby State that mv Father's actual name is Prahallad Nanda as shown in my H.S.C.E Certificate but wrongly mentioned as Prahalad Nanda in my passport No-J0401377. Henceforth my Father's name be correctly mentioned as Prahallad Nanda Instead of Prahalad Nanda for all future purposes. Deponent Subhashree Nanda I, Uday Anshuman Mallick, S/o Kirod Kumar Mallick, resident of Suvam Residency, Phase - 4, Patia, PS: Infocity, Bhubaneswar, Dist : Khurda, Pin : 751024, Odisha hereby declare by this Affidavit No. 955, dated 29.11.2024, that my father's name has been incorrectly mentioned as Kirod Kumar Mallick in my passport. The correct name is Khirod Kumar Mallick. Henceforth, my father's name shall be known as KHIROD KUMAR MALLICK in all my records and documents for future purposes.

POST NEWS NETWORK Rayagada, Jan 9: Two Class VI students drowned in the

Nagavali river on the outskirts of Rayagada town Thursday, official sources said.

The deceased were identified as CH Bhargav, 12, of Raniguda area and Srinu Kumar Yadav, 12, of Saipriya Nagar in the town. They were studying at a private school in Rayagada town.

The sources said four students of the school had visited the hanging bridge over Nagavali river at Chekaguda Thursday morning after the end of their examination. They were plaving on the bridge when their ball fell

Bhargav was swept away by the strong currents in the river while trying to retrieve the ball. Srinu met the same fate after he tried to save Bhargav from drowning. The other two, Janmejaya Saunta and A Bhavesh, raised an alarm and informed locals of Mariguda village nearby that the

near the river bank

duo went missing in the river. On being informed. Fire Ser vices personnel reached the spot and launched an operation to trace the two students. After a brief search, the Fire Services per sonnel fished out the bodies of the two students. Police sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched a probe, SI Sanjay Chhatar said.

Gangasagar Mela begins at Sagar island

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Jan 9: The renowned Ganga Sagar Mela got up to a kick start Thursday at Sagar island under South 24 Parganas district in neighbouring West Bengal close to this block in Balasore district. The fair is held annually on the island also known



reported an increase in vigilance

following political instability in

neighbouring Bangladesh and

Emergency services include four water ambulances, one air ambulance, and bomb disposal squads.

In addition, an 800-member 'Sagar Bandhu'' team is deployed to assist pilgrims. Key locations such as, Kachuberia, Namkhana Chemaguri, Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Shankaracharya Ashram, and Kapil Muni Temple, are



STUDENTS' STIR: Girls of Government Women's College in Sambalpur stage a road blockade in front of their college to press for their demands after a student was rendered critical after a bike hit her, Thursday afternoon

as Ganga Sagar or Sagardwip, which is the largest delta in the estuary of the Ganges in the Bay of Bengal.

Security measures have been tightened for this mega fair, which is expected to draw over one crore pilgrims from various parts of the country including Odisha. Local authorities have

concerns over illegal migration. The Coast Guard has been placed on high alert along with water, air, and ground forces to ensure safety. Entry points to the fair are equipped with metal detectors, and the area is monitored by 1,200 CCTV cameras, 22 drones, with the deployment of 12,000 police personnel and sniffer dogs.

under strict surveillance, district Collector Sumit Gupta informed mediapersons.

To maintain cleanliness, the event has been declared plastic-free. Like previous years, the neighbouring state government has announced an insurance compensation of ₹5 lakh in case of accidental deaths in the fair.

ASHA brings hope & health to remote villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Jan 9: In the remote pockets of Nabarangpur district, where medical care once seemed out of reach, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) Dalimba Mali has emerged as a saviour for pregnant women and patients battling chronic illnesses

Known as the "Nightingale of the Hinterlands", Mali has been tirelessly serving her community for 19 long years, thereby saving lives and ensuring better health outcomes.

Mali, an ASHA from Butisargi village under Jharigaon block in the western district. began her journey in 2005. At that time, the region was plagued by high maternal mortality rates and deadly diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis (TB). Pregnant women often delivered at home, leading to

complications and fatalities, while patients with severe illnesses relied on ineffective traditional and herbal treatments.

Determined to bring a turnaround, Mali made a commitment to eliminate these issues. She began by encouraging pregnant women to seek proper prenatal care and institutional deliveries, urging them to avoid home births. Regular health checkups at local health centres became the norm under her guidance. Her tireless efforts ensured no maternal deaths occurred in her village over the past 19 years, while many patients with severe illnesses have recovered due to timely medical intervention

Mali's work extended beyond

healthcare advocacy of the local residents. She personally accompanied patients to hospitals, ensured they received necessary treatment, and fol-

NIGHTINGALE OF THE HINTERLANDS

lowed up on their recoveries. community without any dis-Her dedication often meant crimination. putting duty above her person-

Her efforts have earned widespread recognition. The district health department

has honoured her for her contributions, and she has even received accolades from the Odisha Governor. Villagers, including Kamala Mali and Tambu Das, praised her selfless service, calling her a beacon of hope.

Reflecting on her journey, Mali said, "Initially, people had little trust in modern medicine, and many refused to seek treatment at hospitals. Today, the mindset has changed. Patients now follow proper medical advice, take their medications regularly, and recover faster.' Through her relentless

hard work and unwavering dedication, Dalimba Mali has transformed her village into a healthier and hopeful place to live at. She remains a true testament to the impact of grassroots healthcare workers in India's rural

communities

WEATHEI	R	
	BBSR	СТС
Max Temp	26.7°	24.8°
Min Temp	15.1°	13.5°
Humidity	75%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST Fog/mist in the and mainly cle sky later.	e morning	Ž

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ENCY	DOLLAR	86.05	¥	0.02
CURR	EURO	88.75	¥	0.12
SES	GOLD	₹ 78,168	4	₹42 1
BOUR	SILVER	₹ 91,925	•	₹987

OUR BOOKING FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT

al life, leaving her family and

children behind to care for the

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.









OrissaPOST FRIDAY | JANUARY 10, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown



₹73K-cr rly projects in Odisha: Vaishnaw

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Union Minister for Railways, Electronics and Information Technology and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday announced that railway projects worth a total of ₹73,000 crore are currently under implementation across Odisha.

Vaishnaw made the announcement during a discussion with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on the sidelines of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event.

The Minister further revealed that additional major initiatives related to these projects would be unveiled at the upcoming Utkarsh Odisha Meet.

Vaishnaw emphasised the ongoing efforts to make Odisha a major hub for the IT industry. Highlighting sectors such as semiconductors, electronics,

UNION MINISTER URGES THE STATE GOVERNMENT

TO ALLOCATE SUITABLE LAND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF **KEY INFRASTRUCTURE** PROJECTS AIMED AT

BOOSTING IT INDUSTRY information technology (IT), Internet of Things (IoT), and machine learning, he noted that Odisha offers significant opportunities for the youth in

these fields. He also spoke about the establishment of a NILET University campus in the state, a move he described as crucial for creating world-class educational facilities. "Once the necessary land is made available, we aim to create a world-class university to empower the youth of Odisha," said Vaishnaw. The Union Minister urged

the Odisha government to a locate suitable land near Bhubaneswar for the development of key infrastructure projects aimed at boosting Odisha's IT industry.

Vaishnaw also stressed the importance of improving connectivity in the state, particularly to support the tourism sector. He announced plans to introduce enhanced train services, including a special train for the Mahakumbh, which will cater to increased tourism

demand. In line with the Prime Minister's vision for a sustainable and self-sufficient energy future, Vaishnaw highlighted Indian Railways' commitment to transitioning to renewable energy sources. He also shared the railways' plans to innovate in the renewable energy sector, aiming to promote energy efficiency and contribute to India's energy self-sufficiency.

Prez to attend closing session of PBD today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: President Droupadi Murmu arrived here Thursday evening on a two-day visit to Odisha during which she will participate in the closing ceremony of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention.

Murmu landed at Biju Patnaik International Airport around 5:35 pm aboard a special Indian Air Force aircraft. She was received by Governor

Advanced heart procedure at City Manipal Hospitals

BHUBANESWAR: Manipal Hospitals-Bhubaneswar achieved a milestone recently by successfully performing Odisha's first TAVI-in-TAVI (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation) procedure on an elderly female patient with severe aortic stenosis. The groundbreaking intervention was led by Consultant Interventional Cardiologist Dibya Ranjan Behera, with support from Consultant-CTVS surgeons J Pattnaik, Biswajit Mohapatra, and cardiac anesthesiologists Vivek Chowdhury, B Rath, and Rajashree Nandy. Behera emphasised the significance of the achievement, stating, "This marks a major advancement in cardiac care for elderly, high-risk patients." Hospital director Saktimaya Mohapatra highlighted the team's dedication and expertise, calling the procedure a remarkable step forward for Odisha. The patient, previously treated with a TAVI procedure, developed severe aortic valve narrowing due to degeneration. Given the risks of open-heart surgery, the team opted for the innovative TAVI-in-



Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi,

and other dignitaries.

"I welcomed Her Excellency the President Droupadi Murmu at the Bhubaneswar airport. Her presence will further enhance the quality of the 18th Overseas Indian Programme,' Majhi posted on X.

Upon her arrival, the President's cavalcade moved slowly towards Rai Bhavan amidst tight security. Enthusiastic crowds lined both sides of the streets to greet her, with cultural troupes and folk artistes performing along the route. A press release from Rash trapati Bhavan stated that President Murmu will attend the valedictory session of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention Friday at Janata Maidan here. During the event she will confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards to 27 distinguished members of the diaspora and deliver a speech between 3 pm and 4:30 pm. She will also tour exhibi tions being held at the venue.



Broad daylight murder: Couple, 3 associates held phones, two bags contain-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested five individuals, including a couple, in connection with the brutal murder of 35-year-old Sahadev Nayak, which took place Wednesday in broad daylight near Rasulgarh Road Over-Bridge (RoB).

The arrested include Laxmidhar Nayak (29), his wife Lipika Nayak (32), and their associates Rocky Nayak (24), Laxmi Nayak (25), and Rakesh Nayak (27). Several other accomplices involved in plotting the murder are still on the run, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra, while adding that two motorcycles, four smart-

from the suspects. Mishra said Sahadev Nayak, a supervisor with the BMC Sanitation Workers' Association, had removed the couple from their positions after noticing irregularities in their work. A few days later, Lipika was arrested on a

ing sharp weapons, and the weapons themselves

NDPS case. He said, "Upon her release on bail January 5, the couple miscontrued that Sahadev, a police volunteer, had tipped-off the authorities, for Lipika's arrest. Enraged, the couple then plotted Sahadev's murder. Rakesh and Laxmi joined hands with the couple, since the former had disputes with Sahadev in the past.

Book on Indian coolies in Fiji released at PBD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Eminent author and academician Dr Rekha Chaturvedi released her book "Fiji Mein Bhartiyon Ka Itihas Tatha Unka Jeevan (1879–1947)" (The Life and History of Indians in Fiji (1879-1947)) during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations in Bhubaneswar. The book delves into the harsh realities and struggles faced by Indian indentured labourers, referred to as "coolies", who were sent to Fiji under British rule. Highlighting their arduous lives and sacrifices, Dr Rekha emphasised the importance of recognising and preserving their stories for future generations. "Inden-

on the experiences of Totaram Sanadhya, an indentured labourer. The Girmitiva system. named after the indenture subjected labourers to harsh working conditions and exploitative practices. This system persisted in Fiji until its formal abolition in 1920.



▲ Updation of DPR for development of NW-5

Punjab

agreement or "girmit".

tured labor is

one of the darkest chapters of British colonialism, impacting Indian communities in South Africa, Mauritius, Trinidad, Guyana, and Fiji,' said the author. The book seeks to shed light on the plight of these labourers, who were subjected to inhumane conditions while performing grueling tasks in foreign lands.

The book, published by Sasta Sahitya Mandal, is a poignant narrative of the lives of Indian labourers in Fiji, capturing their struggles and resilience. It is inspired by the works of the author's grandfather, Banarasi Das Chaturvedi, who wrote extensively on the subject, including "Fiji Mein Mere 21 Varsh" (My 21 Years in Fiji), based

Dr Rekha's book builds upon her grandfather's advocacy, presenting a comprehensive account of the trials and resilience of Indian diaspora communities in Fiji.

The release of the book on PBD underscores its significance to the Indian diaspora. The 18th PBD convention, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi January 9, celebrates the contributions of overseas Indians

and their enduring ties with their homeland. Dr. Rekha's work serves as a tribute to the resilience of the Girmitiya community and their indomitable spirit.

