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## ROY GUILTY IN RG KAR MURDER CASE



Police personnel keep vigil as Sanjay Roy, accused in the alleged rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, is brought to the Sealadah court in police vehicle on the day of the verdict, in Kolkata. PTI

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

**A** Kolkata Sessions Court on Saturday held prime accused Sanjay Roy guilty in the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case. The quantum of punishment will be pronounced on Monday, District and Sessions Judge of Sealadah Court Anirban Das told Roy in a 12-minute hearing, adding that he had been held guilty in the case and could be condemned to death or imprisonment for life. Roy was convicted of rape under Section 64 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and murder under Sections 66 and 103(1). The body of the victim, a 31-year-old postgraduate lady doctor working in the Chest Medicine Department of the RGMCH who was brutally raped and murdered, was discovered inside the seminar room of the said hospital in the wee hours of August 9 last year, triggering nationwide protests. Subsequently, on the basis of

the CCTV footage, the Kolkata Police on August 10 arrested Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer with the police. He was seen entering the seminar hall and coming out of it after about half an hour. The judgment was delivered 57 days after the trial commenced in-camera on November 12, during which 50 witnesses were examined. The hearing in the case concluded on January 9. "When the Court held Sanjay Roy guilty of the crime of rape and murder, he continued to call himself innocent and a victim of conspiracy. The honorable Sessions Judge told him that he had been found guilty of the crime which could invite capital punishment like death or life imprisonment... the quantum of punishment shall be given on Monday when the Judge will also hear out the victim," the advocate of the victim's family said, adding that justice will not be fully complete until other people who might have been involved in the case were punished.

"Though the copy of the judgment is likely to be uploaded on Monday," the Court did not seem fully satisfied with the investigation as "it often raised the issues of lacuna and loopholes in the process of investigation... we will have to see whether these things find place in the judgment or not," the advocate said. The parents of the victim also held the same opinion, wondering why the administration would not go after the masterminds of the crime. "We have 20 questions that are yet unanswered. Let the agencies, be it the CBI or the state police answer them," said the mother of the victim, partially welcoming the judgment. The mother of an only child, she said, "Sanjay's guilt was proved through biological evidence. He is only one person but not the only person who has killed my daughter. The entire medical fraternity, the entire hospital says so, the truth is known to every brick, every wall of the

hospital, and the names of the real accused are being discussed but why it was not taken up judicially is not known to us. There are others who haven't been arrested yet. So, justice hasn't been fully delivered. We are people of humble background and have nothing to lose so we will continue our fight for justice till the last day of our life." The father of the victim, who had on Friday held the Mamata Banerjee government guilty of brushing the case under the carpet again, said, "I have many questions. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee herself kept awake the whole night and supervised the investigation. Where was a need for her to do so? The investigation was nothing but an act of erasing evidence. The police destroyed evidence, which finally led to the other culprits either not getting arrested or two others getting bail. The entire medical fraternity knows that this rape and murder is not the work of only one person." Dr Utpal, a senior doctor who had been in the forefront of the movement, wondered why the investigating agencies had preferred to ignore forensic reports. "What about the four DNA imprints that were found on the person of the victim. What about the forensic experts' comment that the murder might not have taken place at the place where the body of the victim was found. Why did the agencies not take into account the telephonic conversations that had taken place between the top police officers and some top political persons of the State."

## In another first, poll freebie for Delhi tenants

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

**A** few days after casting aspersions on the residents of Bihar and eastern UP by claiming that the BJP had faked voter lists in the names of Poorvanchalis, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday attempted to assuage the mollification directed at the one-third chunk of electors in Delhi. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal promised a freebie guarantee for tenants, allowing them free electricity and water if re-elected to power, stating that the move would benefit the Poorvanchali brethren. "We will ensure that after the elections, tenants, many of whom belong to the Purvanchal region, will also enjoy the benefits of free electricity and water," the former Delhi CM said. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal stated that tenants have been unable to access the free electricity and water scheme for several reasons. He emphasized that tenants are also part of Delhi's population, and the AAP will extend these benefits to them. The announcement comes as the Aam Aadmi Party ramps up its campaign for the Delhi assembly elections slated for February 5. "Wherever I go, I meet people living on rent who say they benefit from good schools and hospitals but are deprived of free electricity and water schemes. Across Delhi, we have provided free electricity and water to residents. However, it is unfortunate that tenants do not get these benefits. Today, I want to announce that after the elections, if our government is formed, we will introduce a system ensuring tenants also receive free electricity and water," Kejriwal said. The ruling AAP has proposed freebies including the Mahila Samman Yojana, Sanjeevani Yojana, free metro, free scholarships to Dalit students, salaries for pujaris and granthis, free metro rides for students, waivers in water bills, and funds for residents' welfare associations to recruit security guards,



Photo: PTI

adding to its existing schemes and programs such as revamped government schools, mohalla clinics, and free electricity that the AAP government offers to citizens in Delhi. In competition, the BJP, in its manifesto released on January 17, announced several aids, keeping women at the center of its poll pitch. The manifesto emphasizes women and promises Rs 2,500 monthly aid under the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana.' The BJP, in its manifesto, also announced Rs 21,000 and six nutrition kits for every pregnant woman under the 'Chief Minister Matritva Suraksha Yojana.' The party has also promised LPG cylinders at Rs 500 for the poor, with one free cylinder on Holi and Diwali.

## Kejriwal car convoy attack; AAP, BJP exchange blows



Photo: PTI

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

**W**ith campaigning for the Delhi Assembly elections heating up, claims and counterclaims erupted between AAP and BJP as the former alleged that AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal's car was pelted with stones in New Delhi constituency on Saturday. However, BJP leader and New Delhi candidate Parvish Verma refuted AAP's allegations, saying the AAP chief's car hit three youths who had been protesting against him. Verma claimed it was Kejriwal who asked the driver of the car to crush them. "Fearing defeat, BJP panicked, got its

goons to attack Arvind Kejriwal," the AAP, which has been ruling Delhi since 2013, posted on X within minutes of the attack on its leader. The AAP convener also said the Delhi Police on Saturday stopped the screening of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) documentary Unbreakable on January 18, citing non-compliance with election guidelines. AAP convener and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using the Delhi Police to stop the screening. However, the Delhi Police denied these allegations. The Delhi Police said that "no permission" was taken for the screening of the documentary. The police emphasized that political parties must apply for permission for such events through a single-window system at the District Election Officer's (DEO) office. It further added that such permission could not be granted or rejected by the police at this time. The documentary Unbreakable, which explores AAP's journey during Kejriwal's leadership and the party's activities during and after his imprisonment, was scheduled to be screened at Pyarelal Bhawan, ITO, at 11:30 AM.

## Odisha to turn developed State by 2036



■ Says CM Majhi  
■ 'Singapore Prez's visit has opened up investment opportunities'

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

**C**hief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday described the two-day visit of Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to Odisha as a great event and claimed that it has opened greater opportunities of the State's economic ties with that country. Noting down that at least eight MoUs were signed between Odisha and Singapore during the visit of the Shanmugaratnam for making

collaborative efforts to develop various sectors, Majhi said Singapore's support and cooperation would help Odisha emerge as a developed State by 2036. "We have a goal to make Odisha a prosperous state by 2036 when the state will celebrate its centenary year. Similarly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to see that India fully develops or Viksit Bharat by 2047 when it will be celebrating 100th year of its Independence. I'm pretty

sure that Odisha will very soon emerge as one of the fifth developed provinces and play India's growth engine," Majhi said. The CM, while claiming that his government had fulfilled many of the Bharatiya Janata Party's pre-poll promises, claimed, "There is also a strong possibility that we can also cross the Rs 5 lakh-crore investment target." Majhi took a swipe at the previous Biju Janata Dal government headed by Naveen Patnaik, saying it had left Odisha in a state of "inaction" and "underdevelopment".

## Cold wave to continue for 5 days in State

Mercury dips in Twin City  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

**C**old wave conditions returned to most districts of Odisha on Friday night with a steep fall in temperature, throwing normal life out of gear. There would be no respite from the cold as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated in its forecast that the conditions would continue for at least subsequent four to five days. Notably, cold wave conditions gripped the State capital region from the intervening night of Thursday and Friday when the mercury levels plummeted sharply. Bhubaneswar recorded a fall in temperatures by 3.2 degrees Celsius over one day and reeled at 12.3 degrees. Cuttack experienced a 2-degree temperature drop and shivered at 12.4 degrees Celsius. The steep temperature drop was also accompanied by cold winds from the north-west, which further intensified the chilly conditions. Weather situations under



the impact of the cold wave were also aggravated by persistent dense fog conditions across many interior districts. Koraput recorded a thick layer of fog where visibility fell below 20 meters. Phulbani also witnessed dense fog conditions with visibility between 50 and 200 meters. As per the forecast of the IMD, there would be no large change in the minimum temperature across most districts of the State for the next four to five days. The Regional Office of the IMD here also issued shallow to moderate fog warnings for parts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Cuttack, Khordha, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh and Jharsuguda districts, which would remain valid until the morning of January 20.

## Twist in Naba Das murder Forensic report says multiple firearms used

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

**S**ome sensational new revelations have come to light in the ongoing investigation into the assassination of former BJD Minister Naba Das. Forensic reports have indicated that multiple firearms were used during the crime, raising suspicion of the involvement of more shooters apart from accused Gopal Das. According to the State Forensic Science Laboratory's report from the crime scene, one bullet struck the minister while five bullets were found to have hit an accompanying government Innova SUV. This finding challenges earlier assumptions that implicated only one suspect, Gopal Das, suggesting potential involvement of more persons in the murder plot. Defence lawyer Naresh Nayak has speculated about the possible involvement of a sniper, due to the precise nature of the attack. On January 29, 2023, according to the



chargesheet filed by the Crime Branch, Naba Das was en route to Brajarajnagar Gandhi Chowk, travelling in two separate vehicles. Das was in the leading car, with his aides following in another. During the investigation, authorities discovered a magazine with 18 bullets and three unfired rounds from Gopal Das. This situation report claims that of the six bullets, three were retrieved unfired, one hit Naba Das in the chest, another was not discharged, and the last fired into the air. However, forensic findings contrast with this account, especially regarding the second vehicle, a white Toyota

Innova, found with five bullet holes. The absence of shell casings for bullets that hit the second vehicle raises further queries about the trajectory and origin of the shots. The firearm responsible for the bullet that struck Naba Das remains undetermined, fuelling further intrigue around Gopal Das' involvement and beyond. While the bullets found align with Gopal Das' weapon, the source of the bullet that fatally wounded Naba Das is still uncertain. The investigation continues to probe deeper into these developments, aiming to uncover all involved in this high-profile case.

## 4 lakh taxpayers avail ration cards in State

■ Minister slams previous BJD govt, orders probe  
Initiates eKYC for verification

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

**I**n a startling revelation, taxpayers in Odisha have ration cards! Minister for Food and Supplies Krishna Chandra Patra on Saturday informed that approximately 4 lakh people in the State, who regularly file income tax returns, appear to be disproportionately benefiting from ration distribution schemes, which are meant for those in genuine need. The minister said instructions have been issued to officers

to verify such facts after field verification. This step is intended to ascertain the veracity of these records to ensure that ration benefits only reach the truly-deserving people. "Everything was possible in the previous government's tenure for which ration cards were issued to those they wanted," said minister Patra. Once the reports are corroborated, appropriate measures would be enforced to rectify any exploitation of the ration card system, he said. The government faces a



mounting pressure to implement systemic checks to protect the interests of those genuinely in need. More than 4.1 million applicants are in the process of completing their electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC) updates as part of a ration card verification drive. Authorities hope that once the eKYC procedures are finalised, they will be able to identify 'ghost' ration card beneficiaries who do not qualify but are receiving benefits. The portal would open for receiving new applications once the eKYC process is completed. Only after the eKYC verification is completed, the actual number of ghost ration card holders would be known, the minister added.

## In BBSR 1 dead, 4 hurt as drunk driver hits multiple bikes

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

**A** person was killed and four others, including three bikers, were critically injured in a multi-vehicle accident at Raj Bhavan Square in Bhubaneswar on Saturday evening. The tr accident occurred when a speeding car collided with a motorbike. The impact sent the car veering into another bike before it ascended the central pavement. The injured were shifted to the Capital Hospital, where they were currently receiving intensive care. Hundreds of vehicles on both sides of the road were



stranded for some time due to the accident, which was so severe that some parts of the barricades at the pavement square were damaged. Police personnel cordoned

off the area to ensure safety and investigate into the cause of the accident. It is suspected that the driver of the car might have lost control as he was allegedly

in an inebriated condition. However, as per police sources, the exact cause of the accident could be ascertained following a detailed investigation.

# Make Odisha dowry-free: Dy CM to SDMs

Emphasises need for grassroots awareness

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Termining dowry as a social stigma, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Friday asked Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to strictly enforce the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 to make Odisha a dowry-free State.



Parida, who is in charge of the Women and Child Development Department, issued the instruction to the Sub-Collectors or SDMs, who are designated as Dowry Prohibition Officers, in a meeting here on implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

Parida said dowry is not a tradition, not a culture or a personal matter but a social stigma. Even after 60 years of the enactment of the Act, dowry tradition still prevails in the society.

She said there is a need for grassroots discussions and debates on the issue under the supervision of the SDMs to make Odisha dowry-free. It is the responsibility of the

# SVNIRTAR-OUTR pact for prosthetics research

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR) and the Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster cutting-edge research in prosthetic limbs and orthotic devices with a strong emphasis on extensive clinical studies and transformative innovations.

The agreement was formalised by Dr Patitapaban Mohanty, Director of SVNIRTAR, and Renuprava Nayak, Registrar of OUTR. This strategic alliance is poised to invigorate the domain of prosthetics and orthotics, paving the way for groundbreaking advancements and impactful contributions to human rehabilitation in the years to come.

# Rs 7-cr ganja seized at city airport

1 held: accused arrived from Bangkok

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Customs Department's Air Intelligence Team foiled another drug smuggling bid and seized hydroponic weed (marijuana) worth Rs 7 crore from a youth at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

The youth, who landed here from Bangkok, has been detained for questioning. This is the third such seizure in January and comes just four days after marijuana (ganja) valued at Rs 4 crore was seized from the checked-in baggage with eight vacuum-packed transparent poly bags with greenish and lumpy substances concealed inside the corn flakes packets of a passenger, who landed her from Bangkok on January 14.

# In Jajpur Schoolboy dies falling from swing

PNS ■ JAJPUR

In a tragic incident, a Class-IV student died after falling from a swing at a primary school in the Tamaka area of Jajpur district on Saturday. It was alleged that the swing was broken.

School under the jurisdiction of Tamka police station in the district. Somyarajan was playing on the swing when he suddenly fell and sustained critical injuries. He was rushed to a hospital at Danagadi, where doctors declared him dead.

# Dy CM's advice on smart meter dispute

'Submit written grievances'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Amidst the growing resentment over the Tata Power's insistence on installing smart meters, Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo on Saturday stated that embracing technological advancements such as smart meters is in alignment with directives from the Government of India.



Singh Deo encouraged those dissatisfied with the new smart meters to submit written grievances. He assured that existing conventional meters would undergo testing to address consumer apprehensions.

plugged in even when mobiles are not charging and neglecting to turn off switches for which current keeps on passing. Such lapses contribute to unnecessary power consumption," said the minister while urging public to adopt efficient electricity usage to mitigate wastage.

# Deen Dayal Yojana 2.0 in State soon

Action Plan 2025 created to maximise job opportunities

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government has initiated a process to unveil the second phase of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-KGY). This phase aims to enhance the employability of rural youths by developing training and equipping them with essential skills.

Officials from the Panchayati Raj department have announced the creation of an Action Plan 2025 to maximise job opportunities for the youths. A two-day workshop was held on Thursday and Friday, organised in partnership with the Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS). This workshop was integral to shaping a comprehensive strategy for the scheme's implementation.

# NSS adventure camp held at Mahendragiri



Volunteers from 14 universities scale hill

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

20 NSS volunteers from 14 universities across Odisha successfully completed a six-day State-level adventure camp at Mahendragiri Hill in Gajapati district. The activities among others included scaling the 4,976 ft peak, the second-highest in Odisha.

Geetanjali Dash and other dignitaries praised the volunteers' resilience and leadership. Organized by the NSS Bureau, Berhampur University, the camp exemplified teamwork, adventure, and sustainability, leaving an inspiring legacy for the youth.

# Singapore Prez visits Konark temple

Purchases Pattachitra paintings on Ramayana, Ganesh

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Saturday visited Raghurajpur artists' village and the Sun Temple at Konark in Puri district on the second day of his tour to Odisha.



Accompanied by the First Lady of Singapore, Shanmugaratnam spent more than an hour at the Raghurajpur heritage village and purchased two Pattachitra paintings, one on the theme of Ramayana and another on Lord Ganesh.

The President of Singapore enquired about the history and origin of Pattachitra paintings and asked how we create such artwork," said Prasant Kumar Subudhi, an artist and a member of the Raghurajpur Craftsmen Committee.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan were present on the occasion. The First Lady of Singapore also bought a saree from Kalabhoomi and made the payment through UPI. The President and his wife were served traditional Odia food.

# Vehicles sans insurance Automated system at toll plazas to detect offenders

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to identify and penalise the owners of the vehicles plying without having insurance, the State Government would start an automated system at all toll plazas.

