



IN STARK CONTRAST

Actor Sara Ali Khan says she is not rebellious by nature like her screen character in *Atrangi Re*

LEISURE P2



DELUGE OF PLASTIC WASTE

The US was the world's 'top generator of plastic waste' in 2016, exceeding all European nations combined

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA IN COMMAND

India are inch closer to seal the series after reducing NZ to 140/5 in their second innings of the second Test

SPORTS P12



MT SEMERU VOLCANO ERUPTION KILLS 14

LUMAJANG (INDONESIA): Disaster officials in Indonesia raised the death toll in the eruption of Mount Semeru to 14 Sunday, as rescuers working through the night freed as many as 10 people from the debris. The sudden eruption of Java's biggest mountain caught locals by surprise Saturday, sending thousands fleeing its path of destruction and forcing hundreds of families into makeshift shelters. It left at least 11 villages of Lumajang district coated in volcanic ash, submerging houses, smothering livestock and leaving some evacuees seeking cover in mosques. Dramatic footage showed Semeru pumping a mushroom of ash into the sky, looming over screaming residents of a nearby village trying to escape.

More P10



TRUMP'S MEDIA VENTURE GETS \$1BN INVESTMENT

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's fledgling social media venture and an investment vehicle it is partnering with said Saturday that institutional investors have pledged \$1 billion in funds for the former President's startup. This sum would be in addition to \$293 million that Digital World Acquisition Corp raised in an initial public offering in September, the companies said in a statement. Digital World is a special purpose acquisition company, sometimes called a "blank check" company because it is set up with the sole purpose of merging with another entity. It is set to merge with Trump's startup, Trump Media and Technology Group. The two companies say they plan to launch the social media platform "TRUTH Social" nationally early next year.

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ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Argentina players celebrate with the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup trophy at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Argentina win 2nd Jr Hockey WC title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Lautaro Domene struck a hat-trick as a determined Argentina stunned six-time champions Germany 4-2 to clinch their second FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup title at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday. Domene converted three penalty corners in the 10th, 25th and 50th minute, while Franco Agoistini (60th) scored a field goal just seconds from the final hooter to hand Argentina their second title. Julius Hayner (36th) and Mas Pfandt (47th) were the goal getters for Germany. The Argentines were by far the better side on display in the first quarter as they dominated the game by pressing hard on the German defence. But the Germans came out a completely different side after the change of ends and managed to reduce the margin in the 36th minute through a field strike by Hayner. The Germans continued to attack and drew level in 47th minute when Pfandt scored from a set piece. But it was not to be Germany's day as Domene struck again from a set piece in the 50th minute before Agoistini scored from a field effort just at the stroke of the final hooter to shatter Germany's 7th title hopes. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and FIH president Narinder Batra were among the spectators.

14 civilians killed by security forces

The incident took place between Oting and Tiru villages when some daily-wage labourers were returning home in a pick-up van from a coal mine Saturday evening

AGENCIES

Kohima/Guwahati/New Delhi, Dec 5: Security forces opened fire on civilians killing 14 and injuring 11 more in Nagaland's Mon district in two consecutive incidents of firing, police said Sunday. One soldier also died in rioting which followed. The first firing occurred when Army personnel who mistook some coal mine workers were returning home in a pick-up van singing songs Saturday evening, to be insurgents belonging to the Yung Aung faction of proscribed outfit NSCN (K), killing six workers, about whose movements they had been tipped off. As workers failed to reach their homes, local youth and villagers went in search of them and surrounded the Army vehicles. In the ensuing melee one soldier was killed and Army vehicles burnt down. Soldiers who fired in self-defence killed another eight civilians, said police officials. Since Sunday afternoon, angry mobs have vandalised the offices of the Konyak Union and an Assam



Angry villagers burn vehicles belonging to security personnel after 14 civilians were killed by the security forces from Assam Rifles at Oting village under Mon district of Nagaland, Saturday night

Rifles camp. The Nagaland government through a notification has banned mobile internet and data services as well as bulk SMS in the district to curb "circulation of inflammatory videos, pictures or text". Police said that the post-mortem of the 14 killed is being conducted in Mon and feared that the number of fatalities may increase as at least two of those injured were critical and had to be evacuated to hospitals in Assam while the rest were being treated in Nagaland. Ordering a Court of Inquiry into the incident, Army said one of its personnel was killed and several others were seriously injured. It said that the incident and its aftermath are "deeply regretted" and the unfortunate loss of lives is being investigated at the highest level. The state government has constituted a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by IGP Nagaland, officials said. PRO Defence (Kohima) Lt Col Sumit K Sharma said, "Based on credible intelligence of likely movement of insurgents, a specific operation was planned to be conducted in the area of Tiru, Mon District, Nagaland. The incident and its aftermath is deeply regretted." Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio promised a high-level probe into the incident and appealed to all sections of the society to maintain peace. An investigation is underway to ascertain whether the incident was a case of mistaken identity, the officer said.

Remnants of 'Jawad' trigger heavy rain

Farmers in south, north and coastal belt of the state have incurred huge losses in the wake of cyclone-triggered rainfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The India Meteorological Department Sunday stated the remnant of cyclonic storm 'Jawad' weakened further over the Bay of Bengal. In a fresh weather update, the IMD mentioned the deep depression, which is a remnant of 'Jawad', has weakened into a depression over northwest of the sea. The weathermen further predicted the system will move north-northeastwards and weaken further by Sunday midnight.