Despite personal and professional commitments, Dr Rekha dedicated years to researching and documenting the history of Indian indentured labourers. Her work reflects her deep connection to her heritage and her family's longstanding advocacy for the Girmitiva cause.

This historic publication not only highlights a forgotten chapter of history but also aims to inspire a deeper understanding of the struggles faced by the Indian diaspora under colonial rule.

Procurement of 2 Steel Pontoons for NW-16 terminals Procurement of 12 Vessels for NW-2 and NW-16

A Link Road between Pandu Ship Repair Facility to Pandu Port

▲ One Survey Vessel for Barak River (NW-16)

A Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE), Dibrugarh

Bihar

Quick Pontoon Opening Mechanism (QPOM) at 4 locations

Chhattisgarh

A River cruise tourism facilities at Bhadrakali on NW-4

Delhi

▲ 2 jetties on River Yamuna (NW-110) for cruise tourism

Goa

- 10 community jetties in Goa on River Mandovi (NW-68), Cumberjua Canal (NW-27) and River Zuari (NW-111)
- ▲ 1 jetty on River Sal (NW-88) and 2 jetties on River Chapora (NW-25)
- ▲ Fairway maintenance in National Waterways of Goa
- ▲ Setting up of VTMS in National Waterways of Goa

Gujarat

- ▲ 2 jetties for cruise tourism on River Narmada (NW-73)
- ▲ Fairway maintenance & setting up of river cruise jetties in River Tapi at Surat Castle and Dumas Beach

Himachal Pradesh

Feasibility study for operationalisation of River Sutlej (NW-98)



- A River Cruise at Almatti Dam (River Krishna) Operationalisation of NW-105 and NW-76
- Navigation aids and terminal on River Kali (NW-52)

Kerala

(NW-74)

A Widening of service road connecting to IWT Maradu terminal A Maintainance of fairway and bank protection at 4 location in NW-3

Ladakh

▲ 2 jetties on River Indus (NW-46) and Green Vessels for cruise tourism

Maharashtra

- A Fairway maintenance in the Dabhol Creek-Vashishti River (NW-28)
- ▲ Induction of Navigational Aids in Dabhol Creek-Vashishti River (NW-28) and Kalyan-Thane -Vasai Creek-Ulhas River Mumbai Waterway (NW-53).
- 🔺 Opening of Regional Office at Mumbai

Mizoram

- Preparation of DPR for development of IWT in River **Tlawng & Chhimtuipui**
- ▲ Construction of 2 jetties and 2 passenger boats on River Khawthlangtuipui - Tuichawng in Lunglei District

Presided by

In the August Presence of

Shri Khashim Vashum

Government of Manipur

n'hle Minister of Transpor

Shri Ojing Tasing

Panchayati Raj Cooperation & Transport

Government of Arunachal Pradesh

Hon'ble Minister of Rural Devel

Nagaland

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma

Chief Minister, Assam

Shri B.C. Janardhan Reddy

Hon'ble Minister of Roads & Buildings

Infrastructure and Investment

nment of Andhra Pradesh

- DPR for development of IWT in Doyang Lake
- ▲ DPR for Promotion of Water Sports & Tourism at Noune and Shilloi Lake

Feasibility of River Beas (NW-17) and River Sutlej (NW-98) for navigation

Rajasthan

▲ Mathemetical modelling of River Jawai-Luni-Rann of Kutch (NW-48) for navigation

Tamil Nadu

▲ 8 jetties & 2 vessels for river cruise planned in Buckingham Canal (constituent of NW-4), River Bhavani (NW-20) and River Pazhyar (NW-77).

Telangana

▲ Setting up of 3 floating jetties on River Krishna (NW-4)

Uttar Pradesh

- A Prayagraj 6 jetties and 5 vessels for Mahakumbh
- ▲ 8 jetties in Mathura, 2 jetties and 1 catamaran in Ayodhya

Shri Aleixo Sequeira

ble Minister fo

💛 Kaziranga, Assam

Government of Goa

- 📥 Ship Repair Facility at Ghazipur
- QPOM at 4 locations
- 📥 Development of IWT tourism circuit in Agra

Common for NWs - 1, 2 and 16

📤 8 Amphibian Dredgers

Shri Jogen Mohan

ernment of Assam

ter of Transport

Hon'ble Min

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Government of India

t and

Mr Vanlalhlana

Hon'ble Minister of Transpor

Government of Mizoram

🧰 Friday, 10th January, 2025

▲ 4 Cutter Suction Dredgers with ancillary units

Shri Dayashankar Singh

Government of Uttar Pradesh

Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) Tran

CBC 37211/15/0005/2425



Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and

ARI & Trainings Department

Government of Jammu & Kashmi





power post

is 84 million. The fourth largest

economy is Japan at 4.07 tril-

lion with a population of 124

million. India is fifth with 3.9

trillion dollars and 1.4 billion

people. Japan's population is

shrinking by half a per cent

every year, while for Germa-

ny the population has been

rising at about 0.8 to 1% per

year for the past few years. It

is mainly due to the influx of

immigrants, many fleeing wars

in Ukraine, Africa or Syria.

But among the top five econo-

mies of the world (in nominal

dollar terms), only Germany

is stagnant as compared to the

level five years ago. The US

economy is 10% larger than

the pre-pandemic level, even

Japan is about 3% larger, Chi-

na is about 25% bigger and In-

dia by about 30%. Germany is

close to zero. And for 2024 and

2025 its economy will shrink.

This is a two-year recession. It is a big geopolitical story for

the third largest economy and

the world. It has already had

political ramifications within

Germany. The government led

by Chancellor Olaf Scholz has

fallen. It failed to get a vote of

confidence from Parliament last

month. This means there will

be early elections in February

instead of the scheduled one in

September. The loss of the vote of

confidence was inevitable after

the three-party ruling coalition

had collapsed a month earlier.

That breakup was because the

third member of the coalition,

the pro-business rightist FDP

decided to break away from the

other two, SDP and Green party.

There was friction anyway, but

the last straw was the surging

popularity of the ultra-right

wing and anti-immigrant party

AfD (Alternative for Germany).

The AfD showed huge gains in

FOCUS GERMANY

By your stumbling, the world is perfected. SRI AUROBINDO



Australian Experiment

Loop at a last year, Australia's parliament, reacting to concerns about the effect of social media on children's mental health, amended the Online Safety Act to require users to be at least 16 years old to open an account on social-media platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, and X. The amendment is expected to come into effect by the end of 2025.

The law received widespread support in Australia, both in parliament and among the public, but it has also been criticized. Some dispute the link between social-media use and mental-health problems in teenagers. Others see a violation of the right to freedom of expression. Even those who support the effort wonder how it can be enforced.

There is little doubt that the mental health of teenagers, especially girls, has deteriorated sharply since the introduction of smartphones and the emergence of social media. The digital platforms targeted by the law design algorithms to keep people on their sites, because more clicks mean more advertising revenue. The result? A Gallup survey showed that US teenagers spend an average of 4.8 hours per day on social media.

That is a big slice of a teenager's free time, which could otherwise be spent interacting with friends in person and with places and objects in the real world. Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist and the author of The Anxious Generation, has said that social-media platforms have "rewired childhood and changed human de-

velopment on an almost unimaginable scale.

Heavy teenage social-media use and higher levels of depression and anxiety clearly go together; what is disputed is whether this is merely a correlation or a causal relationship. Good studies that test whether sufficiently long periods of reduction in social-media use reduce depression and anxiety are difficult to carry out, because trials in which individual teenagers leave a platform while their friends remain on it can be expected to produce less benefit – and could even cause harm to the children who are now isolated from their friends.

It is important that groups of teenagers all go off social media together, so that social media use is replaced by real-world interaction. In addition, one would need other, randomly selected control groups whose members do not reduce social-media use. In the absence of such rigorous trials, the evidence we have does suggest that heavy social-media use causes anxiety and depression, but it is not conclusive.

Australia may therefore be doing the world a service by effectively running a national experiment. This assumes, of course, that Australia does substantially reduce the time young teenagers spend on social media. Policymakers plan to achieve their goal by imposing heavy fines on companies that operate the newly age-restricted social-media platforms if they fail to take "reasonable steps" to prevent those under 16 from opening accounts. The law assigns the task of outlining what

counts as "reasonable steps" to Australia's eSafety Commissioner, an independent statutory office.

WhatsApp and similar messaging apps, as well as some online health and educational services, will be exempted from the legislation. Young people will continue to be able to view YouTube videos or pages on social media, such as business landing pages on Facebook, without an account. On the other hand, the government has announced its intention to introduce further legislation creating a "Digital Duty of Care" that will put the onus on digital platforms to prevent known or foreseeable harms.

Paradoxically, the Australian law may benefit social-media executives and programmers who are sufficiently aware of what they may be doing to children's mental health to be uneasy about it. Given the current lack of regulation, any social-media platform that gets serious about ensuring that children are not opening accounts will simply lose business to less scrupulous rivals. The law creates a level playing field for all platforms, thus overcoming the collective-action problem. The Australian constitution does not make sweeping statements about basic rights. In general, and in contrast to the United States, courts accept the supremacy of the elected legislature. The High Court of Australia has, however, ruled that the provisions of the constitution establishing representative and responsible government imply that parliament should not place an undue burden on political communication. One possible response to those who have suggested that Australia's legislation violates this principle is that children under 16 do not vote and hence have less need for political communication. Moreover, it could be argued that the burden is not disproportionate, because the harm caused by social media is sufficiently serious to justify the modest restriction contained in the legislation. The Australian government could also exempt social-media platforms that are limited to political communications, although that would require someone in government to determine which communications are political and which are not.

E.

Peter Singer

HEAVY TEENAGE

SOCIAL-MEDIA USE AND HIGHER LEVELS OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY CLEARLY GO TOGETHER; WHAT IS DISPUTED IS WHETHER THIS IS MERELY A CORRELATION OR A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP



The markets for German goods are shrinking due to global competition led by China. Germany is a laggard when it comes to digital tech, artificial intelligence and software services

the elections in the two provinces of Saxony and Thuringia. The AfD is right-wing, populist, Euroskeptic, and opposes immigration. It is a young party born in 2013 but its rise is very fast and is part of a global trend of the rise of populist politics combined with a clear xenophobic sentiment.

How did Germany get to this situation, and does it have lessons for others? Firstly, there is the China impact. Well into the twenty-first century it was the biggest exporting economy, even ahead of China. The two countries had a symbiotic trade relationship, with Germany exporting high value capital goods, machinery, automobiles and chemicals and China sending back consumer goods. But China subsequently became Germany's competitor, and even German luxury brand cars are now produced in China. Secondly, there was the impact of the sovereign debt crisis of 2011 in Europe. This was following the Lehman crash of 2008. In this second wave, the governments of Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Spain and especially Greece were saved by a mega rescue led mainly by the fiscal and banking might of Germany. That rescue became necessary to prevent a widespread banking collapse, and more so since German banks were heavily exposed to sovereign debt of the

GDP ratio over the last few years is one of the lowest among OECD and European countries. This is partly due to the fact that the federal government is tied by a rather strict fiscal discipline law and the provincial and municipal governments are not investing enough. But this has a negative impact on productivity and growth. German exports to US, which Southern European countries. It could also be said that it are robust as of now, run the risk of high tariffs from the Trump was payback time. Germany had enjoyed the benefits of Eugovernment. The markets for German goods are shrinking due to ro currency unification since 1999. Since the erstwhile Gerglobal competition led by China. Even Volkswagen is closing three man currency mark was much factories within Germany. Most stronger, in the Euro regime, Germany had a de facto underimportantly Germany is a laggard valued currency. This helped its when it comes to digital tech, arexports hugely, and no wonder tificial intelligence and software it became a powerhouse with a services. German economist and

large trade surplus. That surcolumnist Wolfgang Munchau has written a book called "Kaput," plus in turn was capital outflow into banking assets in Europe, which says that the growth model is fundamentally broken, and it is which went sour during the 2011 debt crisis. So, Germany had to the end of the German miracle. He attributes the decline to the merspend its own fiscal resources to bail out other European govcantilist policies followed by the industrial and political elite, overernments. The third big reason reliance on Russia and China and behind Germany's predicament was the Ukraine war and its a failure to take leadership in new fallout. The cosy relationship sectors and digital technologies. with Russia for cheap gas has ended after the Nord Stream gas pipeline was destroyed. This has been causing energy costs to soar and also gas shortages in Germany. Chinese overcapacity is leading to global dumping of

goods, undermining German export prospects. It is possible that manufacturing exports will revive at least in value terms if not in volumes. But Germany faces longer term serious challenges which push productivity growth downward. As per a research report from the IMF, the real problems for Germany arise from its ageing population, its very low public

This year is one of increased uncertainty. What will be the economic and trade policies of Trump? More protectionist and mercantile, hurting everyone? How will Russia come out of the huge burden of the cost of war? Interest rates are at 21% in Russia and inflation is soaring. Will China be able to arrest its slowdown? This is the geopolitical and geoeconomic landscape against which the German economy must show its resilience. Is the gloom talk about its decline overdone? Only time will tell.