As per the Motor Vehicles Act, insurance coverage is mandatory for all vehicles. Violation of the Act would attract a fine of Rs 2,000 or a jail term up to three months or both. Repeat offences would lead to a fine of Rs 4,000 along with imprisonment.

# State-wide midwinter bird census held

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha on Saturday commenced its comprehensive midwinter bird census, aiming to log both indigenous and migratory bird species across the State.



For the first time, the bird census is being carried out in all the 52 forest divisions in Odisha, marking a significant scale-up in efforts to understand avian biodiversity.

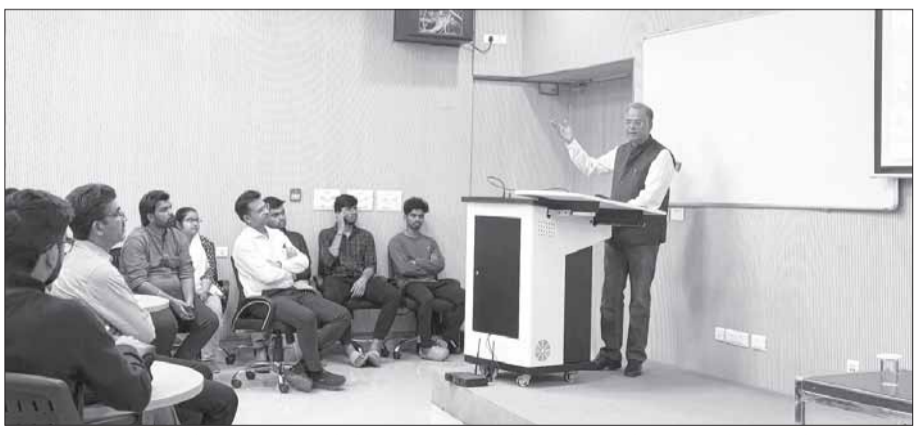
On Thursday, a mock drill had been held to prepare for the census followed by specialised training for experts on Friday. The regions of Chilika Lake, Bhitarkanika National Park and Hirakud Dam are of paramount importance due to their substantial bird populations.

As many as 21 teams are designated for both Chilika and Hirakud while 18 are allocated to Bhitarkanika. Each team comprises an ornithologist, forest personnel and additional members, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

# IIT holds talk on 'Religion, History and Identity'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar organised a talk on 'Religion, History and Identity: The Making of Heritage-Scape of Sacred Cities' by Prof Pralay Kanungo, Leiden University, the Netherlands.



Formerly a Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Prof Pralay Kanungo has rich experience and knowledge in the fields of religion and politics, Hinduism/Public Hinduism, Hindu Nationalism, Urbanity and religion, Indian democracy, social, cultural and political history of Odisha, Hindu diaspora and India-China connection.

Prof Kanungo said, "Heritage is a complex and contested concept with multiple meanings and manifestations. The interplay of religion, history and identity, from ancient to the contemporary, has made up the heritage-scape of cities like Varanasi, Hardwar, Ayodhya and Puri. Religion, in its aspects as performance, spectacle and everyday life-practice, is at the core of this urban configuration. Heritage

of the many sacred cities is Hindu and non-Hindu, Brahmanical and subaltern, natural and built, tangible and intangible, performative and experiential. The discourse of heritage formation reveals how dominant actors and agencies, at different times, used religion, ideology and power to destroy and create heritage, shaping the contours of heritage-scape through myth and event, text and context, rituals and everyday life, erasure and re-invention."

# Cement plant mishap Bodies of 3 missing workers recovered

Plant asked to suspend power plant operations

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

Bodies of three missing workers were found at the Dalmia Cement Company site in Rajgangpur on Saturday after an extensive 36-hour search. The bodies had been buried under the debris following the collapse of a coal hopper.

The victims were identified as Susant Rout, Dasarath Patra and Ranjit Bhola.

Teams from the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force



(ODRAF) and five Fire Service units conducted the rescue operation. Their efforts were monitored by district and senior police officials.

However, the plant authorities have announced compensation for the family of three workers who died when a coal hopper collapsed, trapping

them underneath.

According to Sundargarh Sub-Collector Dasarathi Sarabu, the family of Dasaratha Patra would receive Rs 25 lakh, Rs 10 lakh in insurance, a job at Dalmia Cement, a house in Rajgangpur and the company will bear the educational ex-

penses of his children and further compensation for the other victims' families would be announced soon.

In another development, Dalmia Cement has been directed to suspend operations at its KP power plant due to safety concerns.

"Deputy Director of Factories and Boilers has already ordered the closure of the plant. Subsequently, a prosecution report will be submitted following an inquiry. An expert team will conduct the inquiry for fact-finding. Necessary actions will be taken against the persons who will be found faulty."

# Avg 2 theft cases per night in B'pur police dist in 2024

Entire south Odisha reported increasing incidents

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Southern Odisha is witnessing a surge in thefts and robberies, leaving residents in a state of fear and uncertainty.

Over the past two years, criminal activities have intensified, with thieves targeting locked houses to steal valuables and, in some cases, setting properties ablaze after unsuccessful attempts, causing massive financial losses.

In Brahmapur police district, 758 thefts were reported in 2024 across 13 out of 16 police stations, compared to 739 cases in 2023, averaging two theft cases every night. Additionally, 27 murders were reported in 2024, marginally lower than the 29 recorded in 2023. Ganjam police district saw a rise in thefts, with 812 cases in 2024 compared to 789 in 2023, while the number of murders dropped from 85 in 2023 to 53 in 2024. Kandhamal district recorded 307 thefts in 2024, up from 277 in 2023. Boudha district experienced an increase from 146 thefts in 2023 to 210 in 2024. Gajapati district remained an exception, reporting 119 thefts in 2024 against

121 in 2023. One of the most notable incidents occurred on September 4, 2024, when thieves broke into Om Sai Jewellers on Tatabenj Street under the Baidyanathpur police station in Brahmapur. They stole over Rs 80 lakh worth of gold, silver jewelry, and cash by breaking through the wall. While eight suspects were arrested from Delhi and Lucknow, and the stolen items recovered, many other cases remain unresolved.

On January 3, 2025, in a shocking incident, a gang of thieves attempted to rob Debi Patnaik's house in the Kalinganagar area in the city. When they failed to steal any-

thing, they set the house on fire, causing significant damage. Bike thefts have also surged, contributing to the growing concerns. Reports indicate that 15 percent of the total 4,995 cases registered in Brahmapur police district in 2024 were theft-related.

Despite some arrests in high-profile cases, the lack of significant progress in curbing the activities of organised gangs has raised questions about police efficiency. The rising number of thefts has instilled fear among residents, who are demanding stronger measures, increased vigilance, and quicker action to restore safety and security in the region.

# Odia doctor found murdered in Delhi Woman dietician confesses crime

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An Odia doctor was found dead in his house in New Delhi with a deep cut wound on Thursday. Police have detained a suspect, Sunny Sharma (23), a dietician by profession, they said.

Police sources said the deceased Dr Sambit Mohanty hailed from Cuttack and was a pathologist by profession. DCP South Ankit Chauhan said police received a PCR call regarding a body lying in a house in South Delhi's Chattarpur Enclave area.

# How Odisha will benefit from Singapore Prez's visit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam will be on a two-day visit to Odisha starting Friday. During his visit, at least eight MoUs will be signed between the island country and the coastal State.

Accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, MPs, and officials, the Singapore President's visit is timed just days ahead of the business conference 'Utkarsh Odisha: Make-in-Odisha conclave', slated for January 28 and 29.

Here are the six sectors where Odisha is likely to benefit by Singapore President's visit. **Enhancement of Skill Ecosystem** During President Tharman's State visit to Odisha, one of the key areas of focus is the enhancement of the State's skill ecosystem. The Institute of Technical Education Services (ITEES) from Singapore will provide enhanced support for the expansion of the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar. The centre will be developed in various areas such as hospitality, food, and other vocational skills, aiming to improve the employability of the local workforce.

**Economic Development and Collaboration** The visit is expected to boost economic development in Odisha through several collaborations. President Tharman will meet Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to discuss Odisha's economic strategies and opportunities. A business delegation from Singapore will also accom-

# Support in Green Energy and Infrastructure

pany the President to explore potential collaborations in skill development and other areas of economic growth. Additionally, the visit will see the signing of eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) focusing on skill development, which will further strengthen the bilateral ties between Odisha and Singapore. **Cultural implications** President Tharman's visit will also include interactions with various cultural and industrial entities in Odisha. He will visit a vaccine manufacturing plant run by Bharat Biotech, reflecting the collaborative efforts in the healthcare sector. Moreover, he will explore Odisha's cultural heritage by visiting several significant sites, which will help in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation between the two nations. These exchanges are part of the broader effort to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Singapore-India diplomatic relations and to enhance mutual cooperation.

# Khariar Tehsil office works hit

As Tehsildar given additional charges

AJIT PANDA ■ NUAPADA

The Khariar residents raised concerns about inadequate administrative services in Khariar Tehsil during Revenue Minister Suresh Pujhari's visit to the area on Wednesday.

Sanjay Tiwari, a local resident, submitted a grievance petition highlighting the neglect of revenue matters due to the dual responsibilities of the Tehsildar.

Tiwari said that the Tehsildar of Khariar also holds additional charge as the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Khariar block, which has significantly impacted the efficiency of revenue-related operations. "The dual responsibility has resulted in the Tehsildar spending most of his time at the Block Office, leaving the Tehsil office unresponsive," he stated. Tiwari emphasized that the situation has caused delays in critical processes, such as land mutation and the issuance of final Records of Rights (RoR) to buyers who have legally purchased property. He cited a recent case where the district consumer court fined the Tehsildar Rs 25,000 for failing to issue an RoR to a land buyer in a timely manner. The court deemed the delay a deficiency in service and a cause of harassment for the complainant.

In response, Minister Pujhari requested Tiwari to provide specific examples of delays so that immediate action could be taken to address the issues.

# Forums present dev plan for Barbil to CM

Barbil Mahotsav

PNS ■ BARBIL

A delegation, comprising local leaders and representatives of various forums, presented a comprehensive development plan to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi during the inaugural ceremony of Barbil Mahotsav.

The Vice-Chairperson and Councillors of Barbil Municipality urged the Chief Minister to expedite the construction of the Banspani-Barbil railway line, construct a bypass ring road to ease congestion, and establish dedicated parking areas for heavy vehicles to improve connectivity. The Old Students Association of Kalinga Nagar High School, which recently celebrated its Golden, stressed the need to revive key industries like Kalinga Iron Works and OMDC to boost employment and economic growth.

Intellectuals lead by Regional Media Forum emphasized the importance of upgrading Barbil College, establishing an engineering college, introducing a Kendriya Vidyalaya, and setting up skill development centers to enhance educational opportunities and empower the local workforce. The plan aims to address critical infrastructure needs, revitalize the local economy, and enhance educational opportunities for the residents of Barbil.

# Empowerment of Local Communities

The visit also aims to empower local communities, especially women, by improving their skills for better job opportunities. The Singapore High Commissioner had discussed potential collaborations in the tourism sector and skills development for Odia women, which aligns with the broader goal of economic and social empowerment in the region.

# Minister Pujari took immediate action on the issue of tribal land encroachment, directing officials to ensure tribal lands remain in the possession of tribal communities.

He also underscored the importance of high-tech surveys to resolve mismatched land records and ensure fair land distribution. Regarding industrial land, the Minister instructed that any unused or underutilized government land allocated for industries be reclaimed by the Revenue Department to ensure its productive use, supporting the region's economic growth.

The meeting concluded with a detailed discussion on measures to strengthen the Revenue Department. The government plans to increase manpower for land surveys and provide training to ORS and OAS officials to enhance the department's capacity to meet the growing demands of land management and revenue collection. Minister Pujari emphasized the need for transparency, timely action, and inter-departmental coordination to ensure the success of these initiatives.

# In State 11,000 children vulnerable to child marriages

Reveals NCPDR report

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) has revealed that over 11,000 children in Odisha are vulnerable to child marriages. The statistics came to the fore in the commission's 'Comprehensive report of virtual review meetings on child marriage with districts all over India for 2023-24' and was recently released on its website. The NCPDR took into account the fact that 11,053 children in Odisha were absent from school for 30 consecutive days without notice during the 2023-24 session or had dropped out.

The nationwide survey was undertaken with the cooperation of the respective State

Governments and aimed at establishing standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent child marriages in India.

As such, in Odisha, the survey mapped 26,415 schools across 19,683 villages and blocks. Further, the data was collected from all 30 districts of the state with over 66,000 people surveyed, finding 11,053 children at risk.

Meanwhile, across India, more than 11 lakh students were either absent for a month or dropped out, often due to child marriage.

Additionally, over 5 lakh children were found to be vulnerable in Uttar Pradesh whereas Odisha's neighbours West Bengal recorded over 37,900, Chhattisgarh identified more than 13, 200 and Jharkhand found close to 52,000 children vulnerable to child marriage.

# Utkal Karate School operates as per norms'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Utkal Karate School operates with full adherence to national and international guidelines, and the allegations that its certificates are invalid are unfounded, said the Utkal Karate School in a release.

The Shukokai Karate Do Union India is a recognised organization established to teach karate. It is affiliated with the Karate India Organisation (KIO), the only national federation approved by the Asian Karate Federation (AKF) and the World Karate Federation (WKF). These international organizations are globally recognized and are responsible for maintaining the standards of karate. The KIO is the sole authorized body in India affiliated with these governing organizations, it said.

Dr Hari Prasad Pattanayak, the driving force behind Utkal Karate School, is an 8th DAN Black Belt holder and a certified coach under the World Karate Federation (WKF). As a recognized representative, he has the full authority to issue certificates and promote belts to trainees in line with WKF guidelines, the release clarified. Certificates issued by Utkal



Karate School in the years 2018-2019 bear the approval of the Karate Association of India (KAI). During that period, KAI was the National Sports Federation (NSF) for karate in India and was recognized by both the Government of India and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Therefore, the mention of KAI and its higher bodies on those certificates was accurate and valid, it said.

It is also important to note that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Government of India recognize only National Sports Federations (NSFs). They do not directly recognize karate schools, which clarifies the authority under which Utkal Karate School operates, it said.

Jobs offered under the Government of Odisha's sports promotion schemes

# Ganjam visit

Our focus is on strengthening Revenue Dept: Min

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari visited Ganjam district to assess the performance of various departments, including paddy procurement and industrial initiatives on Friday. A meeting, held at the District Collectorate, included key officials such as Trade, Transport and Steel and Mines Minister Bibhu Bhushan Jena, Brahmapur MP Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy and local legislators.

The State government is making concerted efforts to improve the efficiency of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department while empowering women and supporting the agricultural sector. During visit to Ganjam district, the Minister reviewed ongoing initiatives aimed at streamlining grain procurement, addressing farmer needs, and resolving administrative challenges.

Minister Pujari emphasized the importance of extending opportunities to more Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for grain transactions, alongside women-led SHGs that have already shown interest.

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"Women have been empowered, and now we must ensure that other SHGs are also given the chance to participate," he stated. Additionally, he stressed that the quality of grain is directly linked to the quality of fodder used by livestock, urging farmers to prioritize high-quality fodder to improve their harvests.

The discussion centered on the grain procurement process in Ganjam district. To facilitate paddy collection, the district has deployed 366 fax machines, 111 SHGs, and one Pani panchayat, bringing the total collection points to 478. Additionally, 361 mills have

been arranged to process rice. As of January 16, 2025, 901,414.40 quintals of paddy have been collected from 4,079 farmers using 435 collection pads, with plans to complete the paddy purchase by the end of February. District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida shared that efforts are underway to enhance the grain collection process, with multiple stakeholders involved to improve efficiency.

Minister Pujari reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting farmers, particularly those impacted by weather challenges. "The government is here to help farmers, and we will ensure

they receive the necessary assistance," he assured. In response to concerns about the shortage of mandis in Ganjam district, the Minister announced plans to construct a new mandi by inviting tenders, expected to be completed by the next Kharif season.

The minister also addressed progress in land acquisition and revenue collection, particularly in relation to the Basundhara Yojana, which aims to allocate land to eligible beneficiaries. Of the 8,667 applications received under the scheme, 1,643 have been deemed eligible, and 757 leases are scheduled to be granted by the end of the month.

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The meeting concluded with a detailed discussion on measures to strengthen the Revenue Department. The government plans to increase manpower for land surveys and provide training to ORS and OAS officials to enhance the department's capacity to meet the growing demands of land management and revenue collection. Minister Pujari emphasized the need for transparency, timely action, and inter-departmental coordination to ensure the success of these initiatives.

# PM Modi distributes more than 65 lakh property cards under SVAMITVA scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme, and said it will bolster economic activities and help in poverty alleviation. The prime minister virtually addressed the event and also interacted with some beneficiaries. He also said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance".