Since midnight, there was a heavy downpour in most parts of the coast districts under the influence of the weather system. Farmers have been the worst hit by the rain as harvested crop has been damaged or submerged in knee deep water at agriculture fields. The situation triggered massive panic harvest in various parts of the state. However, due to late sowing, crop harvesting has been reportedly largely unsuccessful. As a result, farmers in south, north and coastal belt of the state have incurred huge losses in the wake of cyclone-triggered rainfall. Rainfall was reported from most districts of the state, the weather office said. While the cyclone Jawad weakened into a depression, incessant rainfall continued to lash several parts of the state disrupting normal lives. It is the farming community that is facing the brunt of the unseasonal rain. Ganjam, Khurda, Puri, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur received heavy to very heavy rainfall. Khalikote in Ganjam district recorded 158 mm rainfall, followed by Nayagarh (107.5 mm), Chhatrapur (86.6 mm) and Bhubaneswar (42.3 mm), it said. Rainfall continued till Sunday evening and gradually shifted to the northern region of the state as the remnants of the cyclone move towards West Bengal. Ganjam district received the highest average rainfall of 47.8 mm. Jagatsinghpur received 38.3 mm rainfall, followed by Kendrapara (35.7), Khurda (33), Puri (25.5), Bhadrak (21.6), Nayagarh (21.6), Cuttack (20.5). The state's average rainfall was 11.8 mm, officials said.

21 Omicron cases confirmed in India

While Delhi reported its first case of Omicron Sunday, seven and nine cases were detected in Pune and Jaipur respectively taking the total number of patients to 21

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 5: The new coronavirus variant Omicron seems to be spreading fast in the country with Delhi reporting its first case Sunday while seven more cases were reported from Maharashtra. Nine persons in Jaipur also tested positive for Omicron. Currently, the total number of Omicron cases in the country stands at 21. According to reports, a 37-year-old fully vaccinated man who arrived in Delhi from Tanzania has tested positive for Omicron, making it the first case of the new COVID-19 variant in the national capital. Seven persons from Pune district have tested positive for Omicron variant of coronavirus, a health official said Sunday. The Delhi patient, a resident of Ranchi, had travelled from Tanzania to Doha and from there to Delhi on a Qatar Airways flight December 2. He stayed in Johannesburg, South Africa, for a week, officials said. Meanwhile, of the seven people who tested positive to Omicron in Pune one is a woman who came from Nigeria along with her two



daughters to meet her brother in adjoining Pimpri Chinchwad area. Her brother and his two daughters have also tested positive for the variant, he added. Another case is of a man from Pune who returned from Finland in the last week of November, the official said. The total number of confirmed Omicron cases in Maharashtra has gone up to eight, he said. Another report said four members of a family and five others have tested positive for the Omicron variant of coronavirus in Jaipur, Rajasthan, Sunday: Health Secretary Vaibhav Galriya said the genome sequencing of their swab samples confirmed it. He said the family members had recently returned from South Africa. The country reported the first two cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 Thursday in Karnataka - a 66-year-old South African flyer and a 46-year-old Bangalore doctor with no travel history. Both men are fully vaccinated.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I agree he performed poorly and dented country's image. But we can't arrest him under UAPA, he is just a sportsman!

Will repeal of farm laws deter investment in agriculture?

With an eye on a critical election in Uttar Pradesh early next year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to rescind the laws in November, hoping to smooth relations with the powerful farm lobby

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 5: Centre's repeal of agriculture laws aimed at deregulating produce markets will starve its vast farm sector of much-needed private investment and saddle the government with budget-sapping



backtracking now seemingly rules out much-needed upgrades of the creaky post-harvest supply chain to cut wastage, spur crop diversification, and boost farmers' incomes, economists said. "This is not good for agriculture; this is not good for India," said Gautam Chikermane, a senior economist and vice-president at

New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation. "All incentives to shift towards a more efficient, market-linked system (in agriculture) have been smothered." The u-turn does allay farmers' fears of losing the minimum price system for basic crops, which growers say guarantees India's grain self-sufficiency. "It appears the government realised that there's merit in the farmers' argument that opening up the sector would make them vulnerable to large companies, hammer commodities prices and hit farmers' income," said Devinder Sharma, a farm policy expert who has supported the growers' movement. But the gruelling year-long stand-off also means no political party will attempt any similar reforms for at least a quarter-century, Chikermane said. And, in the absence of private investment, "inefficiencies in the system will continue to deliver wastage and food will continue to rot," he warned. India ranks 101 out of 116 countries on the Global Hunger Index, with malnutrition accounting for 68% of child deaths. Yet it wastes around 67 million tonnes of food every year, worth about \$12.25 billion - nearly five times that of most large economies - according to various studies. Inadequate cold-chain storage, shortages of refrigerated trucks and insufficient food processing facilities are the main causes of waste.

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	21.6°C	21.6°C
TEMP MIN	19.0°C	18.2°C
Humidity	100%	96%
Rainfall	42.3mm	9.2mm

Forecast: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely

leisure



TRAILER OF SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE RELEASED

Sony Pictures have released the trailer of *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (Part One)*, a sequel to the hugely successful *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. It revolves around Miles Morales, who transcends to another universe, where Miguel O'Hara, known as Spider-Man 2099 comes in his contact.

GEORGE CLOONEY TURNED DOWN \$35MN OFFER FOR A DAY'S WORK

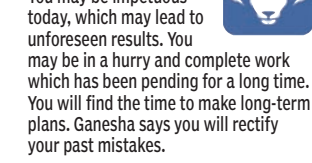
Hollywood star George Clooney has shared that he turned down a \$35 million offer to film a commercial after he consulted his wife Amal. The 60-year-old actor-filmmaker revealed the job offer when he was talking with *The Guardian* about his upcoming directorial feature *The Tender Bar*.