The writer is a noted economist.

SPECTRUM CONSERVATION

The Jatayu soars again

he recent flight of a satellite-tagged white-rumped vulture which covered a stunning 4,000-km from Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu, offers an opportunity to reflect on the state of vulture conversation projects in India. Until the early 1980s, millions of vultures soared across the Indian subcontinent presenting a majestic sight. However, their population has since suffered a steep decline. In particular, the Gyps vultures including the whiterumped, Indian, and slender-billed, began to disappear from their established habitats throughout the 1990s. By 2008. the vulture population in the country had suffered a staggering 99.75% decline. From around 4 crore in the 1980s. fewer than 1 lakh were left. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) duly raised an alarm in the 1990s. BNHS joined forces with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to launch a conservation and breeding programme. These efforts aimed to prevent vulture extinction by establishing a captive population that could eventually be reintroduced to the wild and bolster dwindling numbers. Four

Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres (JCBCs) were set up across India in partnership with state governments. The first JCBC was established in Haryana's Pinjore in 2001, followed in Rajabhatkhawa, West

ing to uric acid crystal deposits on internal organs. Further investigation established that all vultures with visceral gout had diclofenac residues in their tissues, linking the drug directly to their deaths. This

plan focused on minimising diclofenac use, regulating NSAID sales, ensuring safe alternatives, and establishing a robust surveillance system to prevent future drug-related threats. It also called for expansion of conservation and breeding centres implementation of vulture safe zone programmes, and development of species-specific conservation plans for the red-headed and Egyptian vultures. In June 2024, the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vultures came up in the Maharajganj district of UP. The facility is dedicated to improving the population of Asian king vultures, which were identified as critically endangered on IUCN Red List since 2007. As part of its long-term action plan, the centre aims to release 40 pairs of vultures into the wild over 8 to 10 years The Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Project exemplifies a multi-faceted approach to wildlife conservation. from the initial identification of diclofenac as the primary threat to the establishment of breeding centres and the implementation of the Vulture Action Plan.



Ajit Ranade GERMANY FACES LONGER TERM SERIOUS CHALLENGES

WHICH PUSH PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH DOWNWARD

The writer is Emeritus Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the National University of Singapore. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- The most intense conflicts, if overcome, leave behind a sense of security and calm that is not easily disturbed. It is just these intense conflicts and their conflagration which are needed to produce valuable and lasting results. CARL JUNG
- Faith is the sense of life, that sense by virtue of which man does not destroy himself, but continues to live on. It is the force whereby we live.
- Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged; life is a luminous halo, a semi-transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end. VIRGINIA WOOLF

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1863: London Underground opens. "The Tube" is the world's oldest underground railway.
- **1920:** The Treaty of Versailles takes effect. Although a ceasefire had been in place since November 11, 1918, World War I officially ended with the Treaty of Versailles.

- **1929:** The first Adventures of Tintin comic book is published Hergé's books became hugely popular in Europe and the rest of the world.
- **1946:** The first General Assembly of the United Nations opens 51 nations were represented on that day.



Anirban Bandyopadhyay

THE JATAYU CONSERVATION AND BREEDING PROJECT EXEMPLIFIES A MULTI-FACETED APPROACH TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION Bengal (2005), Rani, Assam (2007) and Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal (2011).

The JCBC in Pinjore, Haryana, represents a cornerstone of this critical initiative. Housed within the Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary, this 5-acre facility, managed jointly by the Haryana Forests Department and the BNHS with support from the RSPB, is the world's largest facility for breeding and conserving Indian vultures.

The centre's research played a landmark role in identifying diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug commonly administered to cattle for pain and inflammation. as the primary cause of vulture mortality and population decline. Tissue samples from vulture carcasses collected across India were analysed in collaboration with Aberdeen University, UK, confirming the presence of diclofenac. The study revealed that 75% of these carcasses exhibited "visceral gout," a condition caused by kidney failure lead-

strong correlation demonstrated that diclofenac poisoning accounted for at least 75% of the vulture population decline.

Subsequently, the centre's efforts were instrumental in securing a nationwide ban on the veterinary use of diclofenac. The DCGI issued directives on May 11, 2006, instructing state drug controllers to revoke manufacturing licenses for veterinary diclofenac. The final gazette notification banning the drug was published in August 2008. 2006 also saw the release of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Action Plan for Vulture Conservation, concurrent with the DCGI's ban on the veterinary use of diclofenac. This decisive action effectively halted the decline of vulture populations by 2011.

The Jatayu Project has witnessed brisk activity during the last few years. In 2020, the MoEFCC launched a Vulture Action Plan 2020-25 to address the devastating decline of vulture populations in India. The new

The writer is an Associate Professor of History at KISS University, Bhubaneswar

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Verbal mistreatment

Sir, The presence of aggressive personalities in politics is a common sight. Stream of verbal abuse may create more scars than a physical attack because physical injuries heal over a period of time but the imprints of verbal mistreatment are deeply engraved on a mind. People in power have to be pragmatic because they are under constant public scrutiny. BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri was in the news earlier as well for various reasons. Bidhuri was almost unapologetic for throwing verbal garbage at Congress leader Privanka Gandhi and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi. An unrefined Bidhuri has overshot his limits causing embarrassment to his party which is unfortunate considering his standing in politics. A few tall leaders are known for straying from the path while referring to rivals. But many of them have not taken recourse to personal insinuation. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Cross-border prosperity

Sir, Malaysia and Singapore have signed an agreement to establish the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), aiming to boost economic collaboration and attract investments. The JS-SEZ represents a pivotal step in enhancing economic cooperation between Malaysia and Singapore. With a focus on sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, renewable energy, and the digital economy, the initiative aims to create a dynamic economic hub in the Iskandar Development Region and Pengerang. By offering targeted tax incentives and streamlined business facilitation, the JS-SEZ is expected to attract significant investments and emerge as a competitive destination for multinational corporations and startups. The projected creation of 20,000 skilled jobs over the next decade underscores its potential to boost employment and foster innovation. This partnership emphasises strategic cooperation in areas like cross-border connectivity and talent development. By fostering cross-border partnerships and prioritising key sectors, the initiative could create a thriving economic ecosystem benefiting both nations. If effectively implemented, the JS-SEZ could catalyse broader regional integration within ASEAN, positioning Malaysia and Singapore as leaders in sustainable and collaborative economic development. Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH



national



The Genome **India Project is** an important milestone in the biotechnology revolution in India NARENDRA MODI

AYODHYA GEARS UP FOR RAM LALLA CONSECRATION ANNIV

Preparations are in full swing to celebrate the first anniversary of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ram temple here this weekend

vehicles.

devotees.

surveillance

Uttar Pradesh Police has

set up 10 state-of-the-art dig-

ital 'Khoya- Paya Kendras'

across the Maha Kumbh

Mela area to ensure the safety

and convenience of millions of

Equipped with modern

MAHAKUMBH 2025



'Climate change puts India's rice, wheat output at risk'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: India's rice and wheat output is projected to dip by 6-10 per cent due to climate change, impacting access to affordable food for millions, senior officials have said.

Another effect of climate change is that sea water is becoming warmer along the coast forcing fish to move away to cooler water in deep sea, which has also hit the fishing community, the officials said India's wheat production had touched 113.29 million tonnes in the 2023-24 crop year, which was about 14 per cent of the global output, while rice harvests topped 137 million tonnes. Rice and wheat form staple diet for the country's 1.4 billion population, 80 per cent of which relies on subsidised food grains



supplied through various government schemes.

"Climate change will reduce the yields of both wheat and rice by 6 to 10 per cent, significantly impacting farmers and food security of the country," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the Director General of the India Meteorological Department

Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) wheat yield in India is projected to decline by 6-25 per cent by 2100. Irrigated rice yields are expected to reduce by 7 per cent by 2050 and 10 per cent by 2080.Around half of the popula-(IMD), told PTI. He said global warming was also reducing the frequency and strength of Western Dis-

turbances, which are weath-

er systems emerging from the

Mediterranean region that

bring winter rain and snow

to northwest India. This could

lead to severe water shortages

IRS AND SPORTS

tion in India depends on agriculture. Over 80 per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers, having land less than 2 hectares, government data shows. Ravichandran said rising ocean temperatures are also reducing fish catches near the coast.

for billions of people living ir the Himalayas and the plains

below in the near future. M

Ravichandran, Secretary, Min-

istry of Earth Sciences, said

during an interaction with PTI

According to the National

along with Mohapatra.

Unbreachable security encircles Prayagraj POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 9: In preparation for the upcoming Mahakumbh and to ensure the safety of devotees, a robust and impenetrable security 'Chakravyuh' has been established around Prayagraj under the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Seven key routes connecting Prayagraj and adjoining districts have been for tified with 102 checkpoints for thoroughly screening vehicles and individuals.

This extensive security de ployment involves 1,026 personnel, including 71 inspectors, 234 sub-inspectors, 645 constables/head constables, 76 women constables, 113 Home Guards/PRD jawans, and three PAC sections.

Additionally, five Vajra facilities, these centres fea-

10 drones, and ture waiting rooms, medica four anti-sabotage teams are rooms, and refreshment area conducting round-the-clock for women and children to provide immediate assistance to ensure seamless security operations.

to the devotees, officials said Each centres is fitted with 55-inch LED screens connected to a public address system which will display live updates about lost and found persons and items. The centres will also provide essential information on ghat arrangements and routes related to Mahakumbh

CBI books Karti Chidambaram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: The CBI has registered a fresh case of corruption against former finance minister P Chidambaram's son and Congress MP, Karti Chidambaram, for allegedly giving relief to alcoholic beverage company Diageo Scotland over a ban on the duty-free sale of its whisky, officials said Thursday.

The case pertains to an alleged suspicious payment made to Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt. Ltd, "an entity controlled" by Karti P Chidambaram and his close aide S Bhaskararaman by Diageo Scotland and Sequoia Capitals, the CBI FIR said. "Enquiry revealed that out of various proposals of FIPB enquired into, it was found that Diageo Scotland and Sequoia Capitals have suspiciously transferred funds to Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt. Ltd., an entity controlled by Sh.

Karti P Chidambaram and his close aide S Bhaskararaman," it said. The agency alleged that its enquiry has found that Diageo Scotland, UK used to import duty-free

Johnnie Walker whisky. No immediate reaction was available from the suspects named in the FIR. In April 2005, the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), which had a monopoly over the sale of imported duty-free liquor in India, put an embargo on the sale of the Diageo Group's duty-free products in India, which resulted in a huge loss to Diageo Scotland as 70 per cent of its business in India pertained to the sale of Johnnie Walker whisky, the agency alleged. The CBI FIR alleged that Diageo Scotland approached Karti Chidambaram, seeking help in lifting the ban and made payments of USD 15,000 to Advantage Strategic Consulting, which took it in the guise of "consultancy fee".

TIRUPATI STAMPEDE **CM** Naidu announces judicial investigation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

a sick woman. People were waiting to receive tokens for a holy event at the famous Lord Venkateswara Swamy shrine on Tirumala hills for January 10 when tragedy struck. Following complaints by revenue officials, two FIRs were registered in connection with the stampede which has also left dozens injured.

INTENT and INTELLECT of Yuva Shakti Strengthening the vision of **VIKSIT BHARAT**



Tirunati (Andhra Pradesh), Jan 9: A day after six persons died in the Tirupati stampede, the Andhra Pradesh government Thursday announced a judicial inquiry into the incident that seems to have been the result of a policeman's innocuous act of opening the gate with the intention of aiding

SPADEX

ISRO says it arrested drift between satellites



and then January 9. Citing the reason behind postponement of the exercise Thursday, the ISRO said while making a manoeuvre to reach 225 m between satellites, the drift was found to be more than expected, post non-visibility period.

Bangalore, Jan 9: ISRO Thursday said it has arrested the drift between satellites during its ambitious Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) and put the spacecrafts in a slow drift course to move closer to each other.

According to the space agency, the experiment is expected to reach initialisation condition Friday. "SpaDeX Docking Update: The drift has been arrested and spacecrafts put in a slow drift course to move closer to each other.

By tomorrow, it is expected to reach initialisation conditions," ISRO said in a statement. The ISRO had twice cancelled the SpaDeX mission, once January 7

The Space Docking Experiment (SPADEX) is a pivotal project, which is

designed to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking using two small satellites, the space agency said. "SpaDeX will serve as a milestone in advancing India's capabilities in space docking, a critical technology for future space missions including satellite servicing, space station operations, and interplanetary missions," ISRO said in an explainer.