The property cards are being distributed to beneficiaries across more than 50,000 villages in 10 states -- Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and two Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Modi said the scheme will help people get loans and

benefits of other government schemes. "Around 2.24 crore beneficiaries in villages will now have SVAMITVA property cards after 65 lakh cards are distributed today," the prime minister said. "Property rights are a major challenge across the world. Years ago, the United Nations had held a study, which revealed people did not have legal documents for property rights in several countries. The UN has said property rights are important for poverty alleviation," he said. Modi said an eminent economist had opined that property in villages is a "dead capital" because people cannot do anything with it, and it can't help increase their income. "India was also impacted by this challenge. People in villages have property worth lakhs of crores (of rupees), but they did not have papers for it. There were disputes, properties were snatched, and even banks did not provide loans over it," he said. The prime minister



emphasized that no sensitive government could leave its villagers in such distress. "Previous governments should have taken steps to do something about it but nothing much was done," he said. Modi said Dalits, backward classes and tribals were the worst affected by this. Elaborating on the SVAMITVA Yojana, he said it involved mapping houses and

lands in villages using drones and providing legal documents for residential properties to villagers. He added that the benefits of this scheme are now visible. "India has over six lakh villages, with drone surveys completed in nearly half of them," Modi said. He highlighted that after receiving legal documents, lakhs of people had taken loans from banks based on

their properties and started small businesses in their villages. "After getting legal property rights, lakhs of people have taken loan. They have used this money to start their businesses. Many of these are farmers, for whom this property cards is a guarantee to financial security," he said. Modi said that once property cards are issued in all villages, the scheme will unlock

economic activities worth over Rs 100 lakh crore. He emphasized the substantial capital that will be added to the country's economy. Noting that earlier, land disputes were common for farmers and obtaining land documents is challenging, often requiring multiple visits to offices and leading to corruption, the prime minister said that land records are being digitized to

deal with these issues. Highlighting that SVAMITVA and Bhuaadhaar are foundational systems for village development, he said that Bhuaadhaar provides a unique identity to land, with around 23 crore Bhuaadhaar numbers issued, making it easy to identify land plots. "Over the past seven-eight years, approximately 98 per cent of land records have been digitized, and most land maps are now digitally available," Modi added. Later, in a social media post, the prime minister said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance". Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj S P Singh Baghel and Ministry of Panchayati Raj Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj were also present at the event. It was attended virtually by several chief ministers, Union

ministers and state ministers. Events are also being organised in over 230 districts for physical distribution of property cards. It is expected that around 13 Union ministers will physically join from designated locations from across the country to oversee regional distribution ceremonies of property cards. The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme was launched in 2020 to enhance the economic progress of rural India by providing 'Record of Rights' to households owning houses in inhabited areas in villages through the latest drone technology for surveying. The scheme also helps facilitate monetization of properties and enabling institutional credit through bank loans; reducing property-related disputes; facilitating better assessment of properties and property tax in rural areas and enabling comprehensive village-level planning.

# Congress's new HQ narrates tale of party's 139-year history

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Several leaders who left the Congress and even mounted stinging attacks on it find a place in the pictorial representation of the party's history spread across the five storeys of its new 9A Kotla Road office. Ahead of a media tour of the office, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken Saturday told reporters at the first press conference at the Indira Gandhi Bhawan that the building was built at an estimated cost of Rs 200-225 crore with some dues still left to be paid to Larsen and Toubro (L&T) construction company. The Congress headquarters was inaugurated on Wednesday, as the grand old party turned a page in its history after operating from its iconic 24, Akbar Road premises for the last 47 years. Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi inaugurated the plush building in the presence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, among other senior leaders. "Today we will introduce you to a temple of democracy - Indira Bhawan, the headquarters of the largest opposition party of the country at present," Maken told the press conference along with AICC general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh and party's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera. "The government of India allotted this land to us on November 19, 2007. Its foundation stone was laid in 2009 and finally we received the 'completion cum occupancy certificate' on January 14, 2025, while it was inaugurated on January 15," he said. Indira Gandhi Bhawan, designed by Hafeez Contractor, narrates the tale of the party's 139-year-old history with its walls adorning pictures from the freedom struggle to the party's governance achievements. From VP Singh to Ghulam Nabi Azad and from Suresh



Pachouri to Rita Bahuguna Joshi, many leaders who left the party, including some who joined the BJP, and made stinging attacks on the party, find a place in the slew of photographs and pictorial representation of the party's history adorning the walls of the new office. As one enters the building, the wall in front adorns the pictures of the party's first president W C Benerjee and current chief Kharge. A striking picture on the ground floor is that of Sonia Gandhi leading a march with the likes of Pachouri, Joshi and P Sudhakar Reddy, all now in the BJP, accompanying her. Also there in the photograph is Ashok Tanwar, who left the Congress for the BJP, but returned to the party fold last year. In another epic picture, Rajiv Gandhi, when he was prime minister, is seen flanked by Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao and VP Singh (who all became prime ministers) and K R Narayanan (who became president later). On the fourth floor, which showcases the party's history from 2014-2023, a picture from 2019 adorns the wall in which Azad is seen standing with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, taken at Rajghat during a protest against CAA and NRC. Another interesting photo that adorns the walls on the fourth floor is that of Sonia Gandhi and then president Sitaram Kesari during a campaign rally in Rohtak in January 1998. A few months later Kesari was forced out and Gandhi took over as party chief. Asked about party leaders

Bhawan not only symbolises the ambitions and aspirations of the country with the largest youth population in the world, but also that the party is also ready to play the role of a vigilant opposition and protect democracy," Maken said. In the times to come, such processes are being developed in Indira Bhawan so that Congress workers from all over the country are welcomed in this building and senior party office bearers can easily interact with them, he said. The objective of Indira Bhawan was to create a place that would not only be the headquarters of the party but also symbolise its heritage and values, Maken said. The design reflects the glorious history and democratic principles of the party while at the same time having the amenities of a modern workplace, he said. "We have sought to create a welcoming environment that encourages collaboration and participation, and that our headquarters is both inspiring and practical. In addition, special emphasis has been placed on incorporating elements of transparency and openness in the design to reflect the values of inclusion and democratic dialogue," Maken said. The building, spread over a total area of 2,100 sq m, has its own auditorium with 276 seats, numerous meeting rooms, and adequate seating arrangements for the officials of every front organisation and cell of the Congress, he said. There are 134 trees, 8675 plants and 264 art works and paintings, he said, adding that the cafeteria has paintings of Nand Lal Bose which were made on the request of Mahatma Gandhi for the Haripura Congress session of 1938. Maken said each floor represents an era in the history of the Congress. "The new Congress Bhawan is not a building, but a glorious legacy of freedom. At the base of this Indira Bhawan is an ideological movement and at its peak is the resolution to protect the Constitution," he said.

# US-India sign cybercrime pact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days before it hands over power to President-elect Donald Trump, the Biden administration signed a pact with New Delhi that provides for boosting cooperation in combating cybercrime and related challenges such as terror financing and violent extremism. The agreement on cybercrime investigations, signed in Washington on Friday, allows the agencies concerned of the two countries to step up the level of cooperation with respect to cyber threat intelligence and digital forensics, according to an Indian readout. It is the second such move in the last few days by the outgoing Biden administration that reflected the overall upward trajectory of relations between the two nations. The US on Wednesday removed restrictions on three Indian nuclear entities -- Bhabha Atomic Research



Centre (BARC), Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR) and the Indian Rare Earths (IRE). The lifting of the restrictions is aimed at implementation of the historic India-US civil nuclear deal sealed around 16 years ago. The Memorandum of Understanding or MoU on cybercrime investigations was signed by Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra and Acting US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Kristie Canegallo. "Cybercrime has intricate

linkages with the common security challenges faced by India and the US such as terrorism and violent extremism, terror financing, drug trafficking, organised crime, human trafficking, illegal migration, money laundering and transportation security," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in the readout. "The MoU on cybercrime investigations will enable further strengthening of India-US security cooperation, as part of our

comprehensive and global strategic partnership," it said. From New Delhi, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Union Home Ministry will be responsible for execution of the MoU, the MEA said. From the US side, it will be the Department of Homeland Security, and its constituent agencies -- the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Homeland Security Investigations Cyber Crimes Center (C3) which are tasked to execute the pact.

# Indian Navy participating in mega wargame 'La Perouse' with naval forces from eight other nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is participating in a mega wargame along with naval forces from eight nations including the US and France against the backdrop of increasingly fractious geopolitical environment and China's military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific. The naval exercise 'La Perouse' is underway in the straits between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as well as Malacca, Sunda and Lombok. These straits are largely considered as very crucial for global maritime trade. The nine-day exercise that

began on January 16 aims to enhance cooperation among the participating nations in areas of maritime surveillance, interdiction operations, air operations and information sharing. French Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, is the mainstay of the mega exercise. India's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai is part of the exercise, according to the Indian Navy. Besides, India, the US and France, naval forces from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada and the UK are participating



in the exercise. "The exercise provides an opportunity for like-minded navies to develop closer links in planning, coordination and information sharing for enhanced tactical interoperability," the Indian Navy said on Saturday. "The exercise will witness complex and advanced multi-domain exercises including surface warfare, anti-air warfare, air-defence, cross deck landings and tactical manoeuvres, as also the constabulary missions such as VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) operations," it said in a statement. The Indian Navy's participation in the exercise

showcases the high levels of synergy, coordination and interoperability between the like-minded navies and their commitment to a rules-based international order in the maritime domain, it added. The Australian Navy has deployed its frontline destroyer HMAS Hobart, while Canada has sent its warship HMCS Ottawa. The United States deployed combat ship USS Savannah, Malaysia sent destroyer FFG Lekir and its embarked helicopter and the vessel Gagah Samudera, The United Kingdom is participating in the exercise with offshore patrol vessel HMS Spey and Singapore

with the patrol vessel RSN Independence. "Strengthening maritime security will be at the core of this exercise, with the development of interoperability and the ability to act collectively in the event of a maritime crisis, which will contribute to it," a French readout said. It said the planned interactions will enable work on a broad spectrum of maritime security operations. "The various forces distributed in the area will train to search for and then intervene on ships suspected of illicit activities; with suspect vessels being played by vessels of the force," it added.

# Christian man unable to bury father: SC raps Chhattisgarh Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has slammed the Chhattisgarh Government and sought its response on a plea filed by a Christian man who said he is unable to bury his pastor father in Chhindawada village as people have aggressively objected to it and police have threatened him with legal action. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma expressed surprise that the body was lying in a mortuary in the district hospital and medical college, Jagdalpur since January 7, when the man died and the police have not taken any action since then. Bench rapped the Chhattisgarh Government while seeking its response on the plea filed by the son. "Leave the village panchayat, even the High Court has passed a strange order. What is the State Government doing," the bench said while issuing notice to the Chhattisgarh Government.



The matter will be heard on January 20. The top court was hearing the appeal filed by Ramesh Baghel, belonging to the Mahra caste, challenging an order of the Chhattisgarh High Court which disposed of his plea seeking burial of his father who was a pastor in the area specified for Christian persons in the village graveyard. Relying on a certificate issued by the gram panchayat's sarpanch that there are no separate burial grounds for Christians, the High Court denied him permission saying it may cause unrest and disharmony in the public at large. The pastor died due to prolonged old age illness.

# Import of refurbished medical devices not allowed, says CDSCO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed at curbing the influx of unregulated second-hand medical devices in the country, the apex drug regulator Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has informed the Customs Department that import of refurbished devices is not allowed. In a letter to the Principal Commissioner of Customs, the CDSCO said that all medical devices are regulated under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. "However, there is no specific provision for regulation of refurbished medical devices under the said rules. Hence, no licence is issued for import of such devices and it cannot be imported under Medical Devices Rules for sale and distribution," the CDSCO said. Manufacturers of medical devices have welcomed the move, stating this decisive clarification reinforces the regulatory framework designed to ensure the highest standards of patient safety.

Dr Sudhir Srivastava, former Chair of the Medical Device Committee at PHDCCI, said that the decision by CDSCO marks a pivotal step towards reinforcing India's self-reliance in medical technology. "Allowing refurbished medical devices into the country would have jeopardized the quality of healthcare, disincentivized local innovation, and undermined the spirit of the 'Make in India' initiative," Srivastava said. Indian manufacturers are making significant strides in research and development, delivering "cutting-edge solutions tailored to our healthcare needs", he said. "By curbing refurbished imports, we not only protect the integrity of our medical ecosystem but also send a strong message to global investors that India is committed to building a robust, indigenous medical device industry. This move safeguards both the future of healthcare innovation in India and the well-being of our patients," he added.

## Sangam witnesses sea of devotees, 7.5 Crore take the holy dip in five days

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR**

The air thrummed with spiritual fervor as millions descended upon the Sangam, the sacred confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers, for the Mahakumbh Mela. In just five days since its commencement, an astonishing 7.5 crore devotees have taken the holy dip, a testament to the enduring power of faith and tradition. On Saturday, the banks of the Sangam witnessed a breathtaking spectacle as over 19.84 lakh pilgrims, including over 10 lakh Kalpvasis dedicated to a month-long spiritual immersion, participated in the sacred bath. "It is truly humbling to witness this sea of humanity united in devotion," remarked Shri Ram Narayan Das, a revered sage attending the Mahakumbh for decades. "The energy here is palpable,

a powerful blend of faith, humility, and joy." The Mahakumbh, one of the largest religious gatherings on Earth, has transformed Prayagraj into a vibrant tapestry of colors, sounds, and spiritual experiences. From the chanting of mantras to the rhythmic beats of devotional music, the atmosphere is charged with an undeniable sense of collective upliftment. "I have traveled from the southernmost tip of India to experience the sanctity of the Sangam," shared an elderly woman, her eyes glistening with tears of joy. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to cleanse my soul and connect with the divine." Beyond the religious significance, the Mahakumbh also serves as a powerful testament to the unifying force of faith. People from all walks of life, irrespective of caste, creed, or social standing, come



Newly-initiated Naga sadhus perform rituals at the Sangam area during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

together to partake in this grand celebration of spirituality. "The Mahakumbh is not just a religious event; it is a celebration of humanity," stated Shri Ajay Kumar, District Magistrate of Prayagraj. "The administration has been working tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of all pilgrims, while also striving to maintain the sanctity of this sacred event." As the Mahakumbh progresses, millions more are expected to join the festivities, making this year's edition an unforgettable testament to the enduring power of faith and the timeless allure of the Sangam. Rajnath Singh takes a dip. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Prayagraj on Saturday to attend Mahakumbh. He was received at Bamrauli Airport by MLA Minister Nand Gopal Gupta, with MP Sudhanshu Trivedi also accompanying him. Upon reaching Prayagraj, the Defence Minister took the sacred dip at Triveni Sangam, chanting slogans such as "Sanatan Ki Jai" and "Ganga Maiyya Ki Jai." Following the ritual, he visited Akshayvat, Patalpuri, and Bade Hanuman Ji temples and reviewed the preparations for the Mahakumbh. Later in the evening, the Defence Minister is scheduled to meet with Army officials to discuss security arrangements for the Mahakumbh. Speaking on the occasion, Singh remarked, "I consider it my great fortune to have taken a holy dip in the Sangam at Prayagraj today. The Mahakumbh is a grand spiritual and cultural festival that embodies the essence of Indianness. It transcends associations with any particular sect, community, or religion."



Devotees gather to take a holy dip at the Sangam

## A night of service: Prayagraj police feed and comfort 24,000 stranded pilgrims at Maha Kumbh

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR**

In a heartwarming display of humanity and dedication, the police in Prayagraj turned saviors for over 24,000 pilgrims stranded outside Prayagraj Junction station late Tuesday night. After taking the holy dip on Makar Sankranti, the devotees faced bone-chilling cold and long delays caused by thick fog disrupting train schedules. The night saw policemen not just managing the massive crowd but going beyond their duty to serve food, water, and tea to the weary pilgrims until 3 a.m. Wednesday. Blankets and quilts were also distributed to



shield them from the biting cold. Speaking about the efforts, ACP (Kotwali) Manoj Kumar Singh shared, "We saw elderly people and children shivering, some of them

hungry and tired. It was impossible to stand by and do nothing. With help from NGOs and generous locals, we made sure everyone was fed and kept warm." Many police officers personally pitched in to ensure the smooth distribution of food and supplies. Sub-Inspector Ravi Shukla, who helped prepare and serve meals, said, "When I handed over a plate of food to a young boy, his mother's teary 'thank you' made all the effort worth it. This is more than a duty; it is humanity." The chaos caused by delayed trains and miscommunication also left many pilgrims at the wrong stations.

## Mahakumbh to boost UP's economy by over one per cent, claim experts

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ**

Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj is poised to create a transformative cultural, social, and economic impact on Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasized the event's potential to generate Rs 2 lakh crore in business, with experts estimating an economic boost of over 1% to the state's GDP. This monumental gathering is also expected to significantly increase GST collections, with projections suggesting a potential threefold rise during the peak months of December, January, and February. The influx of millions of

domestic and international pilgrims over 45 days is anticipated to stimulate demand, increase production, create jobs, and enhance financial flows for businesses of all scales. The state government, which is investing Rs 16,000 crore in the event, plans to channel the revenue into infrastructure development, aligning with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of making Uttar Pradesh a one trillion-dollar economy. Economist and chartered accountant Pankaj Gandhi Jaiswal predicts Mahakumbh 2025 could boost both nominal and real GDP by 1%. With an estimated 45 crore visitors

expected to attend and average spending of Rs 10,000 per person, the total economic activity generated could surpass Rs 4.5 lakh crore. Even accounting for a 10% margin of error, the net contribution would remain above Rs 4 lakh crore. Such economic activity will not only bolster quarterly GDP but also contribute significantly to India's annual growth. "The state's investment will yield manifold returns," Jaiswal said. "An estimated Rs 4 lakh crore economic activity could result in GST collections of Rs 50,000 crore. Combined with income tax and other indirect taxes, the government's revenue

could exceed Rs 1 lakh crore." He further highlighted how this financial influx will stimulate sectors like tourism, transport, real estate, and retail, creating a cascading effect on economic growth. Chartered accountant Anil Gupta for Prayagraj echoed these sentiments, underscoring the significant economic contributions from infrastructure, transportation, and other sectors. Gupta noted the transformation of Prayagraj, which now boasts 5-star and 7-star hotels to accommodate global visitors, as a testament to the government's development initiatives.

