# P OPSC WALLAH

### **ODISHA CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### 16 January 2025

# Impeached South Korean President Yoon arrested in second attempt over martial law imposition

#### **Key Points:**

- President Yoon Suk Yeol, who assumed office in May 2022, imposed martial law in the country in a television address, accusing the opposition parties of sympathising with North Korea and paralysing the government with anti-state activities.
- After the end of the Second World War, the Korean peninsula was divided into the Republic of Korea(South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).
- South Korea supported the United States, and other Western countries fought a bloody civil war with communist North Korea supported by China and the Soviet Union. In 1953, a United Nationssupervised armistice was negotiated between the two countries, and a demilitarised zone was established between them, which has become their de facto border. Both countries have not signed a peace treaty and are technically at war.
- South Korea has voted to impeach its acting president Han Duck-soo, two weeks after parliament voted to impeach its President Yoon Suk Yeol.
- A total of 192 lawmakers voted for his impeachment, more than the 151 votes needed for it to succeed.
- Prime minister Han took over the role after President Yoon was impeached by parliament following his failed attempt to impose martial law on 3 December

#### What is Martial Law?

Martial law refers to the suspension of the country's constitution and the replacement of civilian rule with military rule.

- Martial law is also called an 'emergency' in which the existing laws, fundamental rights of the citizen, civil authority, and the ordinary administration of justice are suspended.
- Almost every constitution provides for martial law. In India, martial law is called an emergency, and it was last imposed in 1975 by the Indira Gandhi government.

#### **About the National Assembly of South Korea**

South Korea has a unicameral legislature called the National Assembly. The National Assembly has 300 members who are elected for a fouryear term through a combination of direct and indirect elections. The President of South Korea is elected by the people directly for a term of five years.

#### About the Republic of Korea or South Korea

the formally came into existence in August 1948. It is a highly industrialised country in Asia and a member of the OECD(Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development). Capital: Seoul Currency: South Korean Won President: Yoon Suk Yeol.



### Centre reconstitutes Atomic Energy Commission

#### **Key Points:**

The government has re-constituted the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to include T V Somanathan and Manoj Govil, who took over as the Cabinet Secretary and Expenditure Secretary respectively.



- The AEC also includes Pankaj Kumar Mishra who took over as Member (Finance) last year, according to a notification issued on October 21 last year and published in the Gazette on January 9.
- The reconstituted AEC has Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, as its Chairman.
- The commission has National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Pramod Kumar Mishra, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Somanathan and Govil as ex-officio members.



- ❖ Other members include former chairpersons of the AEC M R Srinivasan and Anil Kakodkar, former Secretary Department of Science and Technology P Rama Rao, former principal adviser DAE Ravi B Grover, and former Space Commission chairman K Kasturirangan. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Director Vivek Bhasin is also an ex-officio member of the commission.
- The Atomic Energy Commission of India is the governing body of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. The DAE is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.
- The Indian Atomic Energy Commission was set up on 3 August 1948 under the late Department of Scientific Research.
- A resolution passed by the Government of India later replaced the commission by

- "Atomic Energy Commission of India" on 1 March 1954 under the Department of Atomic Energy with Homi J. Bhabha as secretary and more financial and executive powers, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The functions of the Atomic Energy Commission are: (i) to organize research in atomic science in the country (ii) to train atomic scientists in the country (iii) to promote nuclear research in commission's own laboratories in India (iv) to undertake prospecting of atomic minerals in India and to extract such minerals for use on industrial scale.

## Odisha CM Mohan Majhi launches enhanced pension scheme

#### **Key Points:**

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has unveiled an enhanced pension scheme, significantly increasing monthly financial support for seniors over 80 and individuals with disabilities. Under the new initiative, pensions have been raised from ₹1,200 to ₹3,500, benefiting over 4 lakh residents across the state. At the launch event in Keonjhar, Majhi personally distributed the enhanced pensions, reaffirming government's commitment to social welfare and its dedication to ensuring dignity and financial security for vulnerable populations.