This technology is essential for India's space ambitions such as Indian on Moon, sample return from the Moon, the building and operation of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), etc.

Young Leaders will share their vision in front of PM Modi

on 12th January | 10 AM Onwards

10 Themes for Viksit Bharat : Youth Leaders to engage in transformative discussions shaping the Nation's future

National & Global Icons Mentorship: Youth Leaders will be mentored by Global and National Icons.

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Kangaloo hails India's contribution to world

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Carla Kangaloo Thursday said India has made some of the "greatest contributions" to the world civilisation in various fields such as mathematics, medicine and navigation.

P6

OrissaPOST

RIDAY | JANUARY 10, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Addressing the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2025 convention virtually as the chief guest, Kangaloo said, "India's contributions to the world's development are remarkable. The world's first university was established in Takshashila in 700 BC.

Stating that Ayurveda is widely acknowledged as an earlier school of medicine, she said that the art of navigation was born in Sindhu river about 6,000 years ago.

"Algebra, trigonometry and calculus were also first developed in India," she said.

This apart, Kangaloo also noted that India was the first country of civilisation which used the symbol zero (0) in arithmetic operations. The

India's hydrogen engine most powerful: Vaishnaw

Bhubaneswar: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday said that the hydrogen fuel-run train engine developed by Indian Railways has the maximum horsepower in the world. Vaishnaw. who is also the Union Minister in charge of Information and Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, said this while speaking at a plenary session titled 'Green Connections: Diaspora's Contribution to Sustainable Development' of the PBD convention here. Stating that only four countries make such train engines. Vaishnaw said, "They produce somewhere between 500 to 600 hp while the engine produced by Indian Railways using indigenous technology has an output of 1.200 hp, the highest so far in this category." He said the first such train is expected to make a trial run in Harvana soon on the Jind-Sonipat route. While the engine manufacturing has been completed. system integration of the same is currently underway, the Union minister added.

Min: Stories of Indian immigrants inspiring

Bhubaneswar: Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labou



game of chess is also believed to have originated in eastern India while the decimal system is widely acknowledged to have been developed in India. "And India's very own the shores of Trinidad and To-

Shushruta is widely acknowledged to be the father of surgery," she said.

India is one of the countries that established diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago following the country's independence from the United Kingdom in 1962, Kangaloo said.

dad and Tobago forever, the Trinidad and Tobago President said.

18TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

Lauding India's efforts in holding the PBD, she said that over the last two decades, this convention has been collaborating between India and its diaspora.

Kangaloo thanked India for conferring the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) on her. The award will be handed over by President Murmu Friday.

"In conferring the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (award), the government and the people of India give powerful expression to the commitment to strengthen the ties between India and all of its children throughout the world," she said.

The President said that she was told that cricketer Brian Lara is loved in India and so also Sachin Tendulkar in Trinidad and Tohago

"Our trade relation is robust. We enjoy our rich cultural cooperation with India and received Covid-19 vaccines from India," she said.

Participate in state's growth trajectory: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Asserting that Odisha is a land of limitless opportunities, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday called upon the Indian diaspora to participate in the state's growth journey.

Speaking at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) inaugural function, Majhi said, "Odisha is not just about its glorious past and natural beauty; it is a land of limitless opportunities for the future.

Highlighting Odisha's investor-friendly environment, the CM said the state now stands as one of the most welcoming destinations for investments in India.

"With rich mineral resourc es driving key industries, along with rapidly growing IT, agro-processing, and renewable energy sectors, Odisha is charting a robust development path," he said

Majhi emphasised Odisha's achievements in climate-resilient agriculture and youth



skill development, saying, "The state has carved a niche for itself in these areas. Our worldclass sports infrastructure is a testament to our commitment to excellence.

The Chief Minister also said the state is building on its maritime legacy by developing ports and shipping corridors to connect with South-East Asia, enabling faster trade and reducing logistics costs for global businesses.

"With world-class infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, and a young skilled workforce, Odisha is the perfect destination, for businesses and entrepreneurs," Majhi said, adding that the state is at the centre of Purvodaya, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Proud of diaspora's achievements: EAM AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday said the diaspora has become more important with each passing year as India strives to build a "global workforce"

Addressing the Indian diaspora at the PBD convention here, Jaishankar said in times of difficulty abroad, they car be confident that the Naren dra Modi government "has got your back". "We are proud of the achievements of our Indian diaspora," he said.

"In a globalised era, the dias pora has become more import ant with each passing year whether it is technology, best practices or resources, be it tourism, trade or investment, the two-way flow is invaluable as we strive to build a global workforce," Jaishankar said.

The External Affairs minis ter said the role of the diaspora is immense as they act as the bridge between India and the countries where they live. He said the people-centric

changes that the Modi government is promoting are also benefitting the diaspora.



"Our country's ties with In-

dia, however, long precedes

that. Our relationship goes

back to 1845 when the first ship

carrying 225 Indians reached

bago, then a British colony,'

Nearly 72 unbroken years

thereafter, more than 1,43,000

Indians came from cities and

states such as Uttar Pradesh.

Bihar, West Bengal and many

others, reshaping the social,

demographic, economic and

cultural landscape of Trini-

she said.

A performance by Grammy-winning musician Ricky Kej and his troupe



A mélange of various dance forms





and Employment Sushri Shobha Karandlaje Thursday said that the world is today realising that the role of Indians in every corner of the globe has given a new dimension to the social, economic and cultural development of that place. The minister said this while attending a plenary session on 'Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Stories of Migrant Skills', held on the occasion of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Karandlaje said, "Stories of Indian immigrants" abilities have inspired us. By promoting our yoga, ayurveda, handicrafts, culture, Make in India products, they have contributed to the inclusive development and ensured their participation in a developed India with their own skills." "According to the World Migration Report 2024, Indian immigrants are the largest foreign exchange earners in the world. This is a strong proof of their ability," said former Minister of State, External Affairs, V Muraleedharan.



NRIs from Oman at 18th PBD convention





An MSME stall at an expo

NRIs at Netaji Birthplace Museum in Cuttack





Overseas citizens in euphoric mood

Guests and delegates in all ears to PM's speech

OP PHOTOS

Guests from abroad lap up traditional Odia dishes Global citizens laud

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Guests from abroad enjoyed the signature Odia dishes - from pulses and curries to sweetmeats that were served to them at the PBD venue.

They lapped up traditional delicacies such as 'Dalma' (mix-pulse with vegetables), 'saga muga' (leaf-moong dal), chicken curry and 'chhenapoda' (baked cheese sweet).

Though North Indian and continental food were also arranged for the guests, the NRIs expressed happiness after tasting the lip-smacking Odia platter.

"For the first time, I tasted Odia dishes saga muga, dalma, rasgulla and chaula khiri.



Those were not spicy and the taste was amazing," said KV Rathee, an NRI from Canada.

Praising the Odia foods and hospitality the state has offered, NRI Raman Tanga said the sweet dishes are

sine at the right platform. The Odia food deserves promotion in a bigger way."

A private hotel has prepared dishes for the guests at the venue apart from special arrangements for VVIPs like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Mridul Mandal, chief chef of the hotel, said apart from some North Indian and continental food items, "Odia dishes like 'pariba ghanta' (vegetable mix), 'saga muga', 'dalma', 'kanika' (sweet) Rice for vegetarians and 'Kukuda Aloo Jhola' and 'Machha Besara' were served to non-vegetarians in the lunch Thursday.'

Odisha's signature sweet

dishes, delightful 'chaula khiri' and 'pahala rasgulla' (sugar-free) were served to the NRIs as dessert, he said.

'We have prepared food items for about 10,000 people (for both lunch and dinner) on the first two days of the PBD. About 1,500 chefs have been engaged in the job," Mandal said.

The chef said, for the first time, they are serving different kinds of Odia dishes on such a big platform. The dishes were prepared in a very traditional manner in the same way Odia people prepare those in their homes, he said.

Mandal said they have served the signature Odia sweet dish 'Chhenapoda' to Prime Minister Modi.

culture of Odisha AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Hundreds of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from across the world, who gathered at Janata Maidan here to take part in 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention Thursday, expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome and preparations made for the event, which is being celebrated as a grand festival in Odisha. According to them, the event provides an excellent opportunity for NRIs to experience the eastern state's vibrant culture and heritage.

Koki Veber, an NRI who has lived in Slovenia for 50 years,

expressed her happiness about attending the event. Koki runs a store called 'Namaste', which promotes Indian handicrafts.

She praised Odisha as a hidden gem of India and described it as a beautiful state. "This is my first visit to Odisha and I am amazed by its charm. It truly is a jewel of India," she added.

Punit Manchanda, an NRI from Canada, also expressed his pride in being invited by the ministry of external affairs to the event "It's my first visit to Odisha, and I feel a special connection as my brother completed his engineering from Rourkela. I'm impressed by the state's hospitality, culture and delicious food," he said.









mouth-watering. The dalma

Falguni Patel, who came

from Uganda, said, "I have

tasted Odia sweet dishes, and

they were quite good. The state

showcased the traditional cui-

was also good, he shared.









national





technology provides a unique chance to create derivative technologies for various applications ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAY MINISTER

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN **CLOSED FOR PUBLIC**

The Rashtrapati Bhavan (Circuit-1) will remain closed for the general public from January 21 to 29 due to the upcoming Republic Day Parade and Beating Retreat ceremony, according to an official statement issued Thursday

ACB grills KTR for 7 hrs in Formula E-race Case

Hyderabad, Jan 9: BRS leader

K T Rama Rao, who was ques-

tioned by the Anti-Corruption

Bureau Thursday in the For

mula-E race case, said he an

swered all the agency's queries

and is prepared to appear again

if required, even as he launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of the day

I conside it a great fortune to be inaugurating it today as the mukhyasevak of the state

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI U'KHAND CM

We have been trying to get the national fair status for the Gangasagar Mela in vain for the last 10 years

MAMATA BANERJEE WEST BENGAL CM

The old Langthaba palace will be developed with an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore. A committee consist-

ing of teachers from universities will be constituted (for auiding the restoration work)





Pawan Kalyan is in Tirupati, where 6 people lost lives due to Stampede and here his followers chanting

'Jai Janasena' & he is stopping car & receiving their Greetings. How can someone be so Sh@meless. #TirupatiStampede

@DrJain21

SHORT TAKES

Three LeT terror associates held

Srinagar: Security forces have arrested three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror associates in the Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Thursday. A police spokesman said the trio were arrested by a joint police, army and CRPF team while investigating an FIR registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in Qaimoh police station in the district. The three -- identified

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: As assembly elections draw closer in Delhi, AAP convenor and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday accused the BJP-led Central government of reneging on its promise to provide reservation to the Jat community in the national capital.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal, who is contesting from New Delhi seat, said he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding the inclusion of Delhi's Jat community in the Central OBC list. BJP candidate from New Delhi and former MP Parvesh Verma alleged that Keiriwal has started dividing Delhi on caste lines. At the presser, the AAP chief

also accused the Centre of misleading the community for the past decade, and failing to deliver on its promises

"In 2015, the BJP invited Jat leaders to the prime minister's residence and assured them that Delhi's Jat community would be included in the Central OBC list. Union Home Minister Amit Shah promised the same in 2019. However, nothing has been done to fulfil these promises," Kejriwal

said. Drawing comparisons, he questioned why Jat students from Rajasthan benefit from reservations in Delhi University (DU), while Jat students from Delhi are denied the same. "Thousands of children from

the Jat community in Delhi are unable to secure admission in DU because they are not part of the Central OBC list," he said.

Kejriwal also alleged that despite Delhi's Jats being recognised under the OBC category in the national capital, the Central government has refused to extend the benefits to them.

"This is nothing but betray al. The Centre must include Delhi's Jat community in the OBC list to ensure they receive reservations in Central government institutions, including for



BJP candidate from New Delhi and former MP **Parvesh Verma alleged** that Kejriwal has started dividing Delhi on caste lines

Kejriwal also alleged that despite Delhi's Jats being recognised under the OBC category in the national capital, the Central government has refused to extend the benefits to them

jobs and college admissions," the AAP supremo said.

Central agencies like the MCD, DDA, and CPWD operate extensively in Delhi, and including Jats in the OBC list would open up significant opportunities for them, Kejriwal said, as he vowed to continue the fight until the community's

demands are met. Reacting to the allegations, BJP leader Verma claimed that as Kejriwal's political ground is slipping, the AAP leader has started dividing Delhi on caste lines. Kejriwal never remembered the Jat community in the past 11 years, he said.