## Digital media centre boosts global coverage of Mahakumbh, emerges as information hub

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR**

To showcase the grandeur of Mahakumbh to the world, an advanced Media Center equipped with state-of-the-art technology is operational in the Mela area under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership. Boasting high-quality professional cameras worth crores of rupees, the Media Centre facilitates flawless recording and live-streaming of every moment of the Mahakumbh. This ensures that viewers experience the event in real time, offering an immersive digital experience to devotees worldwide. High-resolution cameras, featuring lenses costing up to Rs 50 lakh, are

broadcasting updates and news about the Mahakumbh on digital platforms. So far, 30 international journalists have conducted special coverage of the event, highlighting its cultural and spiritual significance. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to ensure that the Media Center provides all necessary facilities for both domestic and international devotees to stay informed. The demand for Mahakumbh-related news is particularly high in countries such as the USA, Russia, Germany, Japan, and Israel. Adding to its global reach, Mahakumbh programs aired on Swedish Radio have garnered significant



appreciation. The Media Center also features amenities such as tea, breakfast, and dining facilities, along with a well-equipped conference room. Comprehensive security arrangements have been implemented to ensure the safety and convenience of journalists and visitors alike.

## Railway Minister Ashwini inspects undersea bullet train tunnel work



**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI/THANE**

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday inspected the work of the undersea tunnel of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor, popularly called the bullet train project, and expressed satisfaction at the "good progress" on the mega multi-billion dollar project. The 21-kilometre tunnel, which includes a 7 kilometre stretch beneath the Thane Creek, will connect the Bandra Kurla Complex station to Shilphata. The undersea tunnel is the first of its kind in the country. The undersea tunnel has been designed and is being

constructed with great care, Vaishnaw told reporters at the site in Ghansoli in neighbouring Navi Mumbai. "The technology being employed and the design of the tunnel makes it possible for two trains to pass through at speeds of 250 kilometres per hour. Environment protection has been taken care of along with ventilation and lighting. The construction on 340 kilometres of the project has made good progress," the Union railway minister said. Trains can pass at much higher speeds in the undersea tunnel than Kolkata Metro's under-river tunnel, he told reporters. "The project is seeing significant advancements in bridge construction over rivers

and station infrastructure. The station at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) is an engineering marvel, with a unique design featuring 10 underground floors and seven above-ground levels. The high-speed rail project is on schedule, with Japanese experts inspecting and approving the ongoing work," he said. The dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide an affordable, efficient transportation mode for the middle class is steadily becoming a reality, the Union minister remarked. The completion of the High Speed Rail route, the first in the country, will integrate the economies of the cities enroute, including Mumbai and Ahmedabad, and will greatly boosted urban development, Vaishnaw said. "The stations along the corridor will spur urban development and enhance daily commuters' productivity by significantly reducing travel time. Don't see the high-speed train as a transportation project, but as integration of the economy. It will elevate India's infrastructure and economic growth," Vaishnaw said. He lauded the efforts of Indian engineers, whose expertise has played a pivotal role in the project's success, adding it was a matter of pride for the entire country.

## Simultaneous poll is unconstitutional, being brought with political motive: DMK

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI**

The Centre's initiative of 'one nation, one election' was 'unconstitutional' and was being brought with a political motive, DMK senior and Tamil Nadu Forests Minister K Ponmudy said on Saturday. Speaking at the DMK legal wing's third state conference that began here, he said "the move is unconstitutional and is being brought with a political motive." Terming the move to enforce simultaneous poll as an attempt to dispense with the five-year term of assemblies and



downsizing the states to union territories, senior advocate Kapil Sibal said states will not be in the picture at all if one nation, one election law was enforced. "It will destroy the very federal structure of our country. The preamble of the Constitution

says that India is a union of states. You have diminished the states... You are destroying the basic structure of the state, and trying for one nation, one poll, one language, political party, one religion," Sibal said during a discussion on the topic. "The move amounts to destroying the essence of democratic functioning of our republic. Cronies support the idea without a national debate on it. I don't think the people of India and Tamil Nadu will tolerate it," Sibal said and claimed that it would also affect the education, health and other state specific issues.

## CBI court convicts Himachal IG, seven other cops in custodial death case

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH**

A Special CBI court here on Saturday convicted the Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police and seven other policemen in the custodial death of an accused in the gang rape and murder of a minor girl in Himachal Pradesh's Kotkhai in 2017. The court of special judge Alka Malik will pronounce the quantum of punishment on January 27. The CBI court convicted IG Zahur Haider Zaidi, the then

deputy superintendent of police Manoj Joshi, then Sub-Inspector Rajinder Singh, then Assistant SI Deep Chand Sharma, then head constable Mohan Lal, Surat Singh, Rafee Mohammad and then constable Ranjit Sateta. The court acquitted the then Superintendent of Police DW Negi, his counsel Rabindra Pandit said. The accused have been convicted under various sections, including 302 (murder) read with 120-B, 330 (voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession), 348

(wrongful confinement to extract confession) and 195 (giving false evidence) of the Indian Penal Code, said CBI public prosecutor Amit Jindal. Zaidi and seven others were arrested in the custodial death case of Suraj, who was found dead at the Kotkhai police station on July 18, 2017. A 16-year-old girl went missing in Kotkhai on July 4, 2017, and her body was found in the Halaila forests two days later on July 6. The post-mortem report confirmed rape and murder and a case was registered.



Six Crore senior citizens brought under Ayushman Bharat, 45 per cent of population covered: Nadda

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD**

Ayushman Bharat has brought 6 crore citizens aged 70 and above under it, and the Centre's flagship health insurance programme now covers over 45 per cent of India's population, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said here Saturday. The Union Cabinet in October last year approved health coverage to all citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income under the 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (AB PM-JAY). "Under Modi 3.0, we have added 6 crore people above 70 under Ayushman Bharat. Now, more than 62 crore

people, or over 45 per cent of India's population, are covered, not in health insurance but under a 'health assurance' scheme with an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh," he said. Speaking at the 'IIMA Healthcare Summit 2025' organised at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, he called the scheme a game changer and said it has benefited more than 4.2 crore citizens. "These are poor people - rickshaw pullers, street vendors, bus drivers, conductors, lift men, security guards, barbers, shoemakers - who perhaps would never have thought about caring for their health," Nadda said.

# Israel prepares for return of hostages

multiple other afflictions Levine expects are vitamin deficiencies, starvation, dramatic weight loss, vision problems due to a lack of sunlight, broken bones, cognitive impairment and mental health trauma. As a result, doctors are expecting the hostages will require longer and more complex medical and mental health interventions than did those who returned after the last ceasefire in November 2023, said Dr Einat Yehene, a psychologist at the Hostages Families Forum who oversees the captives' rehabilitation.

their first few hours, Mizrahi said. Six hospitals are preparing to receive hostages, including two in the south, closer to Gaza, that will treat those with acute medical issues, health ministry officials said. Yehene said the public should not expect joyful reunions like those seen following the last ceasefire, when released hostages ran through hospital halls into the ecstatic embraces of their loved ones. "Given the physical and emotional conditions, we expect emotional withdrawal symptoms, such as maybe exhaustion, fatigue — and some will probably need assistance with their mobility," she said. Medical officials are also prepared for the possibility that returning hostages will need speech therapy, especially if they have been kept in isolation, Yehene noted. She said some might be so traumatized or in shock from the transfer to Israel that they will be unable to speak at all. To minimise the hostages' trauma and allow them to acclimate to their new reality, officials will try to limit the number of people who interact with them and have made accommodations to lessen their sensory stimulation, such as stripping down the hospital rooms and changing the lighting. Israel's Ministry of Social

Welfare has also planned temporary housing solutions if hostages feel unable to return directly from the hospital to their home. "THE HOSTAGES DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING" Experts are pleading with the news media and the public to give the hostages and their families privacy, despite intense interest in their plight. "The first days back are really holy, when a person finally gets to meet with their family, and everyone else needs to take a step back," said Ofrit Shapira, a psychoanalyst who heads a group of health professionals treating freed hostages, their families, and survivors of the Oct 7 attack. Hospital wings housing the hostages are expected to be "sterilized," closed to all but direct family and doctors, to keep the public and news outlets away, medical officials have said. "It doesn't matter how much we care about them; they're their own people, they're not ours," Shapira added. She noted that asking the hostages direct questions about their experiences can force them to relive their trauma. She said it's best to allow them to release information at their own pace. "Our curiosity is really not important compared with

what the hostages need," she said. "It doesn't matter how much you volunteered or were active in this fight; they don't owe you anything." SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES Some of the previously freed hostages and their families have volunteered to help counsel those now going through the same process, Levine said. He noted the strength of the bonds created between the relatives of the hostages, and between the released hostages, who have become like "psychological families" helping each other adapt and heal, he said. Many released hostages are neglecting their own rehabilitation because they are so wrapped up in the fight to bring the others home, Levine said. A big priority is also to provide support for the families of hostages who did not survive. Israel has confirmed the deaths of at least a third of the approximately 90 remaining captives. But Hamas has not confirmed the status of the 33 who are expected to be freed in the first stage of the ceasefire. Some might no longer be alive. "This moment of the releases is an emotional and psychological trigger for something they were supposed to experience, and they never will experience, because this deal took too long," Yehene said.

transfer the case to public prosecutors for indictment. If the court rejects the investigators' request, Yoon will be released and return to his residence. Yoon was transported to the court from a detention centre in Uiwang, near Seoul, in a blue Justice Ministry van escorted by police and the presidential security service. The motorcade entered the court's basement parking space as thousands of Yoon's supporters rallied in nearby streets amid a heavy police presence, waving banners and shouting slogans calling for his release. Some protesters temporarily broke through the police lines and tapped on the windows of his van as the motorcade slowed while approaching the court. Yoon did not speak to reporters before heading to the hearing. It hadn't been clear until Saturday morning whether Yoon would choose to attend the hearing. Defence lawyers met Yoon at the detention centre and he accepted his legal team's advice to appear personally before the judge, said Yoon Kab-keun, one of the president's lawyers. The lawyer said the president was to argue that his decree was a legitimate exercise of his powers and that accusations of rebellion would not hold up before a criminal court or the Constitutional Court, which is reviewing whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him. Nine people, including Yoon's defence minister, police chief,

# Impeached S Korean prez argues for his release



Supporters of impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol stage a rally to oppose his impeachment in Seoul, South Korea, on Saturday

and several top military commanders, have already been arrested and indicted for their roles in the enforcement of martial law. The crisis began when Yoon, in an attempt to break through legislative gridlock, imposed military rule and sent troops to the National Assembly and election offices. The standoff lasted only hours after lawmakers who managed to get through a blockade voted to lift the measure. The opposition-dominated assembly voted to impeach him on December 14. If Yoon is formally arrested, it could mark the beginning of an extended period in custody for him, lasting months or more. If prosecutors indict Yoon on rebellion and abuse of power charges, which are the allegations now being examined by investigators, they could keep him in custody for up to six months before trial. Under South Korean law, orchestrating a rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty. Yoon's lawyers have argued that there is no need to detain him during the investigation, saying he doesn't pose a threat to flee or destroy evidence. Investigators respond that Yoon ignored several requests to appear for questioning, and that the presidential security service blocked an attempt to detain him on January 3. His defiance has raised concerns about whether he would comply with criminal court proceedings if he's not under arrest.

South Korea's impeached President on Saturday argued for his release before a Seoul judge as the court reviewed whether to grant a law enforcement request for his formal arrest. Yoon, who has been in detention since he was apprehended on Wednesday in a massive law enforcement operation at his residence, faces potential rebellion charges linked to his declaration of martial law on December 3, which set off the country's most serious political crisis since its democratisation in the late 1980s. The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and the military, requested the Seoul Western District Court to grant a warrant for Yoon's formal arrest. Yoon's lawyers said he spoke for about 40 minutes to the judge during the nearly five-hour closed-door hearing. His legal team and anti-corruption agencies presented opposing arguments about whether he should be held in custody. The lawyers did not share his specific comments. The judge is expected to make a decision by late Saturday or early Sunday. Yoon's motorcade was seen leaving the court Saturday evening for the detention centre, where Yoon will await the decision. If Yoon is arrested, investigators can extend his detention to 20 days, during which they will

# Gunman fatally shoots two judges in Tehran

PTI ■ DUBAI In a rare attack targeting the judiciary, a man fatally shot two prominent hard-line judges in Iran's capital Tehran on Saturday, state media reported. Both the deceased judges allegedly took part in the mass execution of dissidents in 1988. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the fatal shootings of the judges — clerics Mohammad Moghiseh and Ali Razini.

White House on Monday. Both clerics served on Iran's Supreme Court, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. A bodyguard for one of the judges was also wounded. The gunman later killed himself, IRNA said. "According to initial investigations, the person in question did not have a case in the Supreme Court, nor was he a client of the branches of the court," the judiciary's Mizan news agency said. "Currently, investigations have been launched to identify and arrest the perpetrators of this terrorist act." In January 1999, attackers on motorcycles hurled an explosive at Razini's vehicle, wounding him as he left work as the head of the judiciary in Tehran. Both men had been named by activists and exiles as taking part in the 1988 executions, which came at the end of

Iran's long war with Iraq. After Iran's then Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini accepted a UN-brokered ceasefire, members of the exiled Iranian opposition group Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, or MEK, heavily armed by Saddam Hussein, stormed across the Iranian border in a surprise attack. Iran ultimately blunted their assault, but the attack set the stage for the sham retrials of political prisoners, militants and others that would become known as "death commissions". International rights groups estimate that as many as 5,000 people were executed, while the MEK puts the number at 30,000. Iran has never fully acknowledged the executions, apparently carried out on Khomeini's orders, though some argue that other top officials were effectively in charge in the months before his 1989 death. The MEK did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Public Notice: To be known to all that SHABA KHATUN D/o MD. ABDUL GAFFAR KHAN, R/o HOUSE NO. A-161 MAJLIS PARK, NEAR BAJAJ FURNISHING HOUSE, ADARSH NAGAR, DELHI 110053 applied for issuance of certified copy of Demand cum allotment letter of EWS Flat No. 1209, Block No. 5, Shivaji Marg, Delhi-110015 allotted vide file no E/488(731/2018) DDA/14/SM, (Demand letter No 126209, on dated - 20/05/2019, & 20/07/2020) The original document is a Demand cum allotment letter of the said flat has been lost. An online FR No. LR NO-2425916/2024 dated 23/12/24, has also been lodged to this effect in PS crime Branch. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write or contact to D/o Director (Janta) H, D-Block, 2nd floor, DDA Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023. Hence, you are requested to submit press clipping as per above format.