#### **Key Points:**

- Monthly pension increased to ₹3,500 for seniors above 80 years.
- Over 4,17,496 beneficiaries across Odisha to gain from the scheme.
- Aimed at ensuring financial stability for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.



### Meta India apologises for Mark Zuckerberg's remark on 2024 elections

#### **Key Points:**

- Appearing on the Joe Rogan podcast, Mark Zuckerberg said 2024 was the big election year around the world and in a lot of countries like India, the incumbents lost the polls due to how the Covid-10 pandemic was handled by those governments. "2024 was a big election year around the world and all these countries, India, had elections.
- The incumbents basically lost every single one. There is some sort of a global phenomenon – whether it was because of inflation or the economic policies to deal with covid or or just how the governments dealt with covid. It seems to have had this effect that's global," the Meta CEO said.
- Earlier, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had also called out Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg over the "erroneous assertion" regarding the government, saying it was disappointing to see the billionaire spreading misinformation.
- "As the world's largest democracy, India conducted the 2024 elections with over 640 million voters. The people of India reaffirmed their trust in the NDA led by PM Narendra Modi's leadership.
- Mr. Zuckerberg's claim that most incumbent governments, including India in the 2024 elections, lost post-COVID is factually incorrect," Vaishnaw said.
- The apology comes a day after BJP MP Nishikant Dubey. who heads the parliamentary committee on communications and information technology, said that his team would summon Meta over its CEO Mark Zuckerberg's statement.
- "My committee will summon Meta for this misinformation. Incorrect information tarnishes the image of any democratic country," Dubey wrote on X.

- "Mark's observation that many incumbent parties were not re-elected in 2024 elections holds true for several countries, BUT not India," Meta India's vice president Shivnath Thukral wrote in a post on X on Tuesday, January 14.
- "We would like to apologise for this inadvertent error." Thukral also said that India remains an incredibly important country for the American multinational technology conglomerate. "We look forward to being at the heart of its innovative future," he added.

#### Successful trials of micro-missile counterdrone system 'Bhargavastra

#### **Key Points:**

- As part of the 'Bhargavastra' counter-drone system, the Solar Group has successfully test-fired the guided micro-missiles. The system, based on micro-missile, is specially developed to tackle growing threats from loitering munitions and weaponised drones. On January 12, the first control trial was held against a stationary target in the air at a distance of 2,500 meters and 400 meters in height.
- The second control trial, held on January 13, was against a moving electronic target.
- Developer of the Bhargavastra weapon system The Bhargavastra has been developed by the Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL), a subsidiary of the Nagpur based Solar Group.
- It has been designed and developed indigenously and is said to be an effective low cost weapon system against swarm drone attack.

#### What is a Swarm Drone Attack?

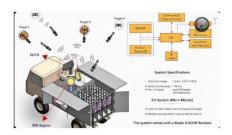
The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone is remotely controlled aerial objects which can be used for multiple purposes. The use of drones in the battlefield was first used by the Americans to kill top leaders of Al-Qaeda and Talibans in Afghanistan. The swarm drone attack refers to the use of multiple drones controlled by a single controller to attack the enemy.



- The swarm drone as a weapon was recently used by the Iranians to successfully breach the famous Iron Dome anti- missile system of Israel.
- The Ukrainians and the Russians are regularly using the swarm drone attack with loiter munitions capability to attack each other.
- The swarm drone attack is very effective because the use of a sizable number of drones confuses the enemy's radars.
- The drones are comparatively cheaper and the existing counter defence weapon systems against the drones- the missiles are very expensive in comparison. Hence many countries are searching for a cost effective anti drone weapon system.



- The Bhargavastra weapon system has a range of around 5- 6 kilometers and can neutralise multiple drones through micro munitions.
- The weapon system can be mounted on mobile platforms for rapid deployment in all terrains including desert and high altitude areas.'
- It is a multi-layered weapon system that features a Command-and-Control Centre equipped with advanced C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence) technology.
- The radar of the system can detect unmanned aerial vehicles beyond 5 km and is capable of identifying targets as small as 0.01 square meters.