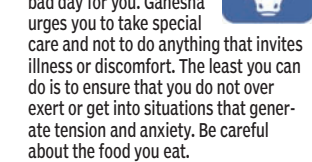
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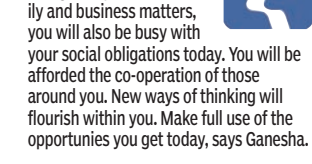
ARIES
You may be impetuous today, which may lead to unforeseen results. You may be in a hurry and complete work which has been pending for a long time. You will find the time to make long-term plans. Ganesh says you will rectify your past mistakes.



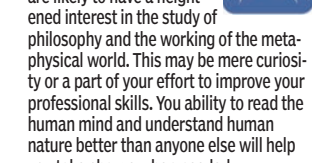
TAURUS
This may be, health wise, a bad day for you. Ganesh urges you to take special care and not to do anything that invites illness or discomfort. The least you can do is to ensure that you do not over exert or get into situations that generate tension and anxiety. Be careful about the food you eat.



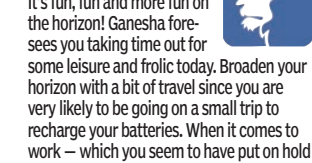
GEMINI
Along with your house, family and business matters, you will also be busy with your social obligations today. You will be afforded the co-operation of those around you. New ways of thinking will flourish within you. Make full use of the opportunities you get today, says Ganesh.



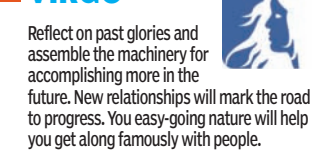
CANCER
Ganesh believes that you are likely to have a heightened interest in the study of philosophy and the working of the metaphysical world. This may be mere curiosity or a part of your effort to improve your professional skills. You ability to read the human mind and understand human nature better than anyone else will help you take charge when needed.



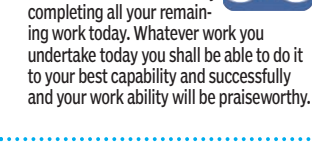
LEO
It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesh foresees you taking time out for some leisure and frolic today. Broaden your horizon with a bit of travel since you are very likely to be going on a small trip to recharge your batteries. When it comes to work - which you seem to have put on hold - it is a matter of pride for you to play the role that you essay within your company.



VIRGO
Reflect on past glories and assemble the machinery for accomplishing more in the future. New relationships will mark the road to progress. You easy-going nature will help you get along famously with people.



LIBRA
Ganesh says that you shall be immersed in successfully completing all your remaining work today. Whatever work you undertake today you shall be able to do it to your best capability and successfully and your work ability will be praiseworthy.



SCORPIO
House renovation is in the offing. You may furnish it with portraits and artefacts. Today, you may also feel like playing the stock market game and stake your bets, says Ganesh. Have a great time at home by hosting friends over.



SAGITTARIUS
The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. A small party at home may see a group of friends and relatives dine together. This may find you in a chatty mood. Ganesh says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.



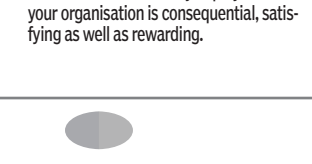
CAPRICORN
Unless you be calm and patient, your tendency to act impulsively will get you into hot water, warns Ganesh. Your image on the minds of your colleagues and bosses will remain intact, though. You will keep on climbing up the ladder and come closer to success, but don't get too excited if everything is turning out as per the plan.



AQUARIUS
Most of the time it is your way or no other way, especially when you charging towards your goal. Today, you will push your limits to achieve what you have desired. You are talented, hard working, creative, and icing on the cake is your luck which is favouring you big time.



PISCES
There are indications you will be in hot pursuit of leisure today, says Ganesh. This will probably be in the form of a short trip to recharge your batteries, and is probably fuelled by your satisfaction in the realisation that the role you play within your organisation is consequential, satisfying as well as rewarding.



KatVic hitting gyms to look their best on big day

VICKY KAUSHAL AND KATRINA KAIF'S WEDDING HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST TALKED ABOUT CELEBRITY MARRIAGES DUE TO THEIR PRIVACY PROTOCOLS

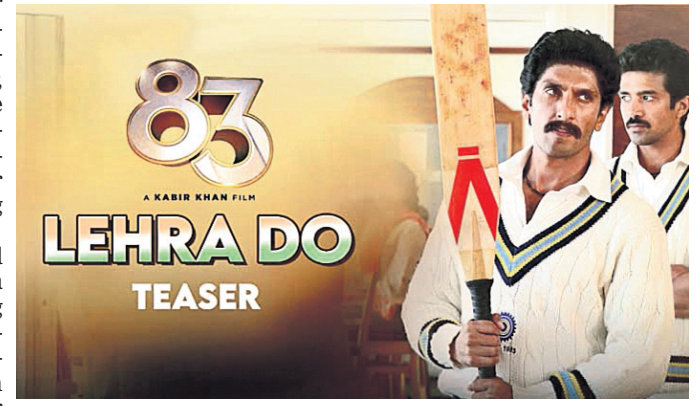


Mumbai: Just a few days before their big fat Indian wedding, star couple Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif is hitting the gym to look their best on the

most important day of their life. A few pictures taken Saturday night show Vicky dressed in an olive green T-shirt paired with basketball shorts. He completed his look with a cap, face mask and white slippers. The Uri: The Surgical Strike actor is seen holding a bag as he stands inside an elevator. Another picture shows Katrina stepping out of a building dressed in a white tank top paired with black sunglasses and a face mask. She too has a bag hanging on her shoulder. Vicky and Katrina's wedding has been one of the most talked about celebrity marriages due to their privacy protocols. The KatVic wedding celebrations are taking place from December 7 to 12 at the Six Senses Fort Hotel in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district.