Public Notice: SHABA KHATUN Mob: 9953024510 Asstt. Director (Janta) H, DDA General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Dinesh Kumar Gupta S/o. Sh. Radha Prasad (Aadhar No. 241556221189) and Smt. Bindu Devi W/o. Sh. Dinesh Kumar Gupta both R/o. Sahajan, Bhojpur, Hasan Bazar, Bihar- 802204 and presently residing at H.No. 494, Gali no.11, Jeevan Park Sirasapur, Delhi-46 have debarred and disowned their son Sh. Dinesh Kumar from movable and immovable properties and served all his/her relation with him due to his misconduct and disrespectful behavior towards my clients. If any body deal with him will be at his own risk and my clients shall not be responsible for the same. Jitender Yadav (Advocate) Ch.No. 517, Fifth Floor Rohini Court, Delhi-85, M. 9811168595

Public Notice: To Whom It May Concern This is to inform that I, Mahendra Kumar, have lost my original Migration Certificate, issued by Jawaharlal Nehru University, bearing Certificate No. 9654, dated 20th August, 2024. I found, please return to the undersigned or contact at the below address. A duplicate certificate will be issued on production of this notice. Mahendra Kumar, Date: 17th January, 2025 Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - 110067, +91 79067 84255 mahendra.4555.kumar@gmail.com

Public Notice: To Whom It May Concern This is to inform that I, Mandep Singh S/o Prakash Singh have lost my original Property documents Perpetual Lease of Plot No.-23, block-B, Kharsa No.-840/767, WEA Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. LR No.: 2501576/2025. If found, please return to the undersigned or contact at the above address. A duplicate certificate will be issued on production of this notice. Mandep Singh Email: IDaysinghmandep@hotmail.com

Public Notice: My client Sh. Suresh Rana S/o Sh. Raj Ramesh R/o H. No. 1103, Preeti Apartment, Sector 13, Rohini, Delhi-110085 has cut off his relation and has disowned his wife Smt. Sushila Rana, his daughter Mrs. Shalini, his son Sahil Rana and his daughter-in-law Smt. Navnet Rana W/o Sh. Sahil Rana from all his movable/immovable properties due to their disobedient nature and conduct towards my client. My client shall not be responsible for any of their acts & deeds in any manner in future. Anyone dealing with them has to deal at their own cost, risk and consequences. Anil Dagar (Advocate) Ch. No. 915, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Rohini Court Delhi-110085

Public Notice: This is to inform you that this is to inform you that Mrs. Reema Soni, Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, and Mrs. Kamlesh Verma are the independent owners of western side portion of Plot No. 7, with an area of 317 sq. yards, located at V.A.E. Ramdas Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. The entire property was originally purchased by Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta (16th share), Mr. Satish Kumar (16th share), Mrs. Preeti Garg (16th share), Mr. Indar Garg (2/6th share), and Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta (1/6th share) from POI through DDA, via Conveyance Deed dated 10.04.2008. Later, Mrs. Preeti Garg sold her 1/6th share to Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, and Mrs. Kamlesh Verma dated 16.08.2023. Similarly, Mr. Indar Garg sold his 1/6th share to Mrs. Kamlesh Verma through a Sale Deed dated 16.08.2023 and sold his 1/6th share to Mrs. Reema Soni through a Sale Deed dated 16.08.2023. Now Mrs. Reema Soni, Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, and Mrs. Kamlesh Verma are independent owners of western side portion of the said property. The property is being financed by RBL Bank, Branch GP 3, UGF Pitampura Road, Delhi-110034. If any person's objection or regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of this notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail failing which, in the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property. Ashwani Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 122, Teshal Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

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# Tens of thousands to converge on Washington for march days before Trump takes office

Eight years since its historic first march, the Women's March is returning Saturday to the nation's capital just before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration. Rebranded and reorganized, the rally has a new name — the People's March — as a means to broaden support, especially during a reflective moment for progressive organizing after Trump's decisive win in November. The Republican takes the oath of office Monday. Women outraged over Trump's 2016 presidential win flocked to Washington in 2017 and organized large rallies in cities throughout the country, building

demands over megaphones and marched in pink pussyhats in response to Trump's first election win. "The reality is that it's just hard to capture lightning in a bottle," said Tamika Middleton, managing director at the Women's March. "It was a really particular moment. In 2017, US history. This year, the march is expected to be about one-tenth the size of the first one and comes amid a restrained moment of reflection as many progressive voters navigate feelings of exhaustion, disappointment and despair after Vice President Kamala Harris' loss. The comparative quiet contrasts sharply with the white-knuckled fury of the inaugural rally as massive crowds shouted

eventually converge on Washington for march days before Trump takes office. "At this point, I really don't know what to believe," Wade told The Associated Press. In a unanimous decision on Friday, the Supreme Court upheld a federal law that will ban TikTok unless it's sold by its China-based parent company before January 19 — ruling that a risk to national security posed by the platform's ties to China overcomes First Amendment concerns about limiting free speech on and by the app. A sale does not appear imminent, meaning the ban should go into effect Sunday. But the ruling also arrives just days before the inauguration of a new president. President Joe Biden's administration has maintained that TikTok must change its ownership to address national security

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# TikTok users in limbo as ban looms

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# Rohit hints players have reservations about BCCI's 10-point diktat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma seems to have reservations about certain clauses in the 10-point disciplinary guidelines prepared by the BCCI at the behest of head coach Gautam Gambhir and India skipper is set to discuss the issue with the Board secretary Devajit Saikia.

The BCCI has not officially announced the guidelines but media has already reported on the 10-point diktat.

One of the major contentions in policy document is going back to the old days where families are allowed only for 14 days on long tours. Any deviation would need coach Gambhir's approval.

It is understood that this point has not gone down well in the team's rank and file. As Rohit sat beside chairman

of selectors Ajit Agarkar before the start of the press conference, he was heard telling his former Mumbai teammate: "Ab mere ko baithna padega secretary ke saath. Family, wamiily ka discuss karne ke liye, sab mere ko bol rahe hai yaar (I have to sit down with the secretary to discuss about family (travel guidelines). Everyone (players) is asking me."

Rohit's comment wasn't meant for the media but it was caught on the microphone and it was not difficult to read between the lines.

When Rohit asked about the guidelines, he retorted, "Who told you about these rules? Has it come from the official handle of the BCCI? Let it come officially."

However when Agarkar



spoke, he indeed admitted that an SOP has been drafted. Agarkar was asked what exactly went wrong that within six months of winning the T20 World Cup with same set of players, BCCI needed a travel policy document?

Agarkar, who was also a part of that review committee meeting that discussed the Australia debacle, said, "We'll probably talk about it endlessly if we keep going on."

"I suppose every team has some rules in place. We've spoken about various things you see over the last few months where you can improve as a team, where you can get a bit closer as a team. It's not a school. It's not a punishment," he said, trying to rationalise.

"It's just (that) you have some rules in place and when

you're playing for the national team you just follow those rules. Again, these are mature individuals. They are superstars in their own rights in international sport."

Many former players have termed these rules as something that was always in place and Agarkar called them protocols that one has to follow while representing the national team.

"But at the end of the day you're eventually representing your country. There are certain things that you just inherently follow as every team does. I think a lot of them (rules) have been in place.

"Maybe we've spoken about it now and it's been put out, but a lot of them have been in place in any case. You keep on refining it as you go along eventually what suits the

team, you want to try and do."

There have been conjectures about Rohit's working relationship with the head coach and the skipper said that once he enters the playing arena, he is his own man. "Both (he and Gambhir) of us are very clear in what we want to do. I'm not going to sit here and discuss what goes behind every game tactically but it's very clear in my mind. "Gautam Gambhir is somebody once we enter the field he trusts what the captain is doing on the field. The basic talks that happen are only off the field, in the ground or maybe the changing room.

"But once we take the field it's all about what I do on the field. That's the kind of trust we have in each other and that's how it should be. That's about it."

## Number of controversial decisions in boxing could be reduced using AI-based technology

PTI ■ LONDON

Boxing, the "sweet science", is a theatre of skill, power and drama that has captivated audiences for centuries. Yet, behind the allure of championship nights and historic rivalries lies a persistent shadow - controversial decisions that spark cries of "robbery".

Boxing has had its fair share of controversial decisions which continue to spark debate among fans and experts alike.

While technology in sports like football and cricket has supplemented objective rules, boxing's reliance on subjective judgement leaves it uniquely vulnerable to bias and error. Isn't it time the sport caught up?

The answer may lie in artificial intelligence (AI). Imagine a world where contentious decisions and accusations of bias become a thing of the past. Could the technology offer boxing the fairness and transparency it desperately needs?

Boxing's history is long and storied, tracing back to bare-knuckle fights and evolving into the regulated, global phenomenon it is today. But some things haven't changed. Chief among them is the subjective nature of judging. Unlike football's offside or cricket's LBW (leg before wicket) calls, boxing lacks hard and fast rules for scoring.

Decisions depend on referees and judges interpreting abstract criteria like effective aggression, defence and clean punching. While these standards sound straightforward, their application often varies wildly, leading to unpredictable results.

Take the infamous 2012 Olympics, which featured many scoring controversies that led to demands for reform. More recently, during the Oleksandr Usyk v Daniel Dubois bout, the referee ruled that Dubois had delivered a low blow to Usyk. This left fans divided, with some feeling it should have been a legal



punch. It's one example of where a key decision has sparked widespread debate in the sport. But there are many others.

Other sports have adopted innovative technology in an attempt to reduce subjectivity: cricket uses ball tracking for precise decision making, football has VAR (video assistant referee) for disputed goals, and MMA (mixed martial arts) employs replays to confirm pivotal moments. But boxing remains stubbornly dependent on human eyes. Why? Because its unique pace and nuance present challenges that technology hasn't yet mastered.

For fans, what they might regard as an unfair decision can be a bitter pill. For fighters, it's devastating - years of training undone by a controversial call. And for the sport as a whole, the disagreement over decisions can tarnish its credibility.

Boxing is an industry worth billions. Sponsors, broadcasters and pay-per-view audiences demand a product they can trust. Controversies don't just upset fans, they jeopardise the sport's business model. To survive and thrive, boxing needs to evolve, and technology offers a way forward.

AI's potential in boxing What makes AI so promising is its ability to process complexities. Rather than replacing human judgement, AI can supplement it, bringing much needed consistency to a sport fraught with

interpretation. Technology doesn't replace the human element, it supports it.

So what's stopping boxing? Critics argue that tools like replay systems could disrupt the flow of a fight. But smart integration can avoid this. Imagine video reviews used sparingly, only for game-changing moments like knockdowns or disputed low blows.

Here's how technology could reshape boxing. Sensors and AI could track punch accuracy, power and placement. This data would give judges a factual layer to complement their scoring. AI could also transform instant replays. Key moments, like knockdowns or potential fouls, could be reviewed quickly without disrupting the fight's rhythm.

Artificial intelligence could also assist scoring. Algorithms trained on historical data could suggest scores based on patterns and metrics, acting as a guide for judges. Finally, blockchain technology, where a record of decisions is maintained across linked computers, could log and secure judges' scores, creating a transparent record for post-fight analysis.

Progress and tradition Boxing has always celebrated its traditions, and that's part of its charm. But clinging too tightly to the past risks alienating today's fans. Critics worry that too much technology might strip the sport of its human touch. But the goal isn't to replace tradition, it's to protect it by ensuring fairness.

## Manchester United and Scotland soccer great, Denis Law dies at 84

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Denis Law, the Manchester United and Scotland great, has died. He was 84.

The death of Law, the only Scottish player to win the Ballon d'Or, was announced by his family through United on Friday. In 2021 he was diagnosed with dementia.

"It is with a heavy heart that we tell you our father Denis Law has sadly passed away. He fought a tough battle but finally he is now at peace," the statement read.

"We would like to thank everyone who contributed to his wellbeing and care, past and much more recently. We know how much people supported and loved him and that love was always appreciated and made the difference."

Law is forever linked with Bobby Charlton and George Best, the three-pronged strike force that led United to English league titles in 1965 and '67 and the European Cup in 1968 - a first for an English club.

"Everyone at Manchester United is mourning the loss of Denis Law, the King of the Stretford End," United said in a statement. "With 237 goals in 404 appearances, he will always be celebrated as one of the club's greatest and most beloved players. The ultimate

goal-scorer, his flair, spirit and love for the game made him the hero of a generation." Law, Charlton and Best would be voted as European footballer of the year and win the Ballon d'Or in a five-season period from 1964-68. They are united in a statue at Old Trafford. Law is the only player with two statues at the stadium: He stands solo on the Stretford End concourse, naturally.

Law's 46 goals in the 1963-64 season remains a single-season record for United. His 237 goals for the club are bettered by only Charlton and Wayne Rooney, though his goals-per-game ratio is higher.

However, a goal he scored against United is arguably his most famous. In one of the last games of his career, Law was playing for Manchester City - where he had two spells - at Old Trafford in United's next-to-last game of the 1973-74 season. His late goal, with an audacious back-heel flick he insisted was "a fluke," meant United lost 1-0 and helped to ensure its relegation to the second division just six years after being European champion.

Law did not celebrate his goal and was substituted with head bowed as United fans invaded the pitch before the game



restarted. His 30 goals for Scotland are matched by only Kenny Dalglish, though was achieved in just 55 games compared to Dalglish's 102. UEFA was one of many to react to Law's death. On X it wrote, "On behalf of European football we are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Denis Law. One of Scottish football's true greats."

A player who would become fondly referred to as "The Lawman," Law left his northern Scotland hometown of Aberdeen as a skinny 15-year-old with poor eyesight. He became a feared penalty-area predator and a pioneer in a modernizing world of European soccer.

By the age of 22, both United and City paid English-record transfer fees to sign Law, and he had played one season in Italy - an exotic change of culture at that time, though he disliked the defensive nature of Serie A.

He returned from Torino in 1962 to begin an 11-year stint at Old Trafford that helped re-establish United as an international power under manager Matt Busby.

Law joined a club that was still rebuilding from the airplane crash at Munich four years earlier. It took the lives of most of Busby's then-dominant team returning from a European Cup game.

Law's prolific scoring helped United win the FA Cup in 1963 for its first trophy since the Munich disaster, and then two league titles in three seasons.

Redemption for Busby's United was becoming European champion a decade after the tragedy. Though Best and Charlton scored in the final, a 4-1 extra-time win over Benfica, Law missed the game at London's Wembley Stadium due to a knee injury that persisted in his career.

He had his own signature Wembley moment one year earlier. He scored Scotland's first goal in a 3-2 victory to inflict England's first loss since winning the 1966 World Cup final nine months previously.

As a proud Scot, Law refused to watch the final on television. He went to play golf instead. Only in one of his last games

would Law finally play at the World Cup, in 1974 in West Germany.

Then a 34-year-old veteran, Law was selected for Scotland's opening match, a 2-0 win against Zaire. He was not picked for subsequent drawn games against Brazil and Yugoslavia as Scotland was eliminated.

Law chose to end his career in August 1974, by which time he'd etched his name in soccer's scoring history. After his playing career, Law worked as a TV soccer pundit and presenter and was very much in the public eye in spending some of Best's last hours next to the Northern Irishman's hospital bed before his alcohol-related death in 2005.

Law recovered from prostate cancer, and was awarded a Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 2016 for services to soccer and charity.

When his dementia was publicly revealed four years ago, he said, "It is an incredibly challenging and problematic disease and I have witnessed many friends go through this. I recognise how my brain is deteriorating and how my memory evades me when I don't want it to and how this causes me distress in situations that are beyond my control."

## Winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia signs with French champion PSG until 2029



PTI ■ PARIS

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia completed his expected move from Napoli to Paris Saint-Germain when he signed a deal until 2029 with the record 12-time French champion.

French media earlier reported the 23-year-old Georgia forward was in Paris to have his medical check, and PSG confirmed the transfer in a statement late Friday. "It's a dream to be here. I've heard a lot of very positive things

about Paris Saint-Germain," Kvaratskhelia said. "I feel immense pride in joining." No further information was given but L'Equipe estimated the transfer fee to be 70 million euros (\$72 million) without bonuses.

The move comes a day after he posted a farewell video to Napoli fans, who affectionately nicknamed him "Kvaradona" in homage to

Argentina great Diego Maradona, the club's greatest ever player. Kvaratskhelia starred in Napoli's Serie A title-winning team in 2023.

## Omar Marmoush will probably leave for Man City says Frankfurt

PTI ■ FRANKFURT

Omar Marmoush seemed on the verge of joining Manchester City on Friday as his current club Eintracht Frankfurt confirmed it was in talks with City and said the Egyptian striker would probably leave.

Marmoush was not in the squad as Frankfurt beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 in the Bundesliga but joined his teammates on the field after the game for an apparent farewell as fans cheered.

"I've said often before that we're in discussions with a club. In the end, it's Manchester City and we've really been in close contact with them for one or two days now," sporting director Markus Krösche told broadcaster DAZN ahead of the game. A move to City would be a "huge opportunity" for Marmoush, he added.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI.**  
Email- [purim.hud@nic.in](mailto:purim.hud@nic.in)

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
Identification No. P.M.03/2024-25  
Notice No. 445 Dated: 16.1.25

1. Type of Work: Electrical/Civil Work. 2. Total No. of works: 01 nos. of Individual Works. 3. Estimate Cost: Rs. 3158050/- 4. Period of completion: 30 Days 5. Date & time of availability of bid document in the Portal: - from 03 P.M of 20.01.2025 to 05 P.M of 03.02.2025 6. Last date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal: - up to 05 P.M of 03.02.2025 7. Date of Opening of bid 11 A.M. of dtd 04.02.2025 8. Name & address of the Officer inviting Bid: Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri. Further detail can be seen from the e-procurement portal [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
OIPR-13159/11/0034/2425

Executive Officer,  
Puri Municipality, Puri

**ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)  
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR - 751002.  
Tel - MD 0674 - 2340573, PBX - 2340170, Fax - 2340096

**TENDER INVITATION No- OSSC/ Engg- 109/ 2025**  
Managing Director, Odisha State Seeds Corporation Ltd invites Percentage Rate tenders in Double Cover System through ONLINE MODE ONLY for the works below

**Values in Rs.**

Sl	Name of the Work	Cost of work without GST	EMD	Cost of Tender Document with GST	Completion period	Class of contractor
I	Installation of 11 KV OH Line and 100 KVA, 11/04 KV Substation at Seed Processing Plant, Sundargarh	1621810.00 Without GST	16218.00	6,720.00 With GST	180	HT Electrical

**CRITICAL DATES**

A	Availability of Bid Document	14.40 hours on dt. 21.01.2025 to 17.00 hours on dt. 30.01.2025
B <th>Last Date of Receipt of tender in the Portal</th> <td>17.00 hours on dt. 30.01.2025</td>	Last Date of Receipt of tender in the Portal	17.00 hours on dt. 30.01.2025
C <th>Date/ Time of Opening of Bid</th> <td>12.30 hours on dt. 31.01.2025</td>	Date/ Time of Opening of Bid	12.30 hours on dt. 31.01.2025

Further detail can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-  
Managing Director  
OSSC Ltd, BBSR  
OIPR-01045/11/0007/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** e-mail: [eehbhpt@gmail.com](mailto:eehbhpt@gmail.com)  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA**  
Pamanandpur, Railway Station Road, Bhawanipatna, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN -766002

**C-1485**

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
Identification No. SEPH-BHPT-11y of 2024-25 / Dt. 15.01.2025  
e-Procurement Notice

- Name of the Work: 2 no Work.
- Type of Bid: Double Bid System
- Estimated Cost: Rs. 86.36 lakh to 87.21 Lakh
- Period of Completion: 4 Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: From 11.00 AM of dt. 22.01.2025 to 5.00 PM of 05.02.2025
- Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal: 5.00 PM of 05.02.2025.
- Date & Time of opening of technical bids: At 11.30 AM of 06.02.2024
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhawanipatna, Railway Station Road, A/Po- Pamanandpur, 766002 Dist- Kalahandi.