"Arvind Kejriwal, who once spoke of secularism, is now dividing Delhi on caste lines. If anyone has given constitutional recognition to the National OBC Commission, it is PM Modi. For Jats or any caste to be included in the OBC list, the state government must first approve the proposal and send it to the OBC Commission.

"Kejriwal's government held special sessions but used them only to criticise the Centre and the LG, never passing the OBC inclusion for Jats," he stated.

Verma criticised Kejriwal for not convening a session despite two letters from Kailash Gahlot regarding OBC status for Jats.

He credited BJP-led governments in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and at the Centre with securing Jat reservations in the past.

"Rural Delhi lacks new colleges, schools, hospitals, flyovers, and roads, but with elections here, Kejriwal remembers the Jats. It pains me that he accuses me of anti-nationalism for helping women through the 'Ladli' scheme," Verma added.

The 70-member Delhi Assembly will go to polls February 5. The results will be out February 8.

AAP, BJP spar over Jat quota Want to work with Delhi to resolve J&K problems, says Farooq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Jan 9: The National Conference government head ed by Omar Abdullah would not 'fight" the Centre but work with it to resolve the problems faced by Jammu and Kashmir, party president Farooq Abdullah as serted here Thursday.

"We don't want to fight New Delhi. We want to work together with Delhi to resolve the state's problems. We don't want to engage in battles. Those who want to fight can do so,' the former chief minister told reporters here.

His remarks came in the backdrop of party Lok Sabha MP Aga Rullah's comments during a TV interview that Omar Abdullah should not distance himself from the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and should not be seen by the people as a "Delhi's representative"

Addressing concerns about the unity within the INDIA bloc, Abdullah said the alliance is not just about contesting elections, but it is about strength ening India and eliminating hatred. "The alliance is permanent -- it is for every day and every moment," he said. He was replying to media questions on a range of issues including fissures in the INDIA bloc with the AAP and Congress fighting the Delhi polls separately, the



dual power structure in Jammu and Kashmir, the Maha Kumbh and the Tirupati stampede.

He expressed concern over unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir. calling it a significant issue in the region. "How will people's problem be solved when unemployment is so severe here? Our hospitals and schools are in dire condition. We need teachers, doctors, and paramedics, but instead, unnecessary battles are being fought," he said.

Abdullah said his National Conference has nothing to do with the BJP, but it is the responsibility of the central government to support state governments in addressing local issues. Abdullah stressed that both

the central and state governments should prioritise the needs of the people rather than engaging in conflicts that hinder progress.

a vitriolic attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Responding to Rama Rao's criticism against the CM and state government, Congress MLC Balmoori Venkat said the BRS leader himself had accepted a procedural lapse (in the transfer of funds to race organisers) which is being probed Speaking to reporters after exiting the ACB headquarters Rama Rao, the prime accused in the case registered by the ACB over alleged irregularities in the Formula-E race, said the officials asked him "80 plus" questions and they recorded

his statement He stated that he had cooperated fully with the agency officials. "Whatever questions the ACB asked me, I responded in detail to the best of my un derstanding. I told them that I would appear whenever they call me," said Rama Rao, who was questioned for about seven hours. Terming the case against him as 'false' and 'irrational', he claimed that he told the investi gators they were acting under 'government pressure" and didn't know what they were doing. He alleged that "it would be (Chief Minister) Revanth Red dy's stupidity if he thinks he can achieve something with such a politically motivated case.'



AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND **AWARENESS INITIATIVE**

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue: Friday, 10th January 2025; 3:00 p.m. onwards. at Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd, Plot No- G-3, Gadakana, PO-Mancheswar Railway Colony, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751 017, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Biswajit Das, Mobile: 80183 78860. Saturday, 11th January 2025; 11:00 a.m. onwards. at Government High School, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751 015, Odisha For registration, please contact: Biswajit Das, Mobile: 80183 78860. Sunday, 12th January 2025; 6:00 p.m. onwards. at Pipul Padmaja Premium Hotel, Plot No 324, 326, Behind Bharat Petrol Pump, District Center, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751 016, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Sanket Swaroon, Mobile: 99370 81778. Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m No walk-ins will be allowed.

EAST COAST RAILWAY **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The under-mentioned Manned Level Crossing Gate of Khurda Road Divisio has been proposed for closure in lieu of construction of Limited Height Subway (LHS) and will be commissioned soon for public. Hence, the use of the under mentioned Manned Level Crossing Gate for public will be prohibited afte commissioning of Limited Height Subway (LHS) with immediate effect.

Deute	Between	L.C.	Railway	Class	Year of	Train Vehicle
Route	Stations	No.	Km.	(M/UM)	census	Unit

'Parents legally obligated to provide edu support to girl'

The remarks of a bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and *Ujjal Bhuyan came in a matrimonial dispute in which the*

daughter of the estranged couple, who was studying in Ireland, refused to accept Rs 43 lakh given by her father towards her studies as a part of the total alimony being paid to her mother

for which the parents

tain her own dignity

had declined to retain

the amount and asked

him to take the money

back but he refused. The

daughter was legally en-

titled to the amount, the

The father was said

to have spent the money

without any compelling

reasons, indicating he was

financially sound to pro-

vide her with the financial

"Respondent number

court said.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal, who is contesting from New Delhi seat, said he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding the inclusion of Delhi's Jat community in the Central OBC list

as Ubaid Khursheed Khanday, Magsood Ahmad Bhat and Umer Bashir -- are all residents of Thokerpora in Kulgam.

Four K'taka pilgrims killed in road mishap

.

Ranipet (Tamil Nadu):

At least four pilgrims from Karnataka were killed when the bus they were travelling in was involved in an accident with a vegetable-laden truck and another heavy vehicle here Thursday, police sources said. The victims, mostly hailing from Kolar, were returning home in a KSRTC bus after visiting a temple near Chennai

Bus catches fire in Navi Mumbai

Thane: Passengers onboard a civic transport service bus had a narrow escape when it caught fire in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township Thursday morning, police said. All the 22 passengers were evacuated safely and no one was injured. they said. The incident led to a traffic jam in the area for some time. The bus belonging to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) caught fire at Runwal Chowk in Manpada limits on Kalvan-Shilphata Road at around 10.30 am, the police said.

Senior citizen dies in tree crash

Mumbai: A 60-year-old woman died and another was injured when a tree from a private garden fell on them in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area Thursday evening, civic officials said. The incident occurred near a hotel at around 6 pm when the two were walking on the road, they said.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

could be compelled to New Delhi, Jan 9: provide necessary funds Daughter has an indewithin the limit of their feasible, legally enforcefinancial resources," said the bench's Januable and legitimate right to secure educational ary 2 order. expenses from her par-The daughter of the ents, who can be comparties, it said, to main-

pelled to provide necessary funds within their means, the Supreme Court recently said.

The remarks of a bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan came in a matrimonial dispute in which the daughter of the estranged couple, who was studying in Ireland, refused to accept Rs 43 lakh given by her father towards her studies as a part of the total alimony being paid

assistance towards her academic pursuits. to her mother. 2 (daughter) has, thus, "She, being the daughgot a right to retain ter, has an indefeasible. that amount. She need not, therefore, return legally enforceable, lawful, and legitimate right that amount either to

to secure educational the appellant (mother) expenses from her paror to respondent numents. All that we observe ber 1 (father), and may is that the daughter has suitably appropriate it as she may deem fit.' a fundamental right to pursue her education, said the court.

The bench referred to the settlement agreement entered into by the estranged couple November 28, 2024 which was also signed by the daughter. The court said the husband had agreed to pay a total sum of Rs 73 lakh to his estranged wife and daughter, of which Rs 43 lakh was meant for his daughter's academic goals, and the rest for his wife.

It observed since the wife had received her Rs 30 lakh share, and the parties were admittedly living separately for the last 26 years, the bench saw no reason to not grant of a decree of divorce by mutual consent.

"Consequently, we invoke our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and dissolve the marriage of the parties by granting a decree of divorce by mutual con-

sent," it held. The court further directed as a result of the settlement agreement, the parties should not pursue any court case against each other, and if there was a pending case before any forum, it should be disposed of in

terms of the agreement. "The parties shall have no claim against each other in future and shall abide by the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement. which shall form part of this order," it said.

I HDFC

An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

Visit https://www. Your Custor Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds, Investors should only deal with regist Mutual Funds, dealis of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov/in/intermediaries.thm) any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or Investor Rela Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs, if they are unsatisfied with resolutions given by AMCs they may raise complaints fund and subsequently with § Satus. In case the invi-jonaria for the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portial on thtps://scores.gov.in. SCO portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint on invise SIG and subsequently with § Satus. In case the invi-is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the score to the Score flow of the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the score to the Score flow of the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the score to the Score flow of the advectory and the score in the score to the Score flow of the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the score to the Score flow of the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the score to the Score flow of the score to the Score flow of the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the score to the Score flow of the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the Score to the Score flow of the Score to the Score flow of the AMCs or through the SCORES portal on the Score to the Score flow of the Score to the Score to the Score flow of the Sc plaint on the Smart ODR on https://smart

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents care



treated as such. You may collect your final dues payable (if any), on produc of necessary clearance certificate from all department concerned. Sd./- Unit Head OHPC Ltd., UIHEP, Mukhiguda OIPR-32136/11/0025/2425

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international



never talked about country's telecoms security system with Musk. It's not my habit to use mv public role to do favors to friends GIORGIA MELONI PRIME MINISTER, ITALY

OHIO DESIGNATES OCTOBER AS HINDU HERITAGE MONTH

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has signed a bill to designate October as "Hindu Heritage Month" in the US state. The bill was signed Wednesday by DeWine in the presence of former state Senator Niraj Antani, who was the main sponsor and mover of the legislation last year, and several other community



Trump warns California

Governor to resign

Donald Trump has called for California Guv Gavin

wildfire. Taking to Truth Social,

Trump wrote, "One of the best

and most beautiful parts of

the United States of America

is burning down to the ground.

It's ashes, and Gavin Newscum

should resign. This is all his

took to Truth Social to blast

both Newsom and Joe Biden

for their "incompetence" in

handling the tragedy. "The fires

in Los Angeles may go down, in

dollar amount, as the worst in

the History of our Country. In

many circles, they're doubting

whether insurance companies

will even have enough money

the president-elect wrote. "Let

this serve, and be emblematic,

of the gross incompetence and

mismanagement of the Biden/

suspended production, and

Universal Studios closed its

theme park between Pasadena

As of early Thursday, around

Newscum Duo January 20th

cannot come fast enough!"

to pay for this catastrophe,"

fault!!!" Trump previously

Newsom to resign as Los

Angeles battles a deadly

leaders from the State



No matter what's going on in the world, everyone wants to feel sure that their country will not iust be

erased of the man VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

it "feels great" to be back inside the first time since

the US Capitol for he left office four years ago, after the January 6, 2021, riot by his

supporters DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT-ELECT, US

If autocrats conclude that democracies will lose their nerve, surrender their interests, and forget their prin-

ciples, we will only see more land grabs. If tyrants learn that aggression pays, we will only invite even more aggression, chaos, and war LLOYD AUSTIN | DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

SHORT TAKES

Attack on Chad's prez palace leaves 19 dead

N'Diamena: An attack on Chad's presidential palace left 18 assailants dead and six in custody, with one soldier killed and three wounded. state media reported Thursday. The attack Wednesday night occurred while Chadian President Mahamat Deby Itno was inside the palace, but authorities said the situation was guickly brought under control. "The situation is completely under control. There is no fear," Foreign Affairs Minister Abderaman Koulamallah said while surrounded by soldiers in a live Facebook broadcast filmed inside what appeared to be a quiet presidential palace late Wednesday. In an interview with state TV. Koulamallah praised the vigilance of the palace guards, describing the attackers as disorganised and intoxicated by alcohol and drugs. When asked if the attack was terrorism, he said it was probably not, as the attackers were local vouths from the

capital, N'Djamena.

AGENCIES

Los Angeles, Jan 9: Firefighters battled early Thursday to control a series of major fires in the Los Angeles area that have killed five people, ravaged communities from the Pacific Coast to Pasadena and sent thousands of people frantically fleeing their homes.

Ferocious winds that drove the flames and led to chaotic evacuations have calmed somewhat and were not expected to be as powerful during the day. That could provide an opportunity for firefighters to make progress reining in blazes that have hopscotched across the sprawling region, including massive ones in Pacific Palisades and Altadena.

The latest flames broke out Wednesday evening in the Hollywood Hills, striking closer to the heart of the city and the roots of its entertainment industry and putting densely populated neighbourhoods on edge during exceptionally windy and dry conditions. But only about a mile away, the streets around the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the TCL Chinese Theatre and Madame Tussauds were bustling, and onlookers used their phones to record video of the blazing hills.