83 teaser an emotional waft through a memorable era

Mumbai: After treating the audience with an exhilarating trailer, the makers of the Ranveer Singh-starrer *83* have released the teaser of their first song titled *Lehra Do*. The 35-second teaser features a mix of dressing room nervous energy, on field action with Ranveer's cracker of a shot and celebrations. Crooned by Arijit Singh and composed by prolific composer Pritam, *Lehra Do* is a soulful song which is bound to stir emotions as it presents an insight into the emotional rollercoaster ride of the Indian cricket team's journey during the historic 1983 World Cup victory. *83*, which stars Ranveer Singh as Kapil Dev, documents India's 1983 World Cup win. In addition, the film also stars Tahir Raj Bhasin, Jiiva, Saqib Saleem, Jatin Sarna, Chirag Patil, Dinker Sharma, Nishant Dahiya, Harry Sandhu, Sahil Khattar, Ammy Virk, Addinath Kothare, Dhairya Karwa, R Badree and Pankaj Tripathi. Deepika Padukone will be seen playing Romi, Kapil Dev's wife. The film is arriving in theatres December 24.



I'm not rebellious by nature: SARA

New Delhi: Sara Ali Khan, who is recently in the capital to promote her movie *Atrangi Re*, seemed quite confident and her excitement reflected when she said: "Mai Atrangi hoon (I am Atrangi)." Sara is hopeful of attention from the audience that she failed to get in *Love Aaj Kal 2*. She expressed her gratitude for director Anand L Rai, saying: "This opportunity came to me at the right time. After ten days of *Kedarnath*, I was on the sets of *Atrangi Re*. It was great because people didn't like *Love Aaj Kal* and I am working for the audience and there was no point in getting depressed." Sara further opened up about playing 'Rinku' and how she related with her character: "We both are confident people whose confidence even masks their inner vulnerability. But at the same place we are different. I am not rebellious by nature. I will not break the bottles or run away 21 times. I have a very supportive family. I can never dance at my husband's marriage. And of course, I can't speak in a Bihari accent." The actress, who stars opposite actors Dhanush and Akshay Kumar, shared that working with them is only a learning process and there is no competition. "You know Akshay Kumar is a superstar, Dhanush is a National Award winner, so there is no competition obviously, there is only inspiration and learning." The movie will be released December 24 on Disney+ Hotstar.



Celebs who failed to grab eyeballs in Bigg Boss

Bigg Boss is India's most popular reality show hosted by superstar Salman Khan. Right now, its 15th season is on air. Each season has some famous celebrities as its contestants and among them few are able to make their place, while others fail to do so. Here is a glimpse of some popular stars from the entertainment industry, who were not up to the mark in terms of impressing the audience.

Rupali Ganguly
The *Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai* actress has become a household name for her character in the show *Anupamaa*. But she somehow was not that successful in receiving the similar fame in *Bigg Boss 1*.

Shakti Kapoor
Shakti Kapoor needs no introduction. He entered the reality show *Bigg Boss 5* but his elimination came as a shock for him also. He was assumed to be in the finale when he entered the house. But never expected he would get evicted very soon.

Ratan Rajput
Ratan Rajput is well known for her roles in *Radhaa Ki Betiyaan Kuch Kar Dikhayengi* and *Agle Janam Mohe Bitiya Hi Kijo*. Rajput participated in season 7 and failed to entertain the audience. She got evicted in the 4th week itself.

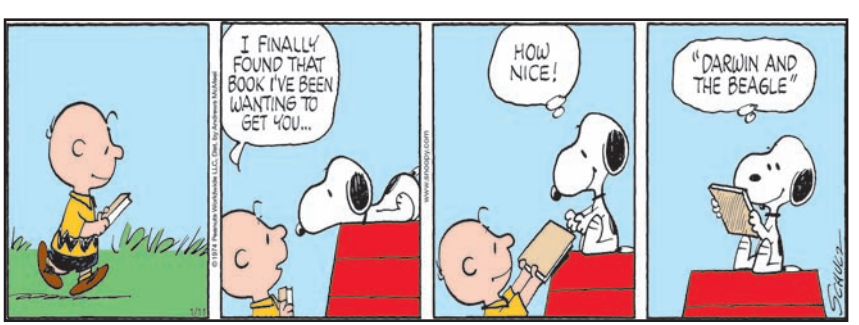
Hiten Tejwani
The actor who was known to play lead roles in *Kutumb*, *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*, *Kasauti Zindagii Kay* and *Pavitra Rishta*, failed to make a mark in the Season 11 of the show and got evicted soon. However even after the show the actor is seen in various TV shows and entertaining his audience.

Nehha Pendse
Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain fame actress entered season 12. The actress who won hearts by playing lead in popular TV sitcom *May I Come In Madam?* failed to entertain the audience in the show and was evicted in just 28 days.

Jay Bhanushali
Bigg Boss is airing its 15th season currently, actor and anchor Jay Bhanushali entered the show with the hope of making it entertaining and continuing till the end. Unfortunately, many people said that he is more serious about his image rather the game inside the house. His eviction came as a surprise.



