



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, left, is welcomed by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul, Afghanistan



Fans line-up empty bottles on a post above a sign for a Happy Hour during the Rolex 24 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida



Costumed participants slide down in a bathtub during the 11th Bathtub Race at Stoos, Switzerland



An Afghan money changer checks his mobile phone in Kabul, following the decline in Afghan currency against US dollars

## S Korean prosecutors indict impeached President Yoon over his martial law

PTI, SEOUL: South Korean prosecutors on Sunday indicted the impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol over his imposition of martial law last month, news reports said.

Yonhap news agency reported that the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office indicted Yoon over rebellion in connection with his December 3 decree that plunged the country into massive political turmoil. Other South Korean media outlets have carried similar reports.

Repeated calls to the prosecutors' office were unanswered.

Yoon was earlier impeached and arrested over the martial law decree. The Constitutional Court



Supporters of South Korea's impeached Prez Yoon Suk Yeol attend a rally on a road near the Constitutional Court in Seoul

is separately deliberating whether to formally dismiss Yoon as president or reinstate him.

Yoon, a conservative,

Yoon, a conservative, has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing, calling his martial law a legitimate act of governance meant to raise public awareness of the danger of the liberal-controlled National Assembly which obstructed his agenda and impeached

of the danger of the liberal-controlled National Assembly which obstructed his agenda and impeached top officials.

During his announcement of martial law, Yoon called the assembly a den of criminals and vowed to eliminate shameless North Korea followers and anti-state forces.

## Sri Lanka Navy arrests 34 Indian fishermen

PTI, COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan Navy arrested at least 34 Indian fishermen and seized three trawlers for illegal fishing in two separate incidents, the authorities said on Sunday.

The fishermen have been arrested for illegal fishing in two separate incidents on January 25 and 26, the Navy said.

Both arrests came off the coast of the northeastern Mannar district in the Navy's continued regular patrols in the Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing, the Navy said.

The arrested fishermen have been handed over to the relevant officials for further action.

## N Korea says it tested cruise missile system, vows toughest response to US

PTI, SEOUL: North Korea said Sunday it tested a cruise missile system, its third known weapons display this year, and vowed "the toughest" response to what it called the escalation of US-South Korean military drills that target the North.

The moves suggested North Korea will likely maintain its run of weapons tests and its confrontational stance against the U.S. for now, even though President Donald Trump said he intends to reach out to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The official Korean Central News Agency said Kim observed the test of sea-to-surface strategic cruise guided weapons on Saturday.

The term strategic implies the missiles are nucle-



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (R) overseeing the test-firing of a strategic cruise and guided weapon at sea (underwater), at an undisclosed location in North Korea

ar-capable. KCNA said the missiles hit their targets after travelling 1,500-kilometer (932-mile) long elliptical and figure-eight-shaped flight patterns, but that couldn't be independently verified.

KCNA cited Kim as say-

ing that North Korea's war deterrence capabilities are being perfected more thoroughly and affirming that his country will make strenuous efforts to defend stability on the basis of more powerfully developed military muscle.

## 70 people killed in attack on hospital in Sudan, says WHO

PTI, DUBAI: Some 70 people were killed in an attack on the only functional hospital in the besieged city of El Fasher in Sudan, the chief of the World Health Organisation said Sunday, part of a series of attacks coming as the African nation's civil war escalated in recent days.

The attack on the Saudi Teaching Maternal Hospital, which local officials blamed on the rebel Rapid Support Forces, came as the group has seen apparent battlefield losses to the Sudanese military and allied forces under the command of army chief Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan. That includes Burhan appearing near a burning oil refinery north of Khartoum on Saturday that his forces said they seized from the RSF.

International mediation attempts and pressure tactics, including a US assessment that the RSF and its proxies are committing genocide and sanctions targeting Burhan, have not halted the fighting.

Reported attack follows RSF warning in the Saudi hospital attack in El Fasher, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus offered the death toll in a post on the social platform X.

Officials and others in the capital of North Darfur province had cited a similar

figure Saturday, but Ghebreyesus is the first international source to provide a casualty number. Reporting on Sudan is incredibly difficult given communication challenges and exaggerations by both the RSF and the Sudanese military.