Within a few hours, firefighters had made major progress on the Sunset Fire in the hills. Los Angeles Fire Department Capt Erik Scott said they were able to keep the fire in check because "we hit it hard and fast and mother nature was a little nicer to us today than she was yesterday."

A day earlier, hurricane-force winds blew embers through the air, igniting block after block in the coastal neighbourhood of Pacific Palisades as well as in Altadena, a community near Pasadena that is about 25 miles east. Aircraft had to be grounded for a time because of the winds, hampering firefighting efforts.

Nearly 2,000 homes, businesses and other structures have been destroyed in those blazes — called the Palisades and Eaton fires — and the number is expected to increase. The five deaths recorded so far were from the Eaton Fire.

Some 130,000 people have been put under evacuation orders, as fires have consumed a total of about 42 square miles - nearly the size of the entire





in an Altadena neighbourhood that had been dotted with the green canopies of leafy trees and aquamarine swimming pools was reduced to rubble. Only a few homes were left standing and some were still in flames in images from Maxar Technologies. Along a stretch of about 70 wall-to-wall homes overhanging the Pacific Ocean in Malibu, fewer than 10 appeared to be intact.

In Pacific Palisades, a hillside area along the coast dotted with celebrity homes.

ened with soot, and sports cars slumped on melted tires.

More than half a dozen schools in the area were either damaged or destroyed, and UCLA has canceled classes for the week. Another fire has hit Sylmar, a middle and working-class area on the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley that has been the site of many devastating blazes Fast-moving flames allowed little time

to escape

The main fires grew rapidly

escape. Police sought shelter inside their patrol cars, and residents at a senior living centre were pushed in wheelchairs and hospital beds down a street

In the race to get away in Pacific Palisades, roadways beof people abandoned their vehicles and set out on foot. Actors lost homes

The flames marched toward highly populated and affluent neighbourhoods, including Calabasas and Santa Monica, home to California's rich and famous.

Mandy Moore, Cary Elwes and Paris Hilton were among the stars who lost homes. Billy Crystal and his wife, Janice, lost their home of 45 years in the Palisades Fire.

grandchildren here. Every inch of our house was filled with love. Beautiful memories that can't be taken away," the Crystals wrote in the statement.

lic library, two major grocery stores, a pair of banks and several boutiques were destroyed. Landmarks get scorched and studios

suspend production She was also slammed for h Ghana trip amid inferno

troops to help.

Experts highlight

infrastructure challe rapid water delivery

Los Angeles Mayor faces calls to resign

The Los Angeles mayor, Karen Bass, has come under severe criticism for cutting the budget allocation for the fire department as the massive wildfire rages uncontrollably, destroying thousands of homes across vast acres in Pacific Palisades and nearby areas, forcing over a lakh residents to evacuate. Mayor Bass slashed the fire department budget by more than \$17 million last year, as she directed more resources toward addressing homelessness. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Los Angeles allocated \$837 million to the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), accounting for roughly 65 per cent of the \$1.3 billion budget designated for homelessness initiatives, Fox News reported. However, out of the \$1.3 billion budget for the homeless, roughly half the budget for homelessness went unspent. From the 2023-2024 to the 2024 2025 budgets, the fire department's budget was reduced by over \$17 million, from \$837.19 million to \$819.64. This budget cut happened despite the region being at high risk of wildfires and climate experts warning about extreme events and dry conditions. The mayor has also been slammed for travelling to

Ghana, despite reports as early as last week about an impending windstorm in the region. She returned to a burning city. "RESIGN! WHY ARE YOU IN GHANA?!" one person commented on a nost by her office giving an update on the wildfires. However, Bass brushed off questions about the fire department budget and lack of water supplies and claimed that the fire budget had topped last year.

to safety.

came impassable when scores

"We raised our children and

In Palisades Village, the pub-

President Joe Biden signed a federal emergency declaration after arriving at a Santa Monica fire station for a briefing

with Governor Gavin Newsom, 250,000 people were without who dispatched National Guard power in southern California, according to the tracking web-Several Hollywood studios site PowerOutage.us

Water runs short as wildfires burn out of control

and Pacific Palisades

Crews battling multiple wildfires that raged across Los Angeles Wednesday were up against a near-perfect storm: intense wind, low humidity and, most troubling for residents, inadequate supplies of water to contain the blazes. Los Angeles authorities said their municipal water systems were working effectively but they were designed for an urban environment, not for tackling wildfires. Jay Lund, a professor in civil and environmental engineering at the University of California Davis, said city water tanks are typically designed to be able to put out localized fires, not widespread fires like the ones blazing in Los Angeles



led, more than 100,00

Army airstrike killed at least 40 people

Bangkok: An airstrike by Myanmar's army on a village under the control of an armed ethnic minority group killed about 40 people and injured at least 20 others, officials of the group and a local charity said Thursday. They said hundreds of houses burned in a fire triggered by the bombing. The attack occurred Wednesday in Kyauk Ni Maw village on Ramree island, an area controlled by the ethnic Arakan Army in western Rakhine state, they said. The military has not announced any attack in the area. The situation in the village could not be independently confirmed, with access to the internet and cellphone service in the area mostly cut off.

Hush money case: No relief for Trump

Albany (US): New York's highest court Thursday declined to block Donald Trump's upcoming sentencing in his hush money case, leaving the US Supreme Court as the president-elect's likely last option to prevent the hearing from taking place Friday. One judge of the New York Court of Appeals issued a brief order declining to grant a hearing to Trump's legal team. Trump has asked the Supreme Court to call off Friday's sentencing. His lawyers turned to the nation's highest court Wednesday after New York courts refused to postpone the sentencing by Judge Juan M Merchan, who presided over Trump's trial and conviction last May on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records.

city of San Francisco. The Palisades Fire is already the most destructive in Los Angeles history. The dramatic level of destruction was apparent in a comparison of satellite images before and after the fire. A swath of about 250 homes

block after block of California Mission Style homes and bungalows were reduced to charred remains. Ornate iron railing wrapped around the smoldering frame of one house Swimming pools were blackin distinctly different areas that had two things in common: densely packed streets of homes in places that are choked with vegetation and primed to burn in dry conditions.

Flames moved so quickly that many barely had time to

Officials say Gaza

death toll tops 46,000

Deir Al-Balah: More than 46,000

Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Thursday, with no end

in sight to the 15-month conflict.

The ministry said a total of 46.006

Palestinians have been killed and

109.378 wounded. It has said women

and children make up more than half

the fatalities, but does not say how

many of the dead were fighters or

civilians. The Israeli military says

it has killed over 17,000 militants,

it tries to avoid harming civilians

because the militants operate in

residential areas. Israel has also

repeatedly struck what it claims

are militants hiding in shelters and

hospitals, often killing women and

children. The war began when Hamas-

led militants stormed into Israel Oct 7,

2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly

civilians, and abducting around 250.

Some 100 hostages are still inside

Gaza. Israeli authorities believe at

least a third of them were killed in the

initial attack or have died in captivity.

without providing evidence. It says

and blames Hamas for their deaths

Palestinians have been killed in the

ENDING 2-YEAR DEADLOCK

Lebanon's army chief elected President

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, Jan 9: Lebanon's parliament elected army chief Joseph Aoun head of state Thursday, filling the vacant presidency with a general who has US support and showing the weakened sway of the Iranbacked Hezbollah group after its devastating war with Israel. In a speech to the chamber,

Aoun, 60, vowed to work to en-

sure the state has the exclusive right to carry arms, drawing loud applause as lawmakers from Hezbollah -- which runs its own military forces -- sat still.

He promised to rebuild south Lebanon and other parts of the country he said had been destroyed by Israel, and also to prevent Israeli attacks on Lebanon, which was mired in deep economic and political crises even before the latest conflict. "Today, a new phase in the history of Lebanon begins," he said.

His election reflected shifts in the power balance in Lebanon and the wider Middle East, with Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah badly pummelled from last year's war, and its Syrian ally



n has had no head of state since 2022

US, French and Saudi envoys urged Aoun's election, sources say

ome shows loss of nce by Iran-backed pllah

Bashar al-Assad toppled in December.

It also indicated a revival of Saudi influence in a country where Riyadh's role was eclipsed by Iran and Hezbollah long ago.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar congratulated Lebanon, saying on X he hoped Aoun's election would contribute towards stability and good neighbourly relations.

US ambassador Lisa Johnson, attending the session, told Reuters she was "very happy" with Aoun's election.

SNIPPETS

Yoon's party sees signs of revival



Seoul (South Korea): South Korean Opposition parties introduced a bill Thursday calling for an independent investigation into impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief martial law declaration, as thousands of his supporters and critics held tense rallies near his residence ahead of his potential detention. The bill, jointly submitted by six parties, including the main liberal Opposition Democratic Party, proposes that a special prosecutor investigate whether Yoon's martial law decree December 3 constituted an attempted rebellion. The bill also calls for an investigation into opposition claims that Yoon sought to provoke a clash with North Korea by allegedly flying drones over Pyongyang or discussing the possibility of shooting down trash-laden balloons launched from North Korea across the border, to justify a power grab at home. Yoon's lawyers and the South Korean military have denied the suspicions.

MISTREATMENT OF INDIAN FISHERMEN B'desh rejects allegations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Jan 9: Bangladesh Thursday rejected as "baseless and fabricated" the allegations about mistreatment of Indian fishermen, an apparent reference to recent remarks by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee.

Expressing its "utter dismay and deep disappointment,' Bangladesh Foreign Ministry also urged "all parties" to avoid such unfounded accusations that undermine the "spirit of bilateral cooperation and mutual respect.'

Banerjee had Monday alleged that some of the 95 fishermen, who were released by Bangladesh recently, were beaten up in jail.

"I found some of them were limping. When asked, the fishermen told me that they were assaulted in jail with their hands tied. As a result, they have injuries below the waist and the legs ... They were crying while talking to me," Banerjee had said at the felicitation of the released fishermen

They were arrested for illegally entering Bangladesh waters more than two months ago.

Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry on Thursday termed as 'baseless and fabricated" the allegations of mistreatment of its fishermen detained in Ban-



gladesh, and urged "all parties" to avoid making such unfound ed accusations that undermine the spirit of bilateral cooperation and mutual respect.

"Bangladesh expresses its utter dismay and deep disappointment over the unfound ed remarks and fabricated allegations of ill-treatment in cluding physical abuses of the detained Indian fishermen by the Bangladesh authorities, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement here.

Dhaka "firmly rejects such unfounded allegations, which undermines the spirit of trust, goodwill and mutual respect between Bangladesh and India," it said and added that the matter was thoroughly investigated and it was found that "no such ill-treatment or incident of physical abuse happened."

The statement, however, nei ther named anyone nor men tioned any Indian media.

















The government will soon launch a new credit guarantee scheme for the MSME sector covering loans up to ₹100 crore M NAGARAJU | FINANCIAL SERVICES SECRETARY

8 NEW BENZ MODELS TO HIT ROADS

Luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz India plans to roll out 8 new models, including battery electric vehicles, this year as it looks to sustain sales momentum having posted record sales in 2024. The company sold 19,565 units last year, registering a growth of 12 per cent as compared to 17,408 units in 2023. Mercedes also saw sales of battery electric vehicles almost doubled in 2024 as compared to 2023





At Jupiter, we are not just building capacity, we are redefining what it means to be a leader in solar manufacturing ALOK GARODIA | MD, JUPITER INTERNATIONAL

By fostering innovation and empowering fintech start ups, we aim to

amplify impactful solutions that not only enhance women's financial inclusion but also drive their economic empowerment AAKARSH NAIDU HEAD OF FINTECH & START UPS, RESERVE BANK INNOVATION HUE

As the industry continues to expand, the need for skilled and semi-

skilled workers is growing, making hiring more competitive. Employers are increasingly looking for talent that can adapt to a fast-paced, technology-driven environment

SASHI KUMAR | SALES HEAD, INDEED

SHORT TAKES

Rupee recovers

Mumbai: The rupee recovered slightly from its record low and settled with a gain of 5 paise at 85.86 against the US dollar Thursday amid firm American currency and elevated level of crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange. the rupee opened at its historic low level of 85.94 and touched an intra-day peak of 85.84 before ending the session at 85.86 against the greenback, 5 paise higher from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee plunged 17 paise to settle at its all-time low closing level of 85.91 against the dollar.