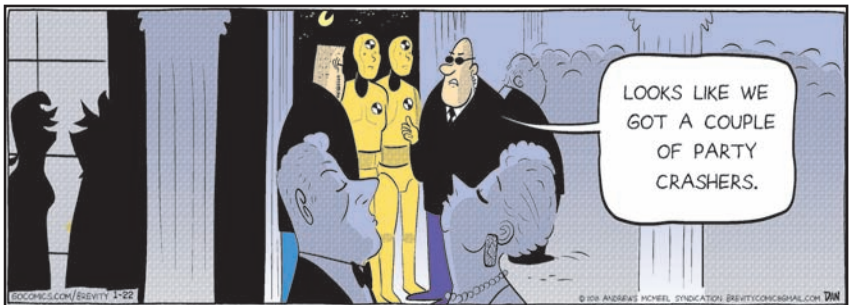
PEANUTS



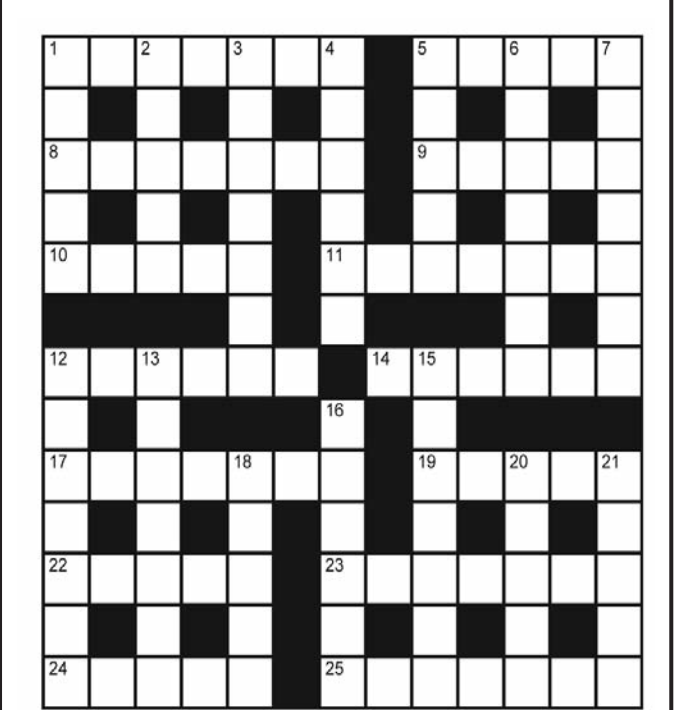
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



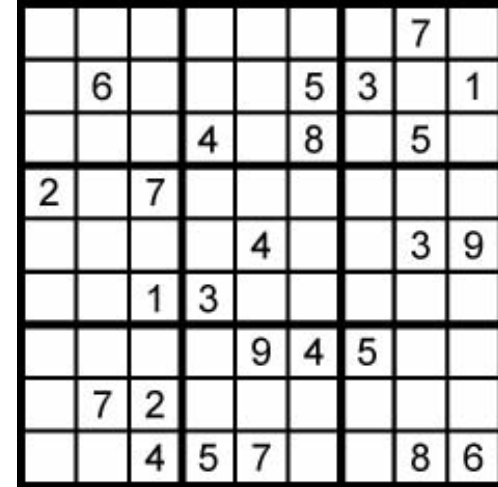
FUN post CROSSWORD



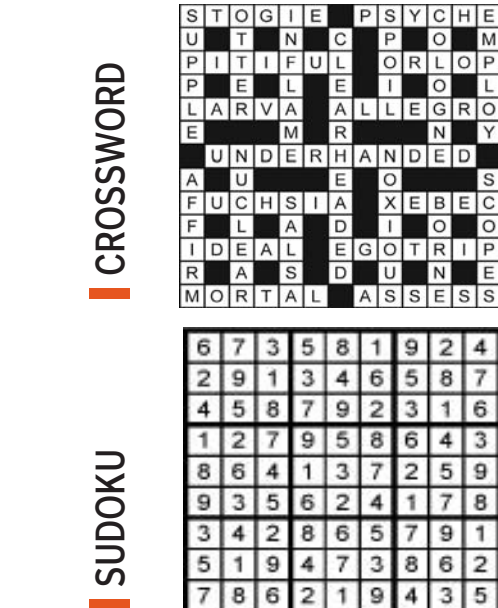
- Across
- 1 Firings
 - 5 Summit
 - 8 Small
 - 9 brownish European songbird
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 - 11 Egyptian peninsula
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 - 14 Play types
 - 17 Warm-water fatty fish
 - 19 Colourful
 - 22 Parasite
 - 23 Ship footbridge
 - 24 Stun gun
 - 25 Feared
 - 4 Waste material
 - 5 Stateroom
 - 6 Pouched mammal
 - 7 Bane
 - 12 Airline crew member
 - 13 Drifting
 - 15 Box office gate
 - 16 Sidestepped
 - 18 Loathe
 - 20 Swore
 - 21 Wood nymph
- Down
- 1 Shopping aids
 - 2 Long for
 - 3 Creating, as a relationship

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

NCC Cuttack Group honours 1971 Indo-Pak war heroes



Cuttack, Dec 5: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cuttack Group Sunday felicitated the next of kin of two of the martyrs of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war at an event organised at Ravenshaw University here.