Further details can be seen from the web site <http://tenders.or.nic.in> or [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Superintending Engineer,  
P.H. Division, Bhawanipatna  
OIPR-13059/11/0017/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, MALKANGIRI**  
E-mail: [eeoms.malkangiri,eeomsr@gmail.com](mailto:eeoms.malkangiri,eeomsr@gmail.com)

**O-4287**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
Bid Identification No: RWS5\_MKG\_ONLINE\_07/2024-25 DATED:- 16.01.2025

The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Malkangiri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites bids from bidders of eligible class registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the works detailed in the table below to be eventually drawn up in P-1 contract.

- Name of the Work: Supply & Installation of Laboratory Furniture's for District Water Testing Laboratory (As detailed in TCI)
- No. of Works: 01 No.
- Estimated Cost: ₹20.04 Lakhs
- Tender Paper Cost: ₹6000/- each
- Class of Contractor: Authorised Manufacturer/ Dealer/ Distributor
- Period of Completion: 02 (Two) calendar months

**7. Critical dates:**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	Last Date of Seeking tender Clarification	Date of opening the Bid
Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Malkangiri	RWS5_MKG_ONLINE_07 of 2024-25	22.01.2025 at 09.00 Hours up to 31.01.2025 at 17.00 Hours	29.01.2025	01.02.2025 At 11.00 Hours

Further details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the web site.

Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without any reason thereof.

Superintending Engineer  
RWS&S Division, Malkangiri  
OIPR-25044/11/0008/2425

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER JAGATSINGHPUR (R&B) DIVISION, JAGATSINGHPUR**  
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA E-Mail: [I.D.eerbpr@gmail.com](mailto:I.D.eerbpr@gmail.com)

**B-853**

**('e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE)**  
Bid Identification No. S.E. JSP(R&B)-07 of 2024-25  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

- The Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division, Jagatsinghpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Building works as mentioned below.
- No. of Work: 10 Nos.
- Nature of work: Roads works
- Class of Contractor: "B" "C" & "D"
- Tender Paper Cost: Rs.6000/- & 4,000/- (Online)
- Available of bid documents in the website: From 21/01/2025 to 5PM of 30/01/2025
- Date of Opening of Bid: 11AM of 31/01/2024
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. (Er Ashis Nayak) Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34093/11/0009/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KENDRAPARA IRRIGATION DIVISION, KENDRAPARA**  
DISTRICT: KENDRAPARA  
E-mail ID - [kendrapairrigationdivision@gmail.com](mailto:kendrapairrigationdivision@gmail.com)  
"e" Procurement Notice No.KID-03 of 2024-25

**A-913**

- Name of Work: As per detailed Tender Call Notice.
- Total No. of package: KID-79 to KID-80 of 2023-24 = 02 No(s) individual package.
- Estimated cost of package(s) varies from Rs.18.54 to Rs.70.94 Lakhs
- Cost of Tender paper: Rs.6000.00 & Rs.10,000.00
- Bid Security: As per Column No.5 of DTCN.
- Period of completion: Six Calendar Months.
- Transparent Lottery (If required) to be drawn on 10.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M. onwards.
- Other details are given below.

Procurement Officer	Bid-identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Date, Time & Place of Opening of Bid
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, Kendrapara Irrigation Division, Kendrapara	KID-79 of 2024-25 to KID-80 of 2024-25 (On-line)	21.01.2025 at 10.00 AM	30.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM.	31.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M @ (The Superintending Engineer Kendrapara Irrigation Division, Kendrapara.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Superintending Engineer  
Kendrapara Irrigation Division  
Kendrapara  
OIPR-32163/11/0003/2425



# BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE CAST



PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR

### The cast of *Swipe Crime* breaks down their roles, with Faisal Malik giving fans hope for Prahlad Cha's return, says SAKSHI PRIYA

compelling character, adding another nuanced portrayal to his repertoire. Here, we dive into his thoughts on the series, his character and the lessons he's gathered along the way. In this gripping exploration of cybercrime, Faisal brings depth to a character that resonates with real-life personas. Here's a closer look at his journey with the show and the insights he shared about his craft.

**The Concept and the Draw:** For Faisal, the decision to join *Swipe Crime* was rooted in the script's quality and the universe it creates. "What inspires every actor to do it? The character is good. The universe he has created is good. And it's very relatable as well as beautifully written. That's what inspires me," he shared.

**Portraying His Character:** Faisal's character in *Swipe Crime* stands out for its layered personality. He described it as someone who is multifaceted depending on perspective. "A nice person, for myself only, not for the people around me. So for me, I

am a very nice, good person. But for my students, I am a badass. So they don't like me. And it's good for me," he explained. To bring authenticity to the role, Faisal drew inspiration from a real-life individual. "There is a teacher on my campus, Mr. Sharma. He was like this. So I have just taken him and done it here."

**Films vs OTT:** Having worked in diverse mediums, Faisal finds the OTT format particularly appealing for its depth in storytelling. "Not platform, but the medium of series is good. Because one can easily explore the character and the person. It's not hero-centric at all," he stated, reflecting on the opportunities OTT platforms offer.

**When Prahlad Cha Returns:** Fans of Faisal's character from *Panchayat* are eagerly awaiting the return of Prahlad Cha. Faisal shared some insight on this during the interview, saying, "Ready ho raha hai. 8 or 9 months lagega abhi." This indicates that while the wait may be long, there are plans for Prahlad Cha's return in the future.



**Lessons from the Industry:** The entertainment industry has taught Faisal valuable lessons, both professionally and personally. "For me, it's like to be good to people. Yeah, that's nice," he said, emphasising the importance of kindness and understanding. However, his journey also came with its challenges. "Someone told me a long time back to stop thinking about too much of anything. I used to produce shows and all. So in that entire journey, I was very bad to people. Because I was keeping my 24/7. So if some other person is not doing their work, then I become very bad. They all said don't do this. You are making enemies."

**Advice to His Younger Self:** When asked what he would tell his younger self, Faisal offered an honest and surprising answer. "That's the worst thing I have done in my life, to think about work. Otherwise, I would be a lazy person. I would be sitting alone. I don't want to do anything. This is what I want to do: doing nothing," he said with a smile.

**A Show That Resonates with Today's Audience** *Swipe Crime* is a thriller that mirrors society's growing dependence on technology and the vulnerabilities it exposes. The performances, led by Faisal Malik's gravitas, Rishab Chadha's depth, Diksha J Singh's charisma and Ronit Ashra's fresh energy, make it a must-watch for audiences of all ages. As Faisal Malik aptly put it, "Awareness is key. While technology evolves, it's up to us to use it wisely and protect ourselves." With a compelling storyline, powerful performances and a relevant message, *Swipe Crime* is set to leave a lasting impact on viewers, making them think twice about the digital footprints they leave behind.

### The Cast Reveals All! Insights from the Cast and Crew:

OTT platforms have brought forth a wave of fresh, engaging content and *Swipe Crime* is the latest show garnering attention. With its intriguing storyline and complex characters, the show has created a buzz among audiences. Here's an exclusive look into the world of *Swipe Crime* with the cast members, Rishabh Chaddha, Diksha Singh, Ronit Ashra and the celebrated Faisal Malik. Faisal Malik, known for his phenomenal work in *Panchayat*, shares his insights on the show, while the rest of the cast speaks about their challenges, character nuances and their experiences working together.

**Faisal Malik on His Role and Reflections from the Industry:** Faisal Malik, best known for his remarkable performances, takes on a Professor role in the series *Swipe Crime*. He has cemented his place in the industry as an actor who brings depth and authenticity to every role. In *Swipe Crime*, a gripping series exploring the dark corners of cybercrime, Faisal takes on a



**RISHAB CHADHA**  
Versatility and Dedication

Rishabh Chadha, known for Drishyam and Khoobsurat, shines in *Swipe Crime*. Reflecting on his 18-year acting journey, he said, "I've spent so much time on my craft that nothing feels too challenging anymore. But this role was unique, requiring restraint and a transformation that I hadn't experienced before." On challenges, he shared, "A scene with alcohol and fire was intense. I unknowingly consumed alcohol, fainted post-shoot, but it's my best intro scene yet." Playing Vidhan Shastri, a shy yet ambitious UP engineering student, Rishabh drew from personal experiences and the director's vision, saying, "Understanding the director is key."



**DIKSHA J SINGH**  
From Model to Actress

Diksha J Singh is a multifaceted personality, an actor, model, and politician, best known for her role as Juhi in *Swipe Crime*. Talking about her character, she shared, "After a long time, I came across a script that offered so much for a woman to play, especially in a negative role from a college perspective. It's rare and refreshing." For Diksha, Juhi is mentally strong and incredibly clever, characteristics she found fascinating to portray. Though she did not share screen space with Faisal Malik, she expressed admiration for their performances and eagerly sought their guidance during promotions.



**RONIT ASHRA**  
From Social Media to Acting Debut

Ronit Ashra, celebrated for his mimicry and content creation, makes his acting debut in *Swipe Crime*. Transitioning from a social media sensation to an actor, he remarked, "Acting has always been my passion. It feels great to finally bring it to life in a show like this." Ronit plays Nikhil Saxena, the studious son of an ITian who wants to carve his own path. Describing his character, he said, "Nikhil is a mix of intelligence and ambition, with a lighthearted dynamic with his parents." Ronit shared amusing anecdotes from the set, especially his improvisations with Faisal Malik. "We'd often create moments on the spot, making the process incredibly fun," he said.

# GRITTY PICTURE OF TIHAR



### Neflix's *Black Warrant* takes viewers into the life in Tihar Jail investigating power, corruption and survival in 1980s, writes ABHI SINGHAL



**B**lack Warrant is a crime drama series, premiered on Netflix. It has been adapted from the 2019 memoir 'Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer' by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury, the series offers a portrayal of life inside India's Tihar Jail during the 1980s. **Conspicuous** The story revolves around Sunil Kumar Gupta, portrayed by Zahan Kapoor, a novice jailer who begins his tenure at Tihar Jail. As he becomes acquainted with the prison's operations under the guidance of Rajesh Tomar (played by Rahul Bhat), Sunil Kumar Gupta confronts the pervasive corruption and complex power dynamics among inmates and staff of Tihar Jail. The series excavates into Gupta's moral dilemmas and his interactions with notorious criminals, including serial killer Charles Sobhraj. **A Stellar Ensemble** The cast of *Black Warrant* delivers outstanding performances, bringing depth to the series' deep story. Zahan Kapoor shines as Sunil Gupta, portraying a young, idealistic jailer coming to truth with the harsh realities of Tihar Jail. His portrayal of inner conflict and moral dilemmas adds a relatable human touch to the story. Rahul Bhat excels as DSP Rajesh Tomar, a hardened

mentor who embodies the complexity of law enforcement in a morally ambiguous environment. Sidhant Gupta's performance as the cunning and calm Charles Sobhraj is a standout, effortlessly having a scary vibe of his own. Rajshri Deshpande adds gravitas as Pratibha Sen, a journalist investigating the murky waters of prison politics. Supporting actors like Tota Roy Choudhury and Joy Sengupta skillfully portray senior prison officials, highlighting the institutional dynamics and their often questionable choices. Each actor contributes to the authentic portrayal of a prison system marked by power struggles, corruption, and humanity's darker shades. The ensemble's seamless chemistry elevates the series, making it a gripping watch. **Direction and Production** The series is a collaborative creation by Vikramaditya Motwane, Satyanshu Singh, and Daniel Sharma. Motwane, co-directs alongside Singh, Sharma, Rohin Ravendran Nair, and Ambieeka Pandit. **Episode Structure** "Black Warrant" comprises seven episodes, each ranging from 38 to 50 minutes. Each episode takes you through deeper into the challenges

faced by Gupta as he sails the double crossing environment of Tihar Jail. **Critical Reception** The series goes good on the part of authentic depiction of prison life and compelling storytelling of the Tihar Jail. The storyline is gripping and showcases the major part of how things roll in Tihar Jail. The dark side of corruption, the setting of inmates with the police, the violence inside the jail and the under trails is perfectly showcased in the film. With each episode centred on a different case, the show is meticulously scripted. Even if the majority of the plot seems authentic, it falls apart when Sunil is revealed as the system's sole saviour. It could have done better with the ending like the other episodes. **Closure** "Black Warrant" is notable for its honest and realistic depiction of the intricacies found in one of India's most infamous prisons. With excellent acting, especially from Zahan Kapoor and Rahul Bhat, the series explores themes of survival and division of power. *Black Warrant* is a notable addition to Netflix's library for fans who enjoy crime dramas based on actual events.

Rating - 4/5



## Layers of Love and Craft

By SAKSHI PRIYA

Chandni Chowk has always been the heartbeat of wedding shopping in Delhi, and now, with the addition of *House of Surya* at *Omaxe Chowk*, bridal shopping has reached new heights of elegance. The store transforms this experience into an art form, showcasing timeless craftsmanship that speaks to the soul of traditional Indian fashion.

The *House of Surya* collection stands out with intricate details, from delicate hand embroidery to the rich textures of Banarasi silks and velvets. The colour palette spans from classic bridal reds to soft pastels and muted metallics, offering something for every bride and wedding celebration. Whether it's a grand lehenga for the main ceremony or a lighter outfit for pre-wedding events, the designs strike the perfect balance of luxury and wearability, catering to the vibrant celebrations that define Indian weddings.

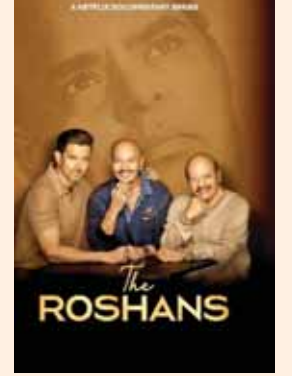


The launch saw Malaika Arora bringing her signature grace and glamour, embodying the collection's ethos of confidence and elegance. Her presence highlighted how the designs resonate with today's brides, who seek a harmonious balance between tradition and individuality. Stepping into the store feels like entering a world of creativity and craftsmanship. The thoughtfully designed space invites customers into a world of creativity and detail. From ornate embellishments to the careful interplay of heritage and contemporary aesthetics, every garment has a personality of its own. The artistry and skill of Indian craftsmen shine through, with pieces that feel like heirlooms meant to be cherished. As wedding season peaks, this addition has quickly become a go-to for bridal wear that adapts to the varying needs of modern celebrations. From mehendi to reception, the collection caters to every event while maintaining the grandeur that Indian weddings are known for. The focus on craftsmanship is what makes this collection truly special. In a fast-paced world, it's refreshing to see a space that honours traditional techniques while keeping them relevant for the present day. For those stepping into the whirlwind of wedding preparations, this new destination is about connecting with a legacy of design and artistry. It offers not just garments but an experience, one that makes every bride feel unique and every occasion unforgettable.