#### Feature of the Bhargavastra weapon system

- The weapon system can track, engage 64 targets and destroy the target within 16 seconds of its detection.
- The weapon system has micro missile kill capabilities. The missiles launched by the system have lock-in capabilities on the target and can fire missiles at an interval of one second.
- The weapon system is particularly effective against swarm drones which are resistant to traditional jamming or spoofing techniques employed against aerial threats.

### 1st astronomical observatory of Eastern India inaugurated in Bengal

#### **Key Points:**

❖ The first astronomical observatory of Eastern India and the sixth in the country under the Department of Science and Technology, Union Ministry of Science and Technology has been inaugurated atop the Panchet Hill in the Garpanchkot area of Purulia district in West Bengal. It is the sixth such observatory in India after Ladakh, Nainital (Uttarakhand), Mount Abu (Rajasthan), Girbani Hills in Pune, and Kavalur in Tamil Nadu.





#### Satyendra Nath Bose Astronomical Observatory

- The observatory set up in Garpanchkot Hills has been named after famous scientist Satyendra Nath Bose. The observatory has been established by the Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences.
- The Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sidhu Kanu Birsa University, Purulia for running the observatory and sharing resources.
- The Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences was set up by the of Science Department and Technology, Government of India in 1986 at Kolkata, West Bengal.
- It is a pioneer scientific research and development institution in the field of Basic Science.

#### **About the Observatory**

- The project to build the observatory commenced in 2012 and it is built on 4.9 acres of land. The observatory at present has one 14-inch diameter telescope and another1-metre diameter telescope will be installed soon.
- The observatory has been set up at an altitude of 600 meters above the sea level and at a longitude of approximately 86° East, in a non-polluted area and away from city lights.
- There are very few observatories in the world along the 86 degrees East longitude stretching from the Arctic Ocean in the north to Antarctica in the south. This observatory is expected to fill this gap.
- The observatory will help the students and scientists to conduct basic research in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics, and Atmospheric Sciences.

- An automatic weather forecast centre has also been set up near the observatory which will be helpful for measuring rainfall,
- This state-of-the-art observatory is set to revolutionize scientific research in the region, especially space sciences.

#### PM Modi commissions Satpura, Nilgiri and Vagsheer of the Indian Navy

#### **Key Points:**

- Prime Minister Modi Narendra commissioned three frontline naval warships and submarines - INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vagsheer at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, Maharashtra on 15 January 2025.
- INS Nilgiri is a stealth frigate and is the lead ship of the Indian Navy's Project 17A, to develop stealth frigates . INS Surat is the last of the four guided missile destroyer class ships to be constructed under Project 15B and INS Vaghsheer is the the sixth and final submarine of the Kalvari class built under Project 75 of the Indian Navy.
- The commissioning of these frontline warships is expected to boost the defence capabilities of the Indian Navy and strengthen India maritime security.

#### Submarine, 2 warships commissioned in one go





#### **Boost to indigenous Defence capabilities**

INS Surat. INS Nilairi has been indigenously designed and constructed by the defence shipyards -Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai. • The INS Vagsheer submarine is an Indo-French collaboration which has been constructed by MDL with technology transfer from French Naval Group.



#### **Project 17 A of the Indian Navy**

- Project 17 A of the Indian Navy is based on the earlier Project17 Shivalik-class frigates of the Indian Navy.
- The first ship of the project 17 A is called INS Nilgiri.
- A total of seven ships are to be constructed under Project 17 A.
- Four ships are to be built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders limited and three will be built by Garden Reach Shipbuilder and Engineers (GRSE),Kolkata.
- The length of the ship was 149 meters and breadth of 17.8 meters with a maximum speed of 28 knots.
- The Nilgiri class ships have better stealth capability and can accommodate two helicopters.
- The ship can carry eight BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, 32 MRSAM, torpedoes, Kavach chaff launchers and a 76mm gun.
- In future it will also host indigenously developed VL-SRSAM missiles.