The year 2021 has a special significance as it marks not only the 75 years of Indian Independence, but also 50 years of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, leading to

Shrinkhala' to pay homage to the 1971 war heroes. Ravenshaw University Vice Chancellor SK Nayak graced the event as chief guest. Paying respect to the martyrs and their families, Nayak called upon the cadets—the future citizens—to get inspiration from the sacrifices made to uphold the national dignity. Officer Commanding, Lieutenant Colonel SP Otta extended warm welcome to the guests and dignitaries on behalf of Colonel Rajinish Kapoor, Group Commander of NCC. Cuttack Additional District Magistrate Bijay Kumar Khandayatray felicitated martyrs' relatives as guest of honour. Group Commander of Cuttack Group NCC extended hearty thanks to the family members of the martyrs and other distinguished guests for their valuable presence and inspiring thoughts for the cadets.

GUV IN HOLY CITY



On a three-day visit to Puri, Governor Ganeshi Lal holds discussion with volunteers at Raj Bhawan in the Pilgrim City, Sunday

State logs 189 fresh Covid cases, 2 deaths

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha Sunday reported 189 new Covid-19 cases, four less than the previous day, with the tally rising to 10,50,249, a Health department bulletin said. Two more fatalities from Khurda and Cuttack raised the coronavirus death toll to 8,422, it added. Fifty-three other Covid patients have so far died due to comorbidities, the Health bulletin said. Twenty-five children were among new patients, and 11 of 30 districts of the state did not report any fresh case. Khurda district recorded the highest number of new cases at 83, followed by Sambalpur and Sundargarh at 12 each, the bulletin said. The coastal state currently has 2,313 active cases, while 10,39,461 people, including 257 in the last 24 hours, have recuperated from the contagion.

Ocean resources key to future economy: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Dec 5: Stating that marine minerals from coastal and ocean resources will be key to India's future economy, Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh Sunday said that metals such as nickel and cobalt play an important role in promoting renewable energy technologies needed to fight the climate change challenges. Steps are being taken for close coordination and collaboration between Institute of Minerals & Materials Technology (IMMT) and National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai (NIOT) for accelerated progress in develop-

ing India's blue economy and harnessing its ocean resources, he said after inaugurating the new building facilities at the CSIR-IMMT at Bhubaneswar. "Efforts are on for development of suitable technologies for effective mining of some of the deep-sea mineral resources and exploita-



tion of gas hydrate resources," he said, according to a release from the Ministry of Science & Technology. Asserting that India has emerged as one of the frontline nations in marine scientific research and

another horizon to various resources to enrich the 'Blue Economy'." The Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) has been established at CSIR-IMMT by the joint effort of the CSIR-IMMT and the Ministry's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in order to provide technological solution to mentor entrepreneurs/start-ups, alongside facilitating incubation of start-ups. Its primary objective is to nurture and promote innovations in MSMEs and provide them R&D or knowledge-based support in the area of new materials and chemical processes, the release added.

Miscreants loot gold ornaments worth lakhs from City shop

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Unknown miscreants decamped with jewellery and cash worth Rs 60 lakh from a jewellery shop at Delta Square under Khandagiri police limits in the state Capital late Saturday night. The miscreants allegedly broke into the shop and robbed gold ornaments weighing around 1 kilogram worth over Rs 45 lakh, silver ornaments of 10 kilogram worth Rs 6.16 lakh and cash over Rs 1.5 lakh. Police has registered a case in this regard and launched a manhunt to arrest the robbers.

Virtual tour shows Kutia Kondh way of comb making

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The ST & SC Development department, in a virtual tour of State Tribal Museum Sunday, showcased the comb making skills of Kutia Kondh tribe. Director of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRIT) AB Ota said that the Kutia Kondhs are skilled in fashioning beautiful combs from bamboo splits. Their women like to adorn their hair with these combs. The combs are used not just to untangle the hair, but also as gifts of courtship in the community. Combs are presented by boys to the girls as a sign of affection. These are made by cutting bamboo splits into equal lengths and tying them together.

MEET ON CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM ON THE TOPIC GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ORGANISED BY: THE LAW COLLEGE OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION, CUTTACK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, CUTTACK

DATE: 05/12/2021 (SUNDAY) 9 A.M.

VENUE: CONVENTION HALL, THE HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, CUTTACK

A meeting on global warming and climate change by 'The Law College Old Students Association' in progress at Orissa High Court Bar Association convention hall in Cuttack, Sunday

Nayagarh ACSO held for DA worth ₹1.6cr

Cuttack, Dec 5: Vigilance sleuths Sunday claimed to have arrested Jayanta Kumar Das, assistant civil supplies officer of Nayagarh, on charges of possessing disproportionate assets (DA) worth ₹1.6 crore, around 137 per cent of his known sources of income. On the allegation of possession of ill-gotten wealth, five Vigilance teams, comprising four Deputy Superintendents of Police, eight Inspectors, one Sub-Inspector and four Assistant Sub-Inspectors, carried out simultaneous raids at five places related to Das on the basis of search warrants issued by the Special Vigilance Court in Bhubaneswar December 4, said a Vigilance Directorate statement. "Following the raids, Das was found in possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources

of income to the tune of ₹1,60,16,216, around 137 per cent of his known sources of income," said the statement. A case (41/2021) has been registered with the Bhubaneswar Vigilance police station against Das and his spouse under section of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Das was arrested and produced before the special Vigilance Court in Bhubaneswar that remanded the official to judicial custody till December 18.