### SUGGESTED BINGES



**PAATAL LOK SEASON 2**  
IMDB Rating: 8.9/10 (as of 18th Jan)  
OTT: Amazon Prime Video  
Director: Avinash Arun  
Cast: Jaideep Ahlawat, Ishwak Singh, Anurag Arora



**THE ROSHANS**  
IMDB Rating: 8.2/10 (as of 18th Jan)  
OTT: Netflix  
Director: Shashi Ranjan  
Cast: Rakesh Roshan, Hrithik Roshan, Rajesh Roshan



**BACK IN ACTION**  
IMDB Rating: 6.5/10  
OTT: Netflix  
Director: J.J. Perry, Kristina M. Peterson  
Cast: Cameron Diaz, Jamie Foxx, McKenna Roberts, Rylan Jackson

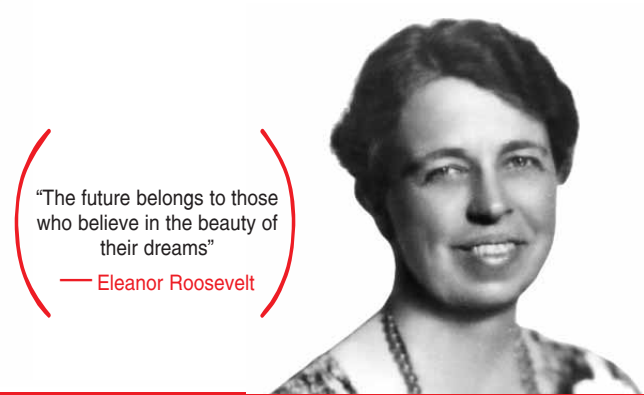


**XO, KITTY SEASON 2**  
OTT: Netflix  
Director: Katina Medina Mora, Steven Tsuchida, Anna Mastro  
Cast: Anna Cathcart, Minyeong Choi, Gia Kim



**WITH LOVE, MEGHAN**  
OTT: Netflix  
Director: Michael Steed  
Cast: Meghan Markle, Mindy Kaling, Prince Harry





# real-A-life action hero

From Bollywood star to philanthropic icon, Sonu Sood's journey in Bollywood is a classic example of perseverance and resilience, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

*@SonuSood who plays Villain in South and Bollywood, but he did such a thing in this tragedy that he is the biggest hero in my eyes. On a social platform like Twitter, by taking the details of the workers, they are arranging buses and transporting them to the own village.: Md Shahnawaz Alam @alamktr00*

**M**d Shahnawaz Alam was not the only person praising Sonu Sood for helping migrants reach their homes during Covid when lockdown was suddenly announced and people were stuck across the country. It was crazy time. No one knew what was in store and how pandemic would unfold. It was particularly hard on migrant workers with meagre resources walked endless journey to their hometowns. In this situation *Sonu Sood*, a known name in Bollywood for playing mean villain came forward to help people and making arrangements for traveling to these workers. The twitter was abuzz with people asking 'Sonu bhैया' help and getting it. His twitter handle became a virtual helpline. Tweets like these flooded his social media handle. And he ready came for help. Genuinely. It was a gesture people reciprocated with warmth and *Sonu Sood* became a household name. It was indeed a turning point in the life and career of the star. And since then he did not look back. *Sonu Sood's* journey in Bollywood is a testament to resilience, hard work, and the power of perseverance. From humble beginnings to becoming a household name, *Sonu's* story is not just about acting but also about his extraordinary contributions to society through his philanthropic efforts. His rise to fame and his journey of selfless giving have made him one of the most admired figures in India, both on and off the screen. Born on July 30, 1973, in Moga, Punjab, *Sonu Sood* was not always destined for the glitz and glamour of Bollywood. Growing up in a middle-class family, *Sonu's* early life was filled with academic aspirations. He completed his engineering degree from the Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering in Nagpur. However, despite his technical background, his heart was always inclined towards acting. *Sonu* moved to Mumbai with dreams of making it in Bollywood. Like many aspiring actors, his journey was not without struggle. He started his career with small roles and often faced rejection. His initial years in the industry were difficult, and he struggled to find a breakthrough. He appeared in a variety of roles, including in films like *Kahan Hai Tu* (1999) and *Shaheed-E-Azam* (2002). These films, although not major hits, helped *Sonu* gain experience and sharpen his acting skills. *Sonu Sood's* breakthrough came with the film *Yuva* (2004), directed by Mani Ratnam. Playing the character of a strong-willed, determined man, *Sonu's* performance was well-received. This marked the beginning of his rise in the industry. His portrayal of negative roles in films like *Aashiq Banaya Aapne* (2005) and *Dabangg* (2010) further solidified his presence in

Bollywood. In *Dabangg*, his character, Chhedi Singh, was menacing, and his performance opposite Salman Khan earned him widespread acclaim. The turning point in his career came when *Sonu Sood* was offered roles that showcased his versatility. Whether as the villain or a complex character with shades of Gray, *Sonu's* consistent hard work and dedication to his craft saw him rise through the ranks of Bollywood's A-list stars. His powerful performances in films like *Jodha Akbar* (2008), *Simmba* (2018), and *Raju Chacha* (2000) earned him several awards and nominations. What sets *Sonu* apart is his ability to evolve with the changing dynamics of the film industry. He has played a range of characters, from a villain to a hero, from action-packed roles to romantic parts. His commitment to delivering quality performances, regardless of the scale of the film, has made him a dependable actor in Bollywood. While *Sonu Sood's* acting career has been remarkable, his philanthropic work during the COVID-19 pandemic made him a true hero in the eyes of millions. When the pandemic caused widespread suffering across the globe, *Sonu* didn't just stay confined to his home; he became the guiding light for thousands of people in need. *Sonu's* philanthropic efforts began when he started helping migrant workers stuck in different parts of India due to the lockdown. With his own funds and resources, *Sonu* arranged transportation for thousands of migrant workers to return to their homes, despite facing logistical hurdles and government restrictions. His initiative gained massive media attention, with people praising him for his quick and effective response to the crisis. In addition to helping migrant workers, *Sonu Sood* extended his support to the medical sector by arranging hospital beds, oxygen supplies, and treatment for those suffering from COVID-19. He provided financial aid to families who had lost their loved ones during the pandemic and launched multiple campaigns to help students, farmers, and the underprivileged access education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Through his organisation, the Sood Charity Foundation, *Sonu* has continued his philanthropic efforts, focusing on education, healthcare, and helping the underprivileged. He believes in the power of education and aims to provide quality education to children who do not have access to it. His efforts have not gone unnoticed, and he has received numerous accolades, including the prestigious International Humanitarian Award in recognition of his selfless work. *Sonu Sood's* success in Bollywood is a result of his unwavering dedication and hard work. He didn't come from a film family and had no Godfather when he reached Mumbai from his hometown Moga with just Rs 5000 in his pocket. He worked his way up to build his career from the ground up. His perseverance is a reflection of his commitment to his craft and his belief that success comes with consistent effort. What sets *Sonu* apart from many others in the industry is his work ethic and focus. He has worked in several regional film industries, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi cinema, which allowed him to understand the nuances of different audiences and cultures. This versatility has been key to his success, as he is equally comfortable playing a hero or villain in different languages and genres. In an industry where many actors rely on luck or industry connections to secure their place, *Sonu* has demonstrated that talent, dedication, and hard work are the true pillars of success. His journey is an inspiration to aspiring actors and those who believe in the power of perseverance. *Sonu Sood* has not only made a place for himself in Bollywood but has also become a hero for countless people across the country. His legacy, both as an actor and philanthropist, will continue to inspire generations to come.



*Sonu Sood's journey in Bollywood is an incredible narrative of success, struggle and humanity. From a young man with dreams of becoming an actor to a respected figure in the Indian film industry, Sonu's dedication to his craft and his selfless philanthropic work makes him an iconic figure in India today. He was in Delhi at the premier of his latest offering 'Fateh' an action-packed film dealing with cybercrime. Sonu Sood talked to Gyaneshwar Dayal, about his acting, social responsibilities and future plans.*

**Could you tell us what scripts draw your attention?**  
I like to do the films which are close to common man, about his life and problems. Recently I did *Fateh* which deals with the cybercrimes which has become a menace in the country and people should know about it. So I thought why not make a film which would indeed not only entertain but also inform people about the dangers lurking in the digital domain. So I prefer films which are entertaining but also create awareness and talk about people's issues

**You are known for action. Do you like action roles?**  
Yes of course. In my films people get to see a lot of action sequences which are world class and are at par with Hollywood films. We can say that we make action sequences which are world class and perfectly choreographed. *Fateh* is case in point.

**How do you prepare for a role in a film?**  
Well acting comes naturally to me. I have always loved acting and so when I hear a character in the film I get the idea how to go about it. I can switch on and off between the roles and that is really important because Bollywood works like that. Yes, understanding of the role must be there so that you can do justice to it.

**You do a lot of philanthropic work. So what you prefer action for the people in their dire times or action on the screen?**  
See, life is more than just lights camera action. When there are no lights or camera action continues in the real life. It is a great feeling when you can help someone in need when there is no light no camera. It is important to be sympathetic and have empathy, because cinema is one aspect of life not the other way round.

**You have portrayed a range of roles, both positive and negative. Which type do you prefer, and why?**  
That's correct I accept all types of roles I think I can do justice to. But now on I want to do positive roles. I love playing positive roles and that is the kind roles I would be doing now on.



In *Sandburgs* you will find yourself immersed in an ambiance that feels straight out of America when they serve. The menu is crafted to teleport you to the street style of USA with their presentation, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



# SLICE OF AMERICA ON YOUR PLATE

When you step into *Sandburgs*, you're instantly transported to the bustling streets of America usually you might have seen in the web series. From the rustic interiors to the vibrant menu, every corner exudes classic American charm. And the food? It's a culinary celebration of comfort and indulgence. Here's a deep dive into the unforgettable experience that *Sandburgs* offers.



lovers. This unique offering combines marinated cottage cheese with fresh veggies like onion, tomato, and capsicum. The *SB special mint mayo* and *tandoori sauce* elevate the flavours, creating a blend of smoky, tangy, and herby notes in every bite. The warm, crisp bread completes the sandwich, making it a satisfying meal on its own. Other options you could explore in the Sandwiches category are *Peri Peri Cottage press Sandwich*, *Classic Pollo press Sandwich*, *North Pollo Press Sandwich* which are like awesome for the fast food lovers.

**BURGERS THAT SPEAK TO YOUR SOUL:** The *Garden Dreams Burger* is a masterpiece that deserves a standing ovation. The handmade veggie patty is perfectly crisp on the outside and tender within, paired with fresh lettuce, juicy tomato, and a generous dollop of homemade harissa mayo that gives the burger a delightful kick. The caramelised onions and melted cheddar cheese add layers of sweet and savoury goodness, all nestled in a soft, freshly toasted bun.

**SANDWICHES THAT STEAL THE SHOW:** The *Tandoori Cottage Press Sandwich* is a revelation for sandwich

**CHEESINESS YOU CAN'T SAY NO TO:** Cheese lovers, unite! The *Grilled Cheese* is a triple-threat of mozzarella, parmesan, and cheddar cheeses melted



to perfection. The caramelised onions tucked inside add a hint of sweetness that balances the richness of the cheeses. Toasted in freshly baked milk bread, it's a nostalgic nod to classic American comfort food, oozing with gooey goodness. You could also satisfy your taste buds by ordering *Shroom & Cheese* with assorted mushroom ragu with caramelised onion, mozzarella and parmesan cheese toasted in a freshly baked milk bread, *Ham & cheese* with premium pork ham with sharp cheddar cheese and golden fried egg toasted in a freshly baked milk bread.

**SIDES THAT COMPLIMENT THE FEAST:** What's an American-style meal without crispy potato fries? *Sandburgs'* fries are golden perfection, crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. The variety of dips, including the *Cheese Garlic Dip* and the *tangy BBQ Dip*, allow you to customise your experience. The *Spicy Dip* is a personal favourite, adding just the right amount of heat to the crispy fries.

**COOL DRINKS AND COFFEE:** The

beverages menu is equally impressive. The *Hazelnut Iced Latte* offers a smooth blend of nutty and creamy flavours, served over ice, making it a refreshing pick-me-up. The *Lemon Iced Tea* is a zesty and revitalising drink, perfect for pairing with the heavy-duty burgers and sandwiches. You could also try *Sundaes - Hot Chocolate Sundae* and *Salted Caramel Sundae* if you are an ice cream fan.

**DESSERTS AND BEYOND:** Although I didn't try the sundaes this time, their presence on the menu promises a classic American diner experience. The range of beverages, from *Coffee on the Rocks* to *Nice and Warm drinks*, ensures there's something for every palate.

*Sandburgs* deliver taste but on the promise of a true American-style dining experience. The presentation, flavours, and overall vibe make it a must-visit for anyone craving hearty comfort food. From the meticulous plating to the authentic taste, *Sandburgs* takes you on a culinary journey straight to the heart of America, one delicious bite at a time.



**FACTSHEET**  
Restaurant Name: Sandburgs  
Place: Unit 4/E-14, Upper Ground Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi (outlets in Gurgaon as well)  
Price for 1: ₹700 approx

## Revolutionising Dining Experiences

*Japonico: Discover the joy of great food and creative flavours*



**Pawan Soni**  
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards



In a culinary world where new menus often blur into monotony, *Japonico* on Golf Course Road stands out as a beacon of creativity and authenticity. This is a place where innovation meets artistry, delivering a dining experience that surprises and delights even the most seasoned food enthusiasts. With a view of the bustling metro line on the golf course road, *Japonico's* interiors are a visual treat. The layout is thoughtfully divided: one side features a live wood Robata grill and family-style seating, while the other, overlooking the bar, offers a more high-energy vibe. Striking design elements, live projections on flowing water and giant pots, create a serene yet vibrant ambience. Subtle lighting is balanced by strategically placed spotlights, ensuring that every dish's presentation shines as brightly as its flavours.

**A COCKTAIL JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER:** The experience begins with the drinks. *The Legacy*, a gin- and vodka-based martini, exemplifies the bar's mastery. Served with tobiko caviar, pickled radish, and an olive, each element adds depth: the tobiko bursts with wasabi and truffle notes, the radish enhances passion fruit flavours, and the olive ties it back to the martini's classic essence. *Japonico's* mixology programme promises a standard that few can match.

**CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS:** The meal starts strong with the *Mushroom Salad*, a delightful medley of textures and flavours. Crisp and dehydrated shiitake mushrooms pair beautifully with iceberg lettuce, red cabbage, mizuna, cucumber and avocado, all elevated by a gomasio dressing. The *Rocky Shrimp Tempura*, spiced with togarashi and creamy mayo, may not break new ground, but its flawless execution ensures it's devoured in no time. The dim sum, crafted with precision, leaves no room for leftovers. The star of the meal, however, is the *Atlantic Crab and Aji Chili Taco*. The sweetness of crab meat meets the heat of chilli and the crunch of a

perfectly crisp taco shell, all brightened by a hint of lemon. It's so irresistibly good, you might not want to share. If you're a crab lover, this dish alone is worth the visit.

From the Robata grill comes another standout: the Australian Lamb Cutlet, marinated in gochujang sauce for 24 hours. The result is tender, flavourful meat that melts in your mouth, delivering smoky richness with every bite.

**THE TEAM BEHIND THE MAGIC:** Great food and drinks require a great team, and *Japonico* is no exception. Restaurateur *Sahil Sambhi*, who I awarded the Best Restaurateur title in the 11th season of The Big F Awards, has honed his craft over the years, evolving from a nightlife innovator to a culinary trailblazer. Known for award-winning ventures like *Bawri* and *VietNom*, Sambhi's passion for innovation and excellence shines through in *Japonico*. At his side are talented mixologists *Chirag Pal* and *Jeet Rana*, and *Chef Roberto Blondi*, who brings Michelin-starred expertise to the table. Together, they've crafted a restaurant that's as much about the experience as it is about the cuisine.

**SETTING A NEW STANDARD:** As the first major restaurant launch of 2025, *Japonico* has raised the bar for the industry. It's not just a place to eat; it's a statement of what dining should aspire to be. Judging by the weekday crowd, diners agree, this is a benchmark that will be hard to beat.

**FACTSHEET**  
RATINGS (Out of 5)  
Food: 4.75 | Drinks: 4.75 | Ambience: 5.0 | Service: 4.5 | Overall: 4.75  
Address: Japonico, 2nd Floor, Tower D, Vipul Tech Square, Golf Course Rd, near Sector 42-43, Sector 43, Gurugram  
Phone: 9948000039

# From Mangalore to Delhi's Table

By **TEAM AGENDA**

Food has an uncanny way of transporting us. A single bite can take us to a vibrant street, a quiet kitchen or even the shores of a distant coast. At *Chor Bizarre Chef Shriya Shetty's Mangalorean* pop-up did exactly that, bringing the soothing flavours of Mangalore to the heart of Delhi.

The vegetarian journey began with *THINDI*, the *Jowar Tartlet* filled with *red amaranth* cooked in *coconut milk* and topped with *bajeel* (tempered beaten rice). This delicate appetiser was a celebration of earthy, creamy flavours and contrasting textures.

*KUNDAPUR* featured the *7-Hour Mushroom Ghee Roast*, served in *Bombay pao* with *ridge gourd tztziki*, *pomegranate* and *cilantro*. The slow-cooked mushrooms were rich and spiced, beautifully balanced by the refreshing *tztziki*.

The *BAFAT* offering, *Mangalorean Sweet Potato Bafath*, came with *sannas* and *tamarind reduction*. This dish delivered a balance of sweetness and tanginess, made complete by the softness of the *sannas*.

The vegetarian MAINS, served *thali-style*, included *Kori Roti*, *Peas* and *Potato Gassi*, *Red Amaranth Raita*, *Ridge Gourd*



paired with luscious *Banana Mousse*, *cacao nibs* and a *tangy pickle drizzle*. *Chef Shriya Shetty's* pop-up offered a delightful way to explore *Mangalorean* culture through its comforting curries, distinct spices and unique pairings. Whether you choose the vegetarian spread or the meatier options, each dish brought the flavours of *Mangalore* alive in every bite.



**FACTSHEET**  
Date & Time: January 19th, 2025  
Lunch: 12pm & 2pm  
Dinner: 7pm & 9:30pm  
Price: Veg ₹1,300 (All Inclusive), Non veg ₹1,600 (All Inclusive)  
Address: Broadway, 4/15 A, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi, 110012

*Chutney*, *Raw Banana* and *Carrot Sukkha*, *Ghee Rice* and accompaniments like *yoghurt and pickle*. The comforting *gassi* and *crispy kori roti* were the highlights, offering a fulfilling and balanced experience. For non-vegetarian diners, the *7-Hour Chicken Ghee Roast* from *KUNDAPUR* packed a flavourful punch, while the *Mangalorean Pork Bafath* from *BAFAT* delivered tangy notes with the *sannas* and tamarind reduction. The MAINS featured the *classic Chicken Gassi*, *Chicken Sukkha* and *Ghee Rice*, completing the hearty thali. The meal ended on a sweet note with the *DESSERT*, a warm, buttery *Ghee Cake*

# ESSENCE OF ASSAM



The Brahmaputra Carnival celebrates the Assamese heritage, and culinary delights, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



**N**ortheast India, a treasure of cultural diversity and natural beauty, is a region where traditions and modernity coexist in harmony. Among its enchanting states, Assam stands out with its lush tea gardens, lively festivals, and the mighty Brahmaputra River. Assam is all alive with the *Brahmaputra Carnival*, a grand celebration that promises to showcase the region's rich heritage, arts, and cuisine. Set against the stunning backdrop of the majestic river, the carnival features cultural performances, adventure sports, food festivals, and more. It's a unique opportunity to experience the soul of Assam like never before.