Broad-based selloff: SIP inflows touch peak **Benchmarks bleed**

Markets tumble nearly 1%; Sensex sinks below 78k



Î

+0.69%

TATA MOTO

HSBC downgrades

stocks to 'neutral'

SBC cut its rating on Indian

equities to neutral Thursday,

joining a growing list of global

brokerages that have tempered

their bets on Asia's third-largest

economy on slowing growth

and elevated valuations. The

target for the BSE Sensex by

5% to 85.990. That implies a

which was trading at 77,700

valuations have capped the

levels Thursday. The cyclical

growth slowdown and elevated

upside in the near term... (and)

we see muted market returns

Last year. Goldman Sachs and

Bernstein Ouants downgraded

in 2025. HSBC said in a note.

brokerage slashed its end-2025

10% upside for the benchmark.

4

-1.86%

-1.78%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ASIAN PAINTS

Mumbai, Jan 9: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent Thursday due to heavy selling in market heavyweights HDFC Bank. TCS and Reliance as investors turned nervous over earnings growth concerns amid unabated foreign capital outflows.

Besides, abysmally low Chinese inflation data, an indication of poor demand, and a sell-off in US bonds added to the pressure, traders said.

Sliding for the second straight day, the 30-share benchmark dropped 528.28 points or 0.68 per cent to sink below the 78,000 level at 77,620.21. During the day, it tanked 605.57 points or 0.77 per cent to 77,542.92. The NSE Nifty slumped 162.45 points or 0.69 per cent to 23,526.50.

From the 30-share Sensex blue-chip pack, Tata Steel, Zomato, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank and NTPC were the major laggards.

Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers.

Systematic investment plans cross ₹26K-cr mark for 1st time in Dec

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 9: Monthly systematic investment plans (SIPs) surpassed the ₹26,000 crore mark for the first time in the month of December. showcasing that small investors continue to rely on mutual funds for long-term investments, as per the data released by the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI) Thursday.

The SIP contribution during the last month stood at ₹26,459 crore compared to 25,320 crore in November.

As per earlier reports, there was a massive 233 per cent growth (year-on-year) in overall net inflows in SIPs in India last year, as the Indian economy remains resilient amid rough geo-political conditions.

According to Ashwini Kumar from credit ratings agency ICRA Analytics, with the structural growth story of the Indian economy remaining intact and India a bright spot in the global

Equity mutual fund inflows surge over 14%

A ctively managed equity mutual fund inflows saw over 14 per cent monthly growth at ₹41,155.9 crore in the month of December, the data by the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI) showed Thursday. The growth in equity mutual fund inflows came as thematic/sectoral and small-cap funds saw higher investments. The small-cap funds clocked a net inflow of ₹4,667.7 crore in December, while the net inflows stood at ₹4,111.8 crore in the previous month. The mid-cap category saw an inflow of ₹5,093.2 crore in December, from ₹4,883.4 crore in the previous month, as per the AMFI data. Inflows into the sectoral and thematic category rose to ₹15,331.5 crore. Meanwhile, flexi-cap funds saw an inflow of ₹4,730.7 crore, while multi-cap funds recorded inflows worth ₹5,084.1 crore. Inflows from new fund offers accounted for inflow of ₹13,643 crore last month. Passive fund category saw the most number of new find offering (NFO) launches. NFOs brought a total of ₹4,052-crore inflow into the industry last month. Indian mutual fund industry's assets under management (AUM) saw significant growth over the last decade, as it increased by a whopping 524 per cent to 68.08 lakh crore in November 2024 from 10.9 lakh crore in November 2014. The AUM growth in B-30 (Beyond 30 cities) outpaced the top-30 cities during this period. The mutual fund industry's AUM has increased by more than ₹37 lakh crore in the last four years.



Investor confidence on mutual funds are an efficient tool for investments continue to remain strong

MANISH MEHTA | NATIONAL HEAD FOR SALES, MARKETING AND DIGITAL BUSINESS, KOTAK MAHINDRA AMC

economy, the domestic mutual fund industry is expected to witness multi-fold growth in the coming years.

The surge in SIP comes at a time when equity market performance was subdued last month. Both the Sensex and Nifty were down 2.08 per cent and 2.02 per cent in December.

A record 42,76,207 investors joined the Indian stock mar-



SAFE-HAVEN



growth in overall net nflows in SIPs last year MF folio surged to 22.50cr in Dec, from

22.02cr in last month ket in November, according to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) data. In the July-Septem-

ber period this year, a total of 1,60,06,447 (over 1.6 crore) people joined the stock market, as India's equity markets soared to record highs.

The stock exchange also informed that till December 23 this year, the total number of registered investors stood at 21,02,25,329 (over 21.02 crore).

Spot gold inched up 0.1% to \$2,663.34 per ounce, as of 0926 GMT. US gold futures rose 0.3% to \$2,679.60. "Safe haven demand is modestly supporting gold. offsetting downside pressure coming from a stronger dollar and higher rates," UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

The dollar index hovered near one-week high, making gold less appealing for other currency holders, while Treasury yield stayed near eight-month peaks.

Gold hit a near four-week high Wednesday after a weak er-than-expected US private employment report hinted that the Fed may be less cautious about easing rates this year.

Government of Odisha, "e"-Procurement Notice
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : <u>eiccivil.nirmansoudha@gmail.com</u>
SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR INVITING
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP identification No. : 02/2024-25
1. The Engineer-in-Chief (Civil-cum-Roads), Odisha on behalf
of Governor of Odisha invites Request for proposal (RFP)
in double cover for consultancy firm as mentioned below :
2. Nature of work : RFP
3. No. of work : 1 No.
4. Cost of RFP document : Rs. 10,000.00 5. Available of RFP document : From 05.00 P.M. of
in the website 10.01.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of
27.01.2025
6. Date of opening of RFP : Dt. 27.01.2025 at 5.30 P.M.
7. The applicants have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the website : https://
tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum /
cancellation of RFP can also be seen in the said website.
Sd./- Engineer-In-Chief
OIPR-34181/11/0006/2425 (Civil-Cum-Roads), Odisha
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

TCS Q3 profit zooms

Mumbai: India's largest IT services company TCS

59 units sold for ₹4,754cr in 2024 despite rising prices

L&T head suggests 90-hour work week



Ultra luxury homes demand at all-time high HNIs (High-net-worth Individual) and ultra-HNIs are purchasing these trophy residences for personal use, investment, or both

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR No. Tender-Online-BBSR Divn.-27, Date:-04.01.2025

Ph.No.-0674-2301787, Fax No.-0674-2300965, E.Mail I.D.-eerw_bbsr@yahoo.co.in e-Procurement Notice

No.O-1187:1.Name of the Work: Repair/Maintenance of Road Work. 2. Total No. of Road : 15 Nos. of Roads. 3. Class of Contractor: a) Above Rs.20 Lakh and upto 3 Crore : 'B' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other licensing authorities. b) Upto Rs.40.00 Lakh : 'C' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other rities. c) Upto Rs.20.00 Lakh; 'D' C authorities. 4. Estimate Cost of Individual Project: Rs.6.00 Lakh to 33.00 Lakh. 5. Time of Completion: 2 (Two) Calendar Months. 6. Other details

Indian stocks, citing a slowdown in economic and corporate activity. India. in January. forecast an annual growth of 6.4% in the financial year ending in March, the slowest in four vears, dragged by a weaker manufacturing sector and slower corporate investments.

The BSE benchmark declined 50.62 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at 78,148.49 Wednesday. The Nifty skidded 18.95 points or 0.08 per cent to 23 688 95

Thursday reported an 11.95 per cent jump in net profit at ₹12,380 crore in the December quarter while the overall workforce reduced by over 5,000 employees. The Tata Group company had reported a net profit of ₹11,058 crore in the year-ago period, and ₹11,909 crore in the preceding September quarter. The company's revenue grew 5.6 per cent to ₹63,973 crore as against ₹60.583 crore a vear earlier. However, it was down from ₹64,259 crore in the September quarter.

New Delhi, Jan 9: Demand for super luxury homes, each prices above ₹40 crore, hit an all time high in 2024 with sales of 59 units for ₹4,754 crore across top seven primary and secondary housing markets, according to Anarock.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Real estate consultant Anarock data showed that ultra-luxury homes (priced above ₹40 crore each) continued to sell briskly in 2024, despite rising prices.

Anarock tracks seven major cities -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai and Kolkata.



The number of sales as well as the sales value of such assets hit new peaks, it added.

Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said, "Overall, 59 ultra-luxury homes were sold across the top 7 cities in 2024, for a collective sales value of approx. ₹4,754 crore." Out of the total 59 units sold, there were 53 apartments and 6 villas. In contrast, he said the year 2023 saw 58 ultra-luxury homes ANUJ PURI CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK

(53 apartments and 5 villas) sold in these cities for a total sales value of ₹4.063 crore. "The vearly increase in both the number of deals and their overall sales value underscores the enduring demand for ultra-luxury properties across the top cities," Puri said.

Of at least 59 ultra-luxury properties sold across the top 7 cities in 2024. Mumbai saw 52 units sold at price tags of over INR 40 crore each, followed by three in Delhi-NCR. Both Bangalore and Hyderabad saw two deals each.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identifica- tion No.			Date & Time of Opening of Tender		
		From	То			
1	2	3	4	5		
Superintending Engineer, Rural	Tender Online-	09.01.2025 at	17.01.2025	18.01.2025		
Works Division, Bhubaneswar	BBSR Divn27	11.00 A.M.	upto 5.00 P.M.	at 11.00 A.M.		
Further details can be seen from the website www tendersorissa gov in						

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Divn. BBSR OIPR-25189/11/0025/2425



India Post Payments Bank

(A Government of India Undertaking) Corporate Office, Speed Post Centre Building, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi - 110001

RECRUITMENT OF VACANCIES IN SCALE III, V, VI & VII

Advt. No.: IPPB/CO/HR/RECT./2024-25/05

Applications are invited for appointment to the following positions: (a) Details of number of regular vacancies (tentative) including backlog reserved vacancies:

Casla	Designations	No. of	Va	cancy reserved for			
Scale	Designations	Posts	UR	OBC	EWS	sc	ST
VI	DGM-Finance/CFO	1	-	1	~	-	-
VII	General Manager - Finance/CFO	L L	1	-	-	-	-
v	Assistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management)	1	-	1	-	-	-
III	Senior Manager (Products & solutions)	2	-	1	-	-	1
III	Senior Manager (Information System Auditor)	1	1	-	-	-	-
	VII V III	VI DGM-Finance/CFO VII General Manager - Finance/CFO V Assistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management) III Senior Manager (Products & solutions) III Senior Manager (Information System	Scale Designations Posts VI DGM-Finance/CFO 1 VII General Manager - Finance/CFO 1 V Assistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management) 1 III Senior Manager (Products & solutions) 2 III Senior Manager (Information System 1	Scale Designations Posts VI DGM-Finance/CFO 1 VII General Manager - Finance/CFO 1 V Assistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management) 1 III Senior Manager (Products & solutions) 2 III Senior Manager (Information System 1	ScaleDesignationsNormalizationVIDGM-Finance/CFO10BCVIIGeneral Manager - Finance/CFO11VAssistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management)1-1IIISenior Manager (Products & solutions)2-1IIISenior Manager (Information System11-	ScaleDesignationsNorth PostsUROBCEWSVIDGM-Finance/CFO1-1-1-VIIGeneral Manager - Finance/CFO111VAssistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management)1-1-1-IIISenior Manager (Products & solutions)2-1IIISenior Manager (Information System11	ScaleDesignationsPostsUROBCEWSSCVIDGM-Finance/CFO1-1VIIGeneral Manager - Finance/CFO11VAssistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management)11-1-IIISenior Manager (Products & solutions)2-1IIISenior Manager (Information System11

Dent		No. ofVacancy reserved fVacanciesUROBCEWSSC		ved fo	or		
Dept.	Post/Designation			OBC	EWS	SC	ST
Compliance	Chief Compliance Officer	1	-	1	-	-	-
Operation	Chief Operating Officer	1	-	-	-	1	-
	eservation is applicable for Persons with D of India norms.	isability (mii	nimuı	m 40%	Disabi	lity) a	ıs per
IMDODTAN	TDATEC.						

IMPORTANT DATES:

(i)	Opening date for On-line Registration of Applications	10.01.2025: 10.00 AM
(ii)	Last date of On-line Submission of Applications with Fee	30.01.2025: 11.59 PM
For htt	detailed advertisement, please visit or os://ippbonline.com/web/ippb/current-openings	ur official website
Plac	e: New Delhi :: 10.01.2025	Sd./- Chief HR Officer
Dui		CBC 06346/12/0013/2425

WORK-LIFE BALANCE DEBATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman SN Subrahmanyan sparked an online outrage with his comments advocating a 90-hour work week and suggesting that employees should even give up Sundays.

"How long can you stare at your wife," he is heard saying in a purported video address to employees where he urged them to spend less time at home and more in the office.