The appalling attack on Saudi Hospital in El Fasher, Sudan, led to 19 injuries and 70 deaths among patients and companions, Ghebreyesus wrote. At the time of the attack, the hospital was packed with patients receiving care.

Another health facility in Al Malha also was attacked Saturday, he added.

We continue to call for a cessation of all attacks on health care in Sudan, and to allow full access for the swift restoration of the facilities that have been damaged, he wrote. Above all, Sudan's people need peace. The best medicine is peace.

Ghebreyesus did not identify who launched the attack, though local officials had blamed the RSF for the assault. United Nations official Clementine Nkweta-Salami, who coordinates humanitarian efforts for the world body in Sudan, warned Thursday that the RSF earlier had given a 48-hour ultimatum to forces allied to the Sudanese Armed Forces to vacate the city and indicated a forthcoming offensive.

## EAR OF THE SNAKE



People photograph an installation at a mall ahead of the Lunar New Year celebrations in Surabaya, Indonesia

## 18 killed as tanker carrying gasoline explodes in southern Nigeria

PTI, ABUJA: At least 18 people died and 10 others were injured in southern Nigeria after a gasoline tanker exploded, officials said.

The accident happened along the Enugu-Onitsha expressway in the southeastern state of Enugu after the tanker, laden with gasoline, lost control and rammed into 17 vehicles, and burst into flames, Nigeria's Federal Road Safety Corps said

in a statement Saturday evening.

Those who died were burnt beyond recognition, the spokesperson of the safety corps rescue teams, Olusegun Ogungbemi, said. Besides the 10 injured, rescuers extracted three others who were unharmed.

With the absence of an efficient railway system to transport cargo, fatal truck accidents are common along most

major roads in Nigeria, Africa's most populous

country.

Earlier this month, 98 people were killed in a gasoline tanker blast in north-central Nigeria, near the Suleja area of Niger state, after individuals attempted to transfer gasoline from a crashed oil tanker into another truck using a generator. Some bystanders were at the scene to scoop gasoline. Authorities then began a nationwide campaign against the

scooping of gasoline from fallen tankers and other practices that could lead to death.

Gasoline tanker accidents do not have to lead to the loss of lives, Lanre Issa-Onilu, director-general of the National Oricy entation Agency, the body tasked with communicating government policy, said at an event close to the Suleja area on Saturday.

The prices of gasoline

in Africa's most populous country have soared after President Bola Tinubu's government removed subsidies more than a year ago in an attempt to channel resources to more developmental purposes. However, the policy has caused hardship to locals.

Scooping gasoline from a fallen tanker is common in Nigeria as some either use or sell it for a profit.

## voice of business

# Foreign investors withdraw ₹64k cr from Indian equities in Jan

Rupee depreciation, rising US bond yields, lackluster earning season hurting sentiment

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have withdrawn Rs 64,156 crore from the Indian equities market so far in January 2025, in an unabated exodus amid Rupee depreciation, rise in United States bond yields and expectations of an overall tepid earning season, according to a report.

### FOREIGN FUND OUTFLOW

The selling shows a reversal in investor sentiments since December 2024, when investors poured in Rs 15,446 cr in Indian equities throughout the month, as per data with the depositories, the report added.

"The continued depreciation in Indian rupee is exerting significant pressure on foreign investors leading them to pull the money out of the Indian equity markets," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, at Morningstar Investment Advisers India told PTI.

In addition to that, higher valuation of Indian equities, despite recent corrections, expectation of a rather tepid earning season and



The sustained strengthening of the dollar and rise in the US bond yields have been the principal factors driving the FII selling. So long as the dollar index remains above 108 and the 10-year US bond yield remains above 4.5 per cent, the selling is likely to continue

— V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services

macroeconomic headwinds are making investors wary, he said.

Moreover, the unpredictable nature of Donald Trump's policies has also prompted investors to tread cautiously and made them stay away from riskier investment avenues, he added.

According to the data, FPIs of-

loaded shares worth Rs 64,156 crore from Indian equities so far this month (till January 24). FPIs have been sellers on all days this month except January 2.