A fun carnival that looks like a colourful masterpiece made from Assamese soul, river breezes, and sunshine. On the banks of the majestic Brahmaputra River, Assam culture is celebrated at the *Brahmaputra Carnival*. The river itself is serving as the stage for this festival, which is organised by the Assam Government and is a symphony of culture, adventure, and unadulterated delight.

To make your experience even more fun and adventurous is The *Lachit Ghat* is the site of the *Brahmaputra Carnival*, and *Sandbar Island* serves as the *Tent City* during the event. It takes 15 to 20 minutes by speed boat from the *Lachit Ghat* to *Sandbar Island*, and the journey is visually stunning. If you're considering a trip to the northeast, the sunny and windy weather is ideal for a getaway.

**A RETREAT ON THE RIVER:** Currently being held on the *Lachit Ghat*,



the carnival pulsates with energy, yet maintains a serene undercurrent. The *Brahmaputra*, ever unpredictable, adds a touch of wildness to the festivities, reminding us of the raw power of nature. It's a retreat for the soul, where the peace of the river's embrace melds perfectly with the excitement of adventure.

**GLAMPING IN STYLE:** The festival provides a luxurious glamping experience with three categories of tents

namely the *Royal Tents*, *Premium Tents*, and *Deluxe Tents*. All of the three options offer you a comfortable and stylish retreat, complete with modern amenities and breathtaking river views that would blow away your mind. Also, one would enjoy the foggy views as soon as you get up and look outside of your tents. The foggy layers engulfing the *Brahmaputra River* will want you to have a cup of tea or coffee with those views and chills. You would also experience the open-air cinema magic



at *Brahmaputra Carnival Tent City*. Movies, fresh air, and unforgettable moments await you. The main part of the stay is the hospitality provided at your new home. The hospitality by *Gias* and his team of boys at the *Tent City* would truly make you comfortable and at home providing everything handy and in need.

**ADVENTURES ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA:** For the adrenaline junkies, the *Brahmaputra* is



an irresistible playground. At the *Sandbar Island* you would experience the speedboat rides cut through the water like a knife, while kayaking and jet skiing offer a more intimate encounter with the river's currents with your own rapid and water fun. For those seeking a true test of courage, bungee jumping provides an exhilarating leap of faith. And let's not forget the thrill of *ATV rides* and the exhilarating descent on the river rapids during a white-water rafting expedition.

This is not the end. You could also experience the *hot air balloon* rides up into the sky for beautiful views, *beach volleyball*, *beach cricket*, *archery*, *river rafting* and *water roller*. These adventures offer a unique perspective on the Brahmaputra, allowing you to experience its power and beauty firsthand. At the *Lachit Ghat*, you would experience *Archery*, *River Rafting*, *Water Roller*, *Speed boat*, *Kayaking*, *ATV*, *Bungee Ejection*, *Mechanical Bull Ride*, *Bungee Trampoline*, *Air Gun Shooting*, *Zip Line*, *Rope Course* and *Zorbing*. All this will keep you hooked to the carnival and not wanting to leave it. Take note that the water activities do not take place after the dark due to safety reasons.

**A CULTURAL VIBE:** Beyond the thrills, the *Brahmaputra Carnival* is a celebration of Assamese culture. You would see vibrant performances of traditional dances like *Bihu*, *Satriya Nritya*, *Bagurumba*, *Bhortal*, and *Ojapali* showcasing the region's rich heritage. Apart from the dance culture you could get stalls at the *Lachit Ghat* to buy the Assam specialities like the printed *Gamucha*, *Mekhela Chador* for women and the *Dhoti-gamosa* for men.



The *Brahmaputra Carnival* also takes you through the musical ears of Assam as bands perform in the concerts in the evening at the *Lachit Ghat*. On the 31st January the *Carnival* will be graced by the melodic singing of the famous singer *Papon*, on 19th February it will be *Rupam Buyan* and 19 January will be rocked by *Kanawz & Company*.

**THE TRADITIONAL TASTE:** At the *Brahmaputra Carnival* you can indulge in local delicacies that savour the flavours of authentic Assamese cuisine. The carnival has food stalls with authentic Assamese touch. You would see *chicken momos*, *chicken vodka momos*, *prawns*, *silkworms* and so much more that would satisfy your mouth watery taste buds.

**A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER:** The *Brahmaputra Carnival* is more than just a festival; it's an invitation to experience the soul of Assam. It's a chance to connect with nature, have some adventure, and discover the magic of a land where the river dictates the rhythm of life. So, pack your bags guys, and prepare to be swept away by the essence of the *Brahmaputra Carnival*.





**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week opens on a high note, bringing you much-deserved acclaim and a sense of triumph over challenges. At work, your innovative contributions, from fresh ideas to novel technologies, will be warmly embraced and celebrated, enhancing your professional stature. Your ability to explore and implement multifaceted solutions stands out, earning you respect and admiration from colleagues. As the week progresses, you may reconnect with a past acquaintance or visit a place steeped in nostalgic memories, enriching your emotional landscape. This period is marked by joyous family interactions, adding to the week's positive ambiance. Towards the week's close, you might feel a bit drained and concerned, yet your resolve remains unshaken, ready to tackle life's hurdles with confidence.

**Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour** Midnight Blue  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week is filled with potential and vibrancy, as you may encounter a blossoming relationship, heightened intuition, or a joyful addition to your family. Your innate sense of understanding allows you to identify issues before they are spoken, equipping you with the natural ability to offer timely and effective solutions. Midweek brings a surge of emotion accompanied by fresh hopes and decisive actions. This is a time when your deepest aspirations could begin to take shape, driven by a strong internal guidance. You might find opportunities for material prosperity, whether through professional endeavors or unexpected sources like a gift or legacy. As the week closes, you may find yourself reflecting on past events. It's essential to release these reflections and embrace the present opportunities and joys life presents.

**Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour** Green  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

The week begins under challenging circumstances but concludes with uplifting developments that will inspire you. You may encounter difficulties, errors, and disputes that could sap your spirit. Yet, this period also marks the start of a new phase marked by perseverance and effort. Focus on sharpening your mental acuity by engaging in educational activities or improving your communication skills. Midweek, your attention might shift to matters concerning children, such as securing their admission to reputable educational institutions or addressing their career aspirations. It is vital to offer support and encouragement, particularly to those engaged in rigorous academic pursuits. As the week draws to a close, familial joy and a sense of closeness prevail, bringing satisfaction and good health. The joy brought by family members, especially children, will enhance your well-being.

**Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour** Saffron  
**Lucky day** Monday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week holds promising prospects for those feeling grounded and practical. Expect significant career advancements, potentially through a promising job opportunity or a notable increase in earnings. For the recently married, joyful news regarding family expansion may arrive. Prepare for travel, as an upcoming journey could yield substantial financial rewards. However, exercise caution during your travels, as there are indications of potential loss or misleading situations. Protect yourself from negative influences, as it seems some undesirable attention could be directed your way. As the week concludes, a sense of security and happiness will envelop you, supported by the warmth and cooperation of your family. Memories of simpler times may surface, bringing with them a wave of nostalgia. Generosity will be both received and rewarded, enhancing both personal and professional financial situations.

**Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour** Coral  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you may find yourself frequently on the move, balancing work commitments with enjoyable activities. You're likely to encounter opportunities for new projects or responsibilities. It will be crucial to allocate sufficient time and energy to ensure their successful completion. Midweek brings a shift towards social engagements, with possible events like parties or community celebrations, offering a delightful break from daily stressors. These gatherings are a chance to unwind and cherish moments with friends and family. As the week concludes, be prepared for increased competition or conflicts in your professional sphere. Tensions could arise, potentially from individuals who may not favor your success. It's important to respond thoughtfully to any challenges, as impulsive reactions could undermine your hard work. Exercise caution and strategic thinking to navigate through any disputes effectively.

**Lucky number 25 | Lucky colour** Tangerine  
**Lucky day** Friday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, individuals typically characterized by diligence and a calm demeanor may find themselves quietly progressing toward their objectives, preferring a gentle approach. They may feel a strong sense of destiny guiding their actions more than their own efforts. Midweek could bring a sense of joy due to a significant financial achievement, marking a period of growth and prosperity in business endeavors. Income may increase from various sources, and many ambitious plans could be set in motion. Engagement in spiritual activities or rituals might also capture their interest, underscoring a period rich with favorable developments. Achievements will span several areas of life, including maintaining good health, family achievements, and an abundance of financial gains, all contributing to harmonious relationships with family and friends.

**Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour** Teal  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week brings unexpected financial rewards and introduces a compelling and profitable work project that could lead to significant recognition for your innovative ideas. You'll find yourself enjoying life's comforts and luxuries more than usual. Your hard work and perseverance are poised to elevate your professional status, supported by a sense of divine favor. This period also ignites a spiritual awakening, encouraging you to engage in reflective practices such as meditation, devotional activities, or charitable efforts. As the week concludes, a long-anticipated opportunity will present itself, offering the chance to pursue a cherished goal. Dedicate yourself fully to this endeavor to harness the full extent of your potential. Remember, perseverance and intelligence are key to capitalizing on this promising time.

**Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour** Turquoise  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week heralds a phase of abundance, accompanied by intellectual growth and a sense of fulfillment. Expect a strong foundation in your finances, ensuring stability and comfort. This could be the result of previous efforts or potentially from an unexpected source. Your discipline and achievements will not go unnoticed, earning you well-deserved recognition and pride. It's an opportune moment to initiate new ventures or relationships. Collaborations will flow smoothly due to your adept understanding of interpersonal dynamics. However, the latter part of the week might see a shift from clarity to uncertainty. It's important to avoid dwelling on past fears when facing the future. Rash decisions and confrontational behavior could complicate matters. Embrace calmness and clarity to navigate through any challenges, allowing you to find effective solutions effortlessly.

**Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour** Violet  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week begins amid unresolved challenges that are causing you stress. A sense of isolation and a heavy air of doubt might be overwhelming. You find yourself perplexed, seeking a way out of these difficulties without a clear solution in sight. It's important to reflect on your past actions and future direction. Gaining this perspective will help smooth your path forward and shift from a negative to a more positive mindset. Embrace and honor your emotions; they hold significant power to positively transform your circumstances. When there's harmony between your physical and mental states, remarkable achievements become possible. As the week closes, anticipate significant life changes that will bring some relief to your mental tension. Joyful events, such as significant personal milestones or professional successes, are on the horizon, offering you moments of happiness.

**Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour** Rose  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week, those with sensitive dispositions might find themselves grappling with fluctuating emotions and a lack of mental balance. Several pressing matters require their attention, demanding immediate and decisive actions to move forward effectively. Amidst this mental unrest, there's a tendency to multitask excessively, which complicates setting priorities and achieving clarity. It's essential to cultivate focus to avoid becoming mired in indecision. Embracing practices like spiritual reflection, meditation, or yoga could greatly benefit mental stability. An unexpected reunion with a familiar face from the past promises delightful moments of nostalgia, enhancing emotional well-being. Support and wise counsel from a respected mentor will provide much-needed guidance, making it easier to navigate challenges. By week's end, a sense of stability and well-being, both financially and emotionally, is likely to prevail.

**Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour** Pink  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you may find yourself swiftly adapting to dynamic shifts in your life, which could include a sudden opportunity to join a new organization or company. This sudden influx of choices might leave you feeling uncertain and indecisive, but remember, a decision must be made. Expect a week brimming with activity and innovation. You are at the cusp of concluding one phase and embarking on a new, more profound phase of your journey. It's time to leave the past behind and set your sights on what lies ahead. A firm decision now will set the stage for a harmonious alignment of your thoughts and emotions towards the end of the week, enhancing your career prospects significantly. You'll emerge from this period feeling wiser and more emotionally mature.

**Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour** Lavender  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

You may find yourself embarking on an extended trip soon, which includes participating in various meetings or workshops. Challenges could arise in your professional environment, potentially involving competition or difficult obstacles, so tread cautiously. Emotional connections may also be strained during this period, possibly leading to feelings of rejection or disconnection. Remember to prioritize your wellbeing during these times, but rest assured that these challenges are only temporary. By the end of this period, you'll notice a restoration of order and balance in your life, signaling a shift towards more positive circumstances. The comforting presence of maternal affection will bring a sense of security and warmth. If you're hoping to nurture new relationships, career opportunities, or ventures, give them the attention and patience they require to flourish.

**Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour** Copper  
**Lucky day** Tuesday

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# The Power of Gratitude Journaling

THE LIFE GUIDANCE



Seerat Kaur Marwaha

The positive effects of gratitude extend beyond mental health. Gratitude journaling helps with better sleep, reduced blood pressure and improved immune function

Gratitude is often described as the quality of being thankful and the readiness to show appreciation for and return kindness. It is a fundamental human emotion, yet its potential to transform lives is frequently underestimated. *Gratitude journaling*, a simple practice of recording things you are thankful for, has emerged as a powerful tool for fostering emotional well-being, enhancing mental health, and even improving physical health. By consciously focusing on the positive aspects of life, gratitude journaling reshapes perspectives, rewires the brain, and cultivates happiness. The concept of gratitude has long been studied in psychology, particularly within the field of positive psychology. Researchers Dr. Robert Emmons and Dr. Michael McCullough are pioneers in studying gratitude. Emmons defines gratitude as a two-step process: recognising that one has obtained a positive outcome and acknowledging that there is an external source for this positive outcome. This perspective connects gratitude not only to personal satisfaction but also to relational and societal harmony. Neuroscience supports the transformative effects of gratitude. Studies using functional MRI scans show that practicing gratitude activates the brain's reward system, specifically the medial prefrontal cortex. This area is associated with decision-making and the regulation of emo-

tions. Furthermore, gratitude enhances the production of neurotransmitters like dopamine and serotonin, often referred to as the "feel-good" chemicals. These changes not only foster happiness but also mitigate symptoms of anxiety and depression. *Gratitude journaling* involves regularly writing down things you are grateful for. This practice may appear simplistic, but its effects are profound. Research indicates that *gratitude journaling* can reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. A 2015 study published in the journal *Psychotherapy Research* found that individuals who engaged in gratitude writing reported significantly better mental health outcomes compared to those who focused on negative emotions or did not engage in any writing practice. Gratitude helps reframe thoughts, reducing rumination and encouraging a focus on the positive. Putting gratitude on paper promotes emotional resilience by encouraging individuals to concentrate on their blessings rather than their shortcomings. This positive focus redirects attention away from stress and difficulties, fostering a mental buffer that strengthens the ability to navigate adversity. Research by Dr. Emmons highlights that gratitude significantly boosts optimism, a critical factor in building resilience. Reflecting on the kindness and support received from others through *gratitude*



*journaling* can significantly improve interpersonal relationships. By deepening appreciation for those around us, it strengthens social bonds. According to a study published in the journal *Emotion*, gratitude not only enhances feelings of connection but also inspires prosocial behaviour. The positive effects of gratitude extend beyond mental health. *Gratitude journaling* has been associated with better sleep, reduced blood pressure, and improved immune function. A study in the journal *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being* found that participants who practiced *gratitude journaling* for two weeks experienced better sleep quality and longer duration, likely due to reduced stress levels.

Incorporating *gratitude journaling* into daily life is simple and requires minimal resources. Dedicate a specific time each day for journaling. Many people find that writing before bedtime helps them reflect on the day and end it on a positive note. Begin by listing three things you are grateful for each day. These can be as simple as a good meal, a kind word, or a moment of laughter. Rather than writing "I am grateful for my family," elaborate on a specific moment, such as "I am grateful for the conversation I had with my sister today, which made me feel understood." Dive deep into one or two experiences rather than creating a long list. This approach helps reinforce the emotional impact of the practice. Incorporate gratitude for challenges and lessons learned. This reframes obstacles as opportunities for growth. If you struggle to get started, use prompts such as, "What made me smile today?" or "What is something I take for granted but am truly thankful for?" The power of this practice is evident in countless personal stories. For instance, individuals recovering from trauma often find solace in gratitude practices. One such example comes from veterans participating in a gratitude program developed by the University of California, Berkeley. Many reported reduced symptoms of PTSD and improved overall well-being after weeks of *gratitude journaling*. Similarly, organisations like schools and

workplaces have embraced gratitude initiatives to foster a positive culture. Employees and students who engage in gratitude practices report higher satisfaction, productivity, and collaboration. In today's fast-paced, often overwhelming world, journaling serves as a grounding practice. Social media, while connecting people, can amplify feelings of inadequacy through constant comparison. *Gratitude journaling* counters this effect by focusing on intrinsic values and personal blessings rather than external validation. Moreover, technological advancements have made this journaling more accessible. Apps like "Gratitude," "Five Minute Journal," and "Day One" offer digital platforms for consistent journaling, making the practice convenient and engaging. *Gratitude journaling* is more than a habit; it is a transformative practice that rewires the brain, reshapes perspectives, and fosters holistic well-being. By consistently focusing on the positive aspects of life, individuals can enhance their mental and physical health, build resilience, and nurture meaningful relationships. Scientific research supports the profound impact of gratitude, making it a cornerstone of emotional intelligence and personal growth. In a world that often emphasises what is missing, *gratitude journaling* reminds us to cherish what we already have, transforming lives one thought at a time.

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