India needs its own data to detect heart diseases in advance

AMID THE GROWING CONCERN OVER MORE YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOPING CARDIAC PROBLEMS, THE CSI IS FOCUSING ON PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY

India needs to have its own data of heart diseases to amalgamate the same with latest technological tools, which will ultimately help identify people who can potentially develop a heart disease in future, eminent cardiologists said. The Cardiological Society of India (CSI), the apex body of cardiologists, is trying to gather more data on every heart disease prevalent in India, CSI President PP Mohanan told media. Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to detect heart ailments well in advance was one of the key subjects discussed during the just-concluded 73rd annual conference of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI). The four-day event attended by 1,000 cardiologists, scientists, engineers and healthcare profes-

sionals deliberated modern advancements in heart care. "We have to have big data. CSI has started efforts in this direction. This will not happen in a year or two, as it is a continuous process. We have to accrue big data and then go step by step. In the years to come, all these will help us formulate a method, and identify people who can potentially develop a heart disease in the future. This will not happen tomorrow or day after, it will take time," he said. The CSI, along with scientists and engineers, will be working towards developing 'Deep Neural Networks'; and achieving the target of accurately predicting heart risks in advance by 2030. It is keen to work with the government to reach the goal efficiently. However, Mohanan clarified that



this is the CSI's vision. "People are trying to involve Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in prediction of heart diseases. We still have a long way to go, but the process is on," he said. Mohanan believes that the technological tools will merely augment the cardiologist's capability. "Essentially, it is the clinician, the cardiologist who is going to do all those things. He gets some aug-

mented knowledge from Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning. Nothing is

Around 30 per cent of deaths across the world occur due to cardiovascular diseases. Unfortunately, in India the rate is higher. We presume it may be 35 per cent or even inching on to 38 per cent. Heart disease is the number one killer in the world. Eighteen million people die every year because of heart diseases

PP MOHANAN | PRESIDENT, CARDIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

formula anywhere in the world, which tells that a person will develop heart ailments. "Nothing has happened, but people are working in many ways. Your genetic background and your risk factor profile will help in prediction," he noted. The conference, which saw participation of specialists in AI and ML, discussed how the cardiologists can amalgamate newer knowledge of digitisation. "We are going to assimilate all that is happening and try to give the benefit of exponential information for the benefit of better heart care for the patients," the cardiologist said. Amid the growing concern over more young people developing cardiac problems, the CSI is focusing on preventive cardiology. Mohanan pointed out that the av-

erage age of developing heart attack in India is 10 years prior to anybody in the rest of the world. Mohanan attributed this trend to the amount of stress the young generation is taking, lack of physical activity and air pollution. Thirty per cent of deaths across the world occur due to cardiovascular diseases. "Unfortunately, in India the rate is higher. We presume it may be 35 per cent or even inching on to 38 per cent. Heart disease is the number one killer in the world. Eighteen million people die every year because of heart diseases," he said. Mohanan pointed out that 80 per cent of heart diseases can be prevented provided people understand better. The CSI is trying to focus on creating awareness.

WASSUP TODAY BHUBANESWAR

7th Chilika Shelduck Folk Carnival by Society for Development of Rural Literature and Odi Art Centre, Excellency Resorts, Ashok Nagar, 5:30pm

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to opwassup@gmail.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

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SHORT TAKES

University field as bus stand decried

Bhawanipatana: Various outfits have opposed the district administration's plan to use the playground of Kalahandi University as bus stand on a temporary basis.

Farmer couple killed in mishap

Sundargarh: In a road mishap that took place early Sunday morning, a farmer couple died on the spot after a tractor they were travelling on skidded off and turned turtle.

Tribal woman shot at by poachers

Phulbani: A tribal woman was shot at in a forest in Kandhamal district Saturday when she was collecting firewood, police said.

One dead in elephant attack

Dhenkanal: Amid continued elephant menace in parts of Dhenkanal district, an elderly man died in an elephant attack in Sadangi range Sunday.

RAIL ROKO



Local people, traders and workers of various political parties staging a rail roko at Lakshmpur Road railway station in Koraput, demanding halt of all passenger trains and ticket reservation facility at the station, Sunday

Work on 22 NHs stuck, courtesy CALA's apathy



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 5: Work on 22 National Highways has been stuck at different stages due to delay in clearing compensation to the land losers.

According to the report, the state government's Competent Authority of Land Acquisition (CALA) is the agency which is supposed to facilitate land acquisition and ensure clearance of compensation to the land losers.

It was alleged that due to CALA's apathy, land acquisition for the NH expansion has been delayed. Special secretary of the works department HK Padhi has taken note of the slow pace of land acquisition.

Free milk for AP kids on sale for a premium in Kandhamal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Dec 5: In a surprising development, milk packets of Andhra Pradesh meant for free distribution among poor children are allegedly being smuggled to markets under Kotgarh block in Kandhamal district for sale among the locals, a report said.

Vendors in Kotgarh market are selling these milk packets for ₹45 per litre. The tea sellers in the area are purchasing the milk and preparing tea to sell it among the locals.

The milk packets sold in the name of 'Vijay Vajra' carries the image of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy.



ous shops in the Kotgarh market while it has been mentioned on the packets that the milk is meant for free distribution only.

However, what has surprised many is that no one knows how the milk packets are being transported to Kotgarh block for sale.

- Since 2017, construction and expansion of 22 NHs whose total length adds up to 1,162 km is moving in slow pace
The NHAI has deposited ₹2,340 crore at the CALA to pay compensation to the land losers
Due to negligence of the CALA, land losers have not yet received their compensation to the tune of ₹242.955 crore till Sept 20
Besides, work of 22 more projects as decided in 2021-22 and 2022-23 has failed to make much headway

are being acquired in Jajpur, Angul, Balasore, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Sambalpur and Sundargarh to intervene in the matter of land acquisition.

He has asked the Collectors to direct officials concerned to remove bottlenecks in the land acquisition process, expedite the work and carry forward the compensation clearing process.