#### Project 15B

- The Indian Navy's Project 15 B, also called the 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers was launched in 2011.
- It is a Guided Missile Destroyer which has been designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- The first ship under Project 15 B,INS Visakhapatnam was launched in April 2015 followed by INS Mormugao, INS Imphal and INS Surat.
- The ships are 163 meters long and 17 meters wide with a maximum speed of 30 knots. The overall indigenous content of the project is around 75%.
- The ship can carry two helicopters and has modern stealth features. It can carry the

indigenously developed Medium Range Surface-to-Air missile Barak Missile, Brahmos missile, Torpedo Tube Launchers, Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers and Guns.

#### **Project 75**

- Project 15 was launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Defence to build six Scorpene Class Submarines in India under an agreement with the French Government.
- The French defence company Naval group provided technology while it was constructed by the Mazagaon Docks.
- Six submarines have been built under the project- INS Kalvari launched in 2017 followed by INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela, INS Vagir and INS Vagsheer.
- ❖ The 2000 tonnes INS Kalvari class submarine is a versatile ship capable of performing all types of missions like surface vessel warfare, anti-submarine warfare, long-range strikes, special operations or intelligence gathering.

## Piyush Goyal Inaugurates National Turmeric Board for 'Golden Spices'

#### **Key Points:**

- In an effort to boost the development and production of turmeric and turmeric products in India the government of India has established the National Turmeric Board.
- India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world which is also known as Indian Saffron or Golden Spice.
- On 4 October 2023, the government of India notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board but it was formally inaugurated by Piyush Goel on 14 January 2025.





### Who inaugurated the National Turmeric Board and its Headquarters?

- The National Turmeric Board was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal through video conferencing in New Delhi.
- The headquarters of the National Turmeric Board is in Nizamabad, Telangana.
- ❖ Around 30 % of the turmeric exports from India are contributed by Telangana.

### Under Which Ministry is the National Turmeric Board?

The National Turmeric Board is under the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### Chairperson and Composition of National Turmeric Board

The Chairperson of the Turmeric Board is appointed by the government of India. The first chairperson of the Turmeric Board is Palle Ganga Reddy.

#### Other Members of the Board

- The Board will have members from the Union Ministry of AYUSH, the Departments of Pharmaceuticals, the Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Representative from the State Government representatives from three major turmericgrowing states (on a rotation basis),
- Representatives of select national/state institutions involved in turmeric research, turmeric farmers and exporters.
- Secretary, appointed by the Department of Commerce.

#### **Function of the National Turmeric Board**

- The main functions of the National Turmeric Board are as follows;
- The Board will promote research and development in turmeric to boost its yields and production.
- Boost export by promoting research and development in the development of new turmeric products and value addition, and work for smooth logistics and supply chain for marketing abroad.
- Creating awareness of turmeric's essential and medical properties.
- Ensure quality and safety standards of turmeric production and exports to maintain India's position in the world market as an exporter of high-quality turmeric and turmeric products.
- Focus on turmeric farmer's capacity building and skill development.

#### **Turmeric Production and India**

India is the world's largest producer, exporter, and consumer of turmeric.

#### **Export**

Total export of Turmeric from India in 2023-24 was 1.62 lakh tonnes worth Rs 1875.86 crores or \$ 226.5 million. The top buyers of Indian turmeric in 2023-24 were Bangladesh followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia, and the United States of America. The government of India has set a target of export of Rs 8000 crore of turmeric by 2030.

#### **Production of Turmeric**

According to the Spice Board of India, the total estimated production of turmeric in 2023-24 is 1074526 tonnes. The top turmeric-producing states in India were; Maharashtra (325643 tonnes), followed by Telangana (117049 tonnes), Karnataka (129399 tonnes), Tamil Nadu (114141 tonnes), and Tamil Nadu (88649 tonnes). Around 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in 20 states of India.



### SECL Launches Post-Retirement Benefit (PRB) Cell

#### **Key Points:**

- South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) based in Chhattisgarh, has launched a dedicated PostRetirement Benefit (PRB) Cell to enhance the welfare and convenience of its retired employees.
- The PRB Cell will serve as a single-window system, consolidating various postretirement services that multiple departments, including Personnel, Medical Finance, and previously managed.
- This centralization aims to eliminate delays and miscommunication, providing retirees with streamlined access to pensions, provident funds, medical facilities, and other benefits.
- The initiative also complements 'Mission Sambandh, ' an SECL program aimed at enhancing communication and coordination with stakeholders.