His remarks reignited the work-life balance debate, first triggered by Infosys Co-Founder Narayana Murthy's suggestion of a 70-hour work week.

"I regret I am not able to make you work on Sundays. If I can make you work on Sundays, I will be more happy, because I work on Sundays," Subrahmanyan is heard saying in an undated video circulating on social media. "What do you do sitting at home? How

long can you stare at your wife? How long can the wives stare at their husbands? Come on, get to the office and start working," he further said.

His comments drew

criticism on social media with some asking how long could "employees

stare at screens and fat***

manag-

is-

ers?" Soon after, L&T

What do you do sitting at home? How long can

you stare at your wife? How long can the wives stare at their husbands? Come on, get to the office and start working

SN SUBRAHMANYAN | CHAIRMAN, L&T

sued a clarification saying the chairman's remarks were in the context of extraordinary efforts required for achieving extraordinary outcomes for the nation.

'We believe this is India's decade, a time demanding collective dedication and effort to drive progress and realise our shared vision of becoming a developed nation. The chairman's remarks reflect this larger ambition, emphasising that extraordinary effort," L&T spokesperstatement

The video went viral quickly, attracting some nasty comments as well. "Another CEO promoting slavery shamelessly," one person commented.

Some questioned why highly paid CEOs with different job pressures expect the same level of commitment from less-paid employees.

Subrahmanvan's comments reignited the work-life balance debate that came into limelight in July last year following the death of a 26-year-old EY consultant.

Infosys Co-Founder Murthy, too, had a few months back advocated a 70-hour work week. "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world... my request is that our youngsters must say. 'this is my country, I want to work 70 hours a week'," Murthy had said.

Last month, billionaire Gautam Adani had also waded into the work-life balance debate when he said the spouse will leave if one was to spend eight hours with the family.

said

in a brief

son

PORTS

Cases involving top rankers Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek raise questions OFCW prepares to AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2025 Doping a hot topic begin title defence POST NEWS NETWORK



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Jan 9: It is a topic that shadowed tennis in 2024 and is still a talking point as the 2025 Grand Slam season opens at the Australian Open Sunday: doping and the cases involving Jannik Sinner — which actually is still not fully resolved and Iga Swiatek.

OrissaPO5

FRIDAY | JANUARY 10, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Both spent much of last year at No 1, and Sinner still will hold that spot in the ATP rankings when he steps on court at Melbourne Park to begin the defense of his championship, one of two major trophies he won over the past 12 months.

Swiatek, a five-time Slam champ and the woman leading the WTA rankings most of the past three seasons, is currently No 2 behind Arvna Sabalenka. who will be chasing her third consecutive title in Australia.

"Obviously, there are going to be some negative comments," Swiatek said. "You're not going to avoid that.'

Most current players prefer to remain silent when asked about the cases. But there are those who have been happy to weigh in, including 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic, raising questions about whether Sinner and Swiatek were treated the same as other

SHORT TAKES

Nagal, Machac to clash

Melbourne: India's highest-ranked singles tennis player Sumit Nagal will take on Tomas Machac of the Czech Republic in the opening round of the Australian Open, beginning here Sunday. The 27-year-old Nagal, currently 96th on the ATP, made it to the main draw of the season-opening Grand Slam by virtue of being among the 104 highest-ranked players in the world. The player from Haryana, then ranked 137th, had scored a stunning straight-sets win over No 27 Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik in the opening round of the Australiar Open last year before going down to China's Juncheng Shang. Nagal was in the news recently for once again refusing to play for the country in the Davis Cup.

players facing similar circumstances and why their situations were kept under wraps for months.

"I sit and wonder, Why such a big difference in treatment and judgment?" was two-time major champion Simona Halep's reaction to Swiatek's punishment. "I can't find, and I don't think there can be, a logical answer.

Halep initially was banned for four years after testing positive for the banned drug Roxadustat at the 2022 US Open, then had that penalty reduced to nine months on appeal - although she already had been off the tour longer than that. She was supposed to compete at Melbourne Park for the first time in three years, but withdrew from qualifying because

of knee and shoulder pain. No one has been louder about the subject lately than Nick Kyrgios, the 2022 Wimbledon runner-up who missed nearly all of the past two seasons because of injuries. He has been commenting regularly, in real life and online, even taking a jab (that he said was in jest) at Cruz Hewitt after the 16-yearold son of Australian Davis Cup captain Llevton posted a photo with Sinner from a practice session.

"It's been handled horrifical-



ly in our sport. Two world No 1s, both getting done for doping, is disgusting for our sport, Kyrgios said at the Brisbane International, the first event of his comeback. "It's a horrible look. Where do things stand with

Sinner's positive drug tests? Sinner was the dominant

player in men's tennis last year, and there's little reason to think that won't continue. In 2024, he went 73-6 with eight titles, including at the US Open, and led Italy to the Davis Cup. He heads into the Australian Open on a 14-match winning streak.

Hanging over it all is this: Two positive tests for a trace amount of an anabolic steroid in March were made public in August; the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) determined he shouldn't be suspended because the exposure to Clostebol was considered accidental — the result of a massage from a trainer who used the substance after cutting

his own finger The World Anti-Doping Agency was not entirely convinced about the exoneration and thinks a ban of one to two vears would be appropriate. Its appeal, lodged in September, is still pending, and a final determination is expected after the Australian Open ends. "It's in (my) head a little bit."

Sinner said, adding that he is confident everything will go

his way. What happened with Swiatek's failed doping test?

Swiatek accepted a onemonth suspension in late November after testing positive for a banned heart medication known as TMZ. She failed an out-of-competition test in August, and the ITIA accepted her explanation that it was caused by the contamination of a nonprescription medication, melatonin, that Swiatek was taking for jet lag and sleeping issues.

She missed three tournaments — although the real reason wasn't revealed at the time — and finished serving her punishment after the season was done.

"This whole process was pretty abstract sometimes and hard to understand," Swiatek said, surely speaking for many observers.

Which is why, perhaps, Dutch captain Paul Haarhuis said what he did after his team lost to Sinner's Italy in the Davis Cup finals.

"Jannik, in my personal opinion, is an unbelievably nice guy (and) great player, Haarhuis said, "but we (might) never know what happened."



vorites to lift the title and could set the tone for the season.

The team made history by qualifying for the AFC Women's Champions League within just two years of their inception. Their journey included hard-fought victories against champions from Singapore and Jordan, securing a spot in the AFC tournament group stage. Despite their efforts, OFCW

faced tough competition in the AFC Women's Champions League 2024-25, where they finished the group stage in the last place without registering a point.

INAUGURAL KHO KHO WC Prateek, Priyanka set to lead Indian contingents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: Prateek Waikar will captain the men's team, while Priyanka Ingle will lead the women's side as hosts India unveiled its squads for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup, set to begin here January 13.

The tournament will be held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium from January 13 to 19. The Indian men's team will face Ne pal on the opening day, while the women's side will take on South Korea January 14.

In addition to Prateek and Priyanka's leadership roles, Sumit Bhatia will serve as head coach for the women's team, while Ashwani Kumar will mentor the men's squad.



Satwik-Chirag enter quarters, Prannoy loses MALAYSIA **OPEN**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in Kozhikode, Kerala.

IWL 2023-24 season, finishing

at the top of the table with 31

points from 12 matches. The Ka-

linga Warriors recorded an im-

pressive 10 wins and one draw.

breaking Gokulam Kerala FC's

stranglehold on the league.

Gokulam, with 29 points, had

While Odisha FC enters the

match as the defending cham-

pions, Gokulam Kerala FC re-

mains a formidable opponent.

With four IWL titles to their

name. Gokulam Kerala is his-

torically the most successful

team in Indian women's foot-

ball. This opening clash will be

a crucial one between two fa-

to settle for the second place.

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 9: Star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty cruised to the quarterfinals while HS Prannoy's valiant fight ended in a narrow second round loss at the Ma laysia Super 1000 badminton tournament here Thursday.

Satwik and Chirag defeated the Malaysian combine of N Azrivn and Tan WK 21-15 21-15 in 43 minutes in the round of 16. The seventh seed Indian pair will now take on local favour-

ites Yew Sin Ong and Ee Yi Teo in the quarterfinals. Prannoy, on the other hand,

went down 8-21, 21-15, 21-23 to China's Li Shi Feng in the



number five third seed Han Yue of China in the women's round of 16. The unseeded Indian lost 18-21 11-21.

The women's doubles pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a 21-15, 19-21, 19-21 defeat to China's Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in their round of 16 match.

In the mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto who had reached the final of the Syed Modi Super 300 International Tournament, went down 13-21, 20-22 to China's seventh seed Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi in 44 minutes.

The other Indian mixed dou bles pair of Sathish Karuna karan and Aadya Variyath also went down 10-21 17-21 to the fourth seed Malaysian combine of Soon Huar Goh and Shevon Jemie Lai.

Kalinga Lancers beat Gonasika The team climb to third in points table









Bhambri-Olivetti in semis

New Delhi: India's Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti made a strong comeback after losing the first set to stun third seeds Julian Cash and Llvod Glaspool, and advance to the semifinals of the ASB Classic. an ATP250 event, in Auckland Thursday. The unseeded pair of Bhambri and Olivetti edged past the third seed British pair 3-6 6-4 12-10 in one hour and 21 minutes.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Jan 9: Vedanta Kalinga Lancers secured their second successive win of the season beating Team Gonasika 2-1 in their Hero Hockey India League match here Thursday

Antoine Kina (28) and Aran Zalewski (33) scored for the Kalinga Lancers while SV Sunil (14) scored Gonasika's solitary goal.

The deadlock between the two teams was broken in the 14th minute by Sunil. From a free hit, the ball was played

to Jack Waller who squared it across goal. Sunil was at the right place to sweep the ball past Krishan Bahadur Pathak in goal.

The Lancers deservedly levelled the score in the 28th minute through Antoine Kina. Kalinga defence failed

to clear the ball away from their circle with Kina eventually winning possession before unleashing an unstoppable hit past Payne.

The home side took the lead in the 33rd minute thanks to a well-taken goal by captain Aran Zalewski.

Hendrickx played the ball inside the circle which was deflected towards goal by Zalewski. Goalkeeper Suraj Karkera's vision was impeded by three players in front of him as the ball sneaked past him into goal.

The fourth quarter was a cagey affair as the Lancers held firm in defence even as Gonasika struggled to create any decent chances.

The win sees the Lancers move up to third place in the league standings with seven points. Gonasika, meanwhile, are in seventh place with four points.

IT'S OUR LIFE. WE LIVE IT LARGE.

ODISHA KA NAME HAI LARGE, HUMAARA GAME HAI ARGE.

OFC, Chennaiyin clash ends in draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Jan 9: Wilmar Jordan Gil scored a brace but Chennaiyin FC couldn't hold on to the two-goal advantage as Odisha FC came from behind to pick up a 2-2 draw in the Indian Super League here Thursday.

The Marina Machans had secured a two-goal lead with Wilmar Jordan Gil striking twice within a short interval in the second-half, before the Juggernauts netted a couple of times late into the game to settle for a point.

This is the fourth time Chennaiyin FC have dropped points from winning position this season and the third time on their home turf.

Chennaiyin FC encountered their first goal-scoring opportunity of the match in the 16th minute through an ambitious effort by Lukas Brambilla from the outside of the 18-yard box. The Marina Machans returned to threaten the goal, this time from a set-piece in the 30th minute.

The home side got a foot ahead to



kick off the second half on a high, which came as a result of an inefficient Odisha FC build-up. Goalkeeper Amrinder Singh passed the ball to Lalthathanga Khawlhring, who couldn't control the ball properly.

Connor Shields pressed and recovered possession, before barging into the box on the right flank. Shields made a smart low cross for Gil, who timed his run perfectly and tapped the ball in to break the deadlock three minutes into the second essay of the game.

The duo returned to strike back at Odisha FC in the 53rd minute.

The Juggernauts had a brief passage of play where they came back into the game 16 minutes later. It was a culmination of the individual brilliance of Diego Mauricio, who burst with pace inside the box and shot firmly into the centre of the net from his left foot. His shot was however met by Dori, who ended up having contact with the ball before it hit home, resulting in the goal being named in his favour with Mauricio getting the assist.

That opened the floodgates for a late onslaught by Odisha FC, as they gathered momentum to push Chennaiyin FC behind and outnumber them inside the box.

The Juggernauts ended up overwhelming a vulnerable defence of the home side, with Mauricio and Rahul KP scrambling to find the back of the net from close range. Rahul's right footed shot hit the right post, but goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz had the final touch before the ball smashed the net. resulting in an own goal in the custodian's name.

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Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159







