

NEW DELHI ELECTION
BATTLE OF THE BIGGIES

ECONOMY 2025
IN SLOWDOWN MODE

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

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THE WEEK

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MOUNTAIN WARFARE

HIMALAYAN DAREDEVILS

THE WEEK goes to the
Machoi Glacier where India
trains its soldiers to
protect crucial heights

PLUS

INTERVIEW

MAJOR GENERAL
BRUCE FERNANDEZ
COMMANDANT, HIGH ALTITUDE
WARFARE SCHOOL

Today's wars are
about operating in
smaller groups
because of technology





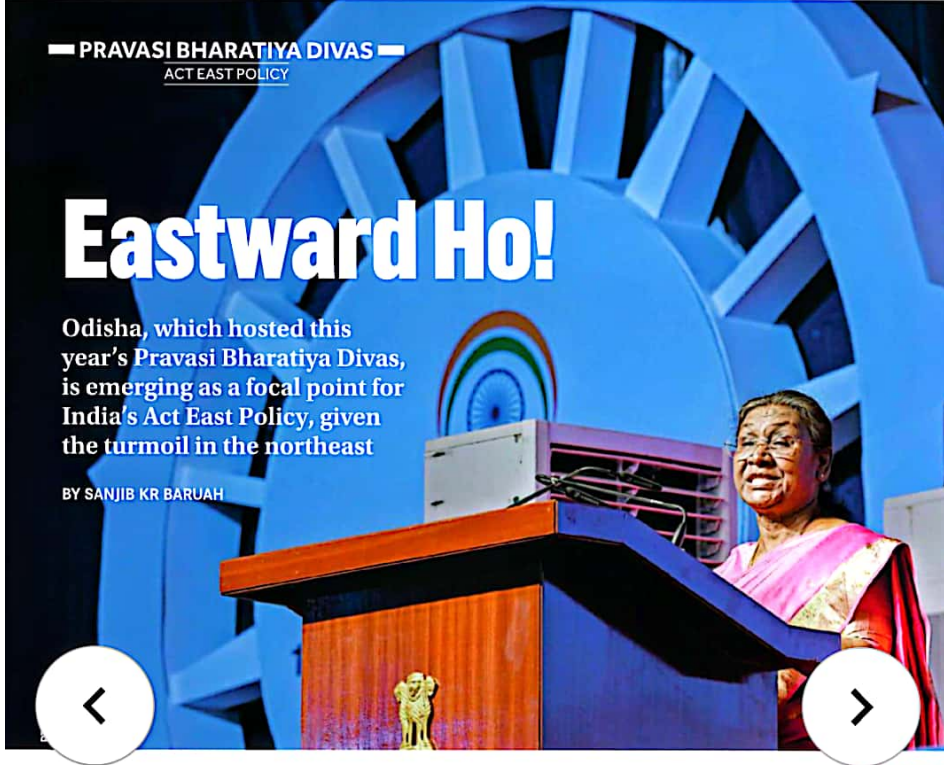
EYES ON THE ICE

THE INDIAN ARMY TRAINS ITS MOUNTAIN WARRIORS AT THE MACHOI GLACIER WHERE THEY LEARN ICE AND SNOW CRAFT IN SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES. THE HIGH ALTITUDE WARFARE SCHOOL IN GULMARG PREPARES THEM FOR WARS THAT ARE DRIVEN BY TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLIGENCE. ON SNOW-COVERED BATTLEFIELDS LIKE THE HIMALAYAS, THE ARMY WANTS ITS JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TO BECOME DECISION-MAKERS AT THE TACTICAL LEVEL

**BY NAMRATA BIJI AHUJA/Machoi Glacier,
Drass, Zojila, Sonamarg & Gulmarg**

PHOTOS BY SANJAY AHLAWAT

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HAAN JI, BOHUT ZYADA LOG AA RAHE HAIN (Yes, a lot of people are coming)," said my cab driver Dillip as we drove from Bhubaneswar airport to my hotel. Occasionally, he glanced at his mobile phone with some concern. "My navigation system has gone haywire. Maybe jammers are on because the prime minister and the president are visiting Bhubaneswar," he said, not without a hint of self-importance.

Bhubaneswar's hoteliers and cab drivers are elated—not to mention airlines flying in and out of the city. Delhi-Bhubaneswar airfares have skyrocketed, hotel rates have soared and accommodation is scarce. For cab drivers, business is booming.

It is the peak of the tourist season, further amplified by the arrival of more than 3,000 international delegates for the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), celebrated from January 8 to 10 this year. Along with domestic participants, the flagship event saw a total footfall of around 7,000. The event, held annually around January 9, commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915.

Odisha's capital city looked sparkling clean,

adorned with decorative lights on trees and billboards featuring posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Significantly, this was the first time Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held in eastern India.

The event showcased Odisha's improving investment climate, bolstered by a conducive law-and-order situation and increasing interest from industries and corporates. Among other outcomes, it highlighted the potential for NRI investment in the state.

The choice of New Jersey-based Ravi Kumar S., CEO of software giant Cognizant, to deliver the thanksgiving address on the event's final day underscored the importance of Odia expats in the state's development. Kumar, honoured with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman this year, announced plans to establish Cognizant's largest campus in India in Odisha.

Meanwhile, Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, along with an entourage of