# Gautam Adani announces ₹65,000 crore investment in energy, cement projects in Chhattisgarh

#### **Key Points:**

The Adani Group will invest Rs 65,000 crore in energy and cement projects in Chhattisgarh. Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani met Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and announced an investment of Rs 60,000 crore to expand the group's power plants in Raipur, Korba and Raigarh in the state.

The expansion will enhance Chhattisgarh's power generation capacity by 6,120 MW. Adani Power is India's top private thermal power producer. It is targeting to double its thermal power capacity to 30.67 GW by 2029-30 from 15 GW currently.



- The firm said last month it was exploring options of investing Rs 20,000 crore to set up a coal-fired ultra-supercritical thermal power plant in Bihar.
- In Chhattisgarh, the Adani Group also committed Rs 5,000 crore for the development and expansion of its cement plants, as per the statement.
- Adani Cement has two integrated units in the state-at Bhatapara and Jamul-and has already announced expansion at the Bhatapara unit.
- To support initiatives in the education, healthcare, skill development and tourism sectors under CSR, Adani assured a Rs 10,000 crore investment in the state over the next four years.

### Retail inflation eases to four-month low of 5.22% in December 2024

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation cooled slightly to a 4-month low of 5.22 per cent in December, down from 5.48 per cent in November, indicating persistent high price pressures faced by consumers, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The data shows higher inflation in rural areas at 5.76 percent compared to 4.58 percent in urban regions.





- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) aims to keep inflation within a range of 2–6 percent, with a medium-term target of 4 percent. Food inflation remained high in December, albeit slowing during the month, with the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) standing at 8.39 percent, compared to 9.04 per cent in November.
- This was largely driven by high prices of vegetables, fruits, edible oils, eggs, and cereals. Rural areas experienced higher food inflation at 8.65 per cent, while urban regions saw a slightly lower rate of 7.9 per cent during the month.

#### **Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation**

- ❖ July 2024 –54%
- ❖ August 2024 3.65%
- ❖ September 2024 –5.49%
- ❖ October 2024 –21%
- ❖ November 2024 48 %
- ❖ December 2024 22%

### Odisha becomes the 34th state to implement AB PM-JAY

#### **Key Points:**

Odisha on Monday became the 34th state to join the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) scheme, seven months after the BJP came to power in the state. The Ayushman Bharat scheme will be implemented in convergence with the existing Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY) in Odisha. A total of approximately 1.03 crore families will come under the converged scheme with 67.8 lakh families supported by the Union Government. The convergence scheme, for which one bilingual health card will be issued to the beneficiary, will provide cover of ₹5 lakh per family per annum with an additional ₹5 lakh for women members.



#### **About Odisha**

- Capital Bhubaneswar
- Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- Deputy CM KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati
- Legislative Assembly Seat 147

### India, Saudi Arabia sign Hajj agreement 2025, quota set at 1.75 lakh pilgrims

#### **Key Points:**

❖ India has signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia for Hajj 2025, finalising a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju signed the deal in Jeddah with Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al Rabiah. Under the agreement, the 2025 quota will be split between the Hajj Committee of India (HCol) and private Hajj Group Organisers (HGOs) at a 70:30 ratio. Of the total, HGOs will be allocated 52,507 spots.





### First edition of the Kho Kho World Cup starts in New Delhi

#### **Key Points:**

- The first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup started at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on 13 January 2025.
- The World Cup was inaugurated by Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Kho Kho Federation of India. The Kho Kho World Cup has been organised by the Kho Kho Federation of India with support from the Indian Olympic Association in New Delhi from 13- 19 January 2025.
- During the World Cup, each team will consist of 12 players, however during a match only 9 players from each team will actually take the field.
- The first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup features 20 countries' men's and 19 women's teams. The men and women khokho teams have been divided into four groups.
- The 15-member Indian men's team is led by Pratik Waikar and the women's team is led by Priyanka Ingle.