"The sustained strengthening of the dollar and rise in the US bond yields have been the principal factors driving the FII selling. So long as the dollar index remains above 108 and the 10-year US bond yield

remains above 4.5%, the selling is likely to continue," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

In terms of sectors, the financial segment has been bearing the brunt of FPI selling as the bulk of their assets under management is in this sector, on the other hand, IT witnessed some buying in the wake of improved prospects for the sector and the positive management commentary.

Since US bond yields are attractive, FPIs have been sellers in the debt market, too. They withdrew Rs 4,399 crore from debt general limit and Rs 5,124 crore debt voluntary retention route. The overall trend indicates a cautious approach by foreign investors, who scaled back investments in Indian equities significantly in 2024, with net inflows of just Rs 427 crore.

This contrasts sharply with the extraordinary Rs 1.71 lakh crore net inflows in 2023, driven by optimism over India's strong economic fundamentals. In comparison, 2022 saw a net outflow of Rs 1.21 lakh crore amid aggressive rate hikes by global central banks.

## JK Cement to buy 60% stake in Saifco Cements

PTI, NEW DELHI: JK Cement, one of the leading cement producers, has said it will acquire a 60 per cent stake of Saifco Cements in a deal through which it will enter into the Jammu & Kashmir market.

The JK Group firm will acquire a 60 per cent stake in Saifco Cements, which has an integrated manufacturing unit at Khunmoh in Srinagar, at a valuation of Rs 174 crore, according to a joint statement.

Saifco's integrated manufacturing unit in Srinagar is spread across 54 acres of land and has a clinker capacity of 0.26 MTPA and grinding capacity of 0.42 MTPA.

Besides, it has captive limestone reserves spread over 144.25 hectares with a total minable reserve of 129 million tonnes.

"The acquisition will help the company expand its footprint into the state of Jammu and Kashmir Region," it said.

**KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**TENDER NOTICE**

On behalf of Regional Railway Manager, Sr. Regional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Karwar, invites through Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) for "Supply, Installation, Wiring, Testing & Commissioning of Signalling System including all Indoor and Outdoor Signalling works for opening of new crossing station Sarzora between Balli & Madagaon Station". Tender Notice No: KR-KAWR-SG-ET-2025-02, dtd 27.01.2025. Cost of work: Rs. 1,21,60,319/- (including GST). Last date & time for submission of bids: 18.02.2025 up to 15:30 Hrs. For further details contact Office of Sr. Regional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Shirwad, Karwar-581306 (Karnataka State). For Details visit website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**THE FERN**  
A leading environmentally sensitive organization

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Fern Habitat, Candolim, Goa invites sealed Tenders from reliable suppliers for the below supply of Items for the period - April 2025 to 31st March 2026

1. Indian Vegetable/English Vegetable & Fruits (Local, Imported & English)
2. Mutton, Beef, Pork, Eggs & Poultry (Fresh & Frozen)
3. Sea Foods/Cold Cut
4. Provision/Groceries/Spices
5. Imported Groceries/Spices & Tin products
6. Milk & Milk products
7. Ice cream/Ice Cream block/Ice cube/Frozen item
8. Fresh Flower & Bouquet
9. Non Alcoholic Beverages/Water
10. Indian Sweets & Goan Sweets & Namkin
11. Housekeeping & General cleaning items
12. Electrical/Hardware & Plumbing items
13. Air Conditioner & Refrigeration items
14. Tailoring Services/Uniform
15. Office Stationeries & Printing Stationeries
16. Security & KST Manpower/Laundry Services
17. Audio Video Rental/Decoration/DJ
18. Packaging & Disposable items
19. Chemicals/Rock salt
20. Charcoal/Solid Fuel & Gas Cylinder
21. Bakery Products
22. Scrap Vendor
23. Contractor (Painting/Polishing, Carpentry, Fabrication, Motor Rewinding, Upholstery)
24. AMC - AC/DG Set/CCTV/EPBAX System/Heat Pump/Gas Burner/Hood Clean

Tender forms are available at the Purchase Department from 01<sup>st</sup> February 2025 to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, between 10.00 am to 5.00 pm excluding Sundays. The Tender Form can be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 500. Sealed tenders must be submitted no later than 5 : 00 pm on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without providing any explanation. The decision of the Management will be final and binding.

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