Padhi had also directed the Collectors to remove bottlenecks in the NH expansion. It was alleged that due to indifference of the CALA, District Collectors of the above districts have to face awkward situation.

Since 2017, expansion of 22 NHs whose total length adds up to 1,162 km is moving in slow pace.

Two leopards on prowl in Nuapada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Dec 5: Locals have claimed to have sighted two leopards moving about in Tarboda area under Komna block of Nuapada district.

According to reports, some locals had seen two leopards moving along NH-353 Saturday morning. Later, the animals had scaled across the boundary wall of the grass and seeds production farm here.

On being informed, ranger Debadutta Sutar and wildlife ranger Prafulla Kumar Duria along with a group of forest officials rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation.

The NHAI has deposited ₹2,340 crore at the CALA to pay compensation to the land losers.

NHAI chairperson Giridhar Armane had written to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra in September to ensure smooth progress of the NH works in the state.

Lone doctor runs a dept in MKCG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 5: Healthcare services in the gastroenterology department of MKCG Medical College and Hospital here has been severely affected as a lone doctor is struggling to manage the gastro-medicine wing of the department with several posts lying vacant.

The gastroenterology department comprises gastro-medicine and gastro-surgery units.

The state government is also working to equip the hospitals in the state with better infrastructure so that no patient will be deprived of necessary and quality treatment.

Various schemes like Niramaya, Nidan and health cards have been launched by the state government to ensure quality treatment to patients.

Workers agitate, goods transport from NINL hit

DIPAM INTERFERENCE CONDEMNED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 5: Tension flared up on premises of the state-owned Nilchal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) which is lying closed in this district, as workers stopped transport of stocked goods from the plant premises, protesting the long-pending pay revision and promotion, Sunday.

Workers held the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) responsible for such development.

The trade union leaders have submitted a memorandum to Tuhinkanta Pandey, secretary, finance of the Union Government.

They alleged that DIPAM is unnecessarily interfering in the



management of the NINL. They claimed that the NINL is a separate firm where its managing committee looks after the well-being of the company officials and workers.

It has been confirmed from a reply given by Union Minister of State (Finance) Bhagawat Kishan Rao Karad in the Parliament to a starred question of MP Manoj Kumar Jha.

However, the DIPAM which is under the Union Finance Ministry is unnecessarily interfering in the affairs of the NINL.

Man dies of severe cold wave; saline water flows into farmland

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, Dec 5: The incessant rainfall triggered by cyclonic storm Jawad has played havoc with life and livelihood of residents under this block in Kendrapara district, Sunday.

An elderly man died due to alleged cold wave at waterlogged Badapal village under Kansar Badadandua panchayat. The deceased was identified as Kalipada Mandal, 87.

Farmers faced crop damage as tidal waves crossed the saline embankment and submerged the standing crops on farmlands in various low-lying areas under

this block. Over two-foot deep saline water was found flowing over the standing crops.

Reports of crop damage has emerged from Batighar, Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Baulakani, Jambu, Suniti, Nanjura, Baadhi, Kansar, Badadandua, Gagua, Barakandha, Petchhela, Mangalpur and Baradanga panchayats of the block.

The members of Mahakalpara Press Club urged MLA Atananu Sabyasachi Nayak to ensure survey on crop loss and provision of financial aid to the affected farmers.

Pvt college raided for flouting Covid norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Dec 5: Saikrupa Plus II Residential College at Kunjakanta under ward No-2 of Dhenkanal, which was sealed December 2 and declared a Containment Zone, was raided Saturday night by Town Police for conducting classes in violation of Covid-19 norms.

As many as 57 students of Saikrupa College including a few staffers had recently tested positive for Covid-19.

Kunjakanta area is to remain under restriction till December 10. Acting on a tip-off that another educational institution in the containment zone was conducting night classes for its students and after considering the seriousness of the matter, a team of Town Police personnel conducted raids on two colleges in Kunjakanta.

Some staff members of the Saikrupa College managed to give the raiding team a slip while a few more staffers did not allow Town Police to enter the institution by locking its gate from inside.

Village missing in Malkangiri dist map traced

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Dec 5: A village which had not figured in the district map of Malkangiri and had long remained elusive from the sight of the district administration was finally traced by Khairput tehsildar, a report said.

The newly identified Ghasingbeda village is under Rasabeda panchayat and Khairput block of the district and is inhabited by over 70 primitive Didayi tribals.



obscurity and was bereft of any development as the district administration was unaware of its existence within the territorial boundary of the district. The matter came to the fore after someone tipped off

about the presence of the village to Rama Krushna Nayak, tehsildar of Khairput block. Nayak personally decided to verify the claim and visited the village Friday.

officials, Nayak trekked over a 14-kilometre-long hilly terrain and set his foot at the Ghasingbeda village.

The joy of the villagers knew no bounds when they saw the government officials for the first time in their village. They gathered together and welcomed the tehsildar and tehsil officials according to their traditional rituals.

The tehsildar interacted with the villagers when the latter informed that they do not have a road to their village. Moreover, no government as-

istance has ever reached there. Observers pointed out that the state government has launched several schemes for the development of primitive Didayi and Bonda tribals. However, development continues to remain a distant dream for this village inhabited by Didayi tribals as the village has not yet figured in the district map.

After the visit of the tehsildar, the villagers are hopeful that the district administration will definitely work on development of the village.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER R.W. DIVISION, ANANDAPUR, SALAPADA, KEONJHAR e-Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No. Online 11/EERW/AND/2020-21

of the day **QUOTE**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already withdrawn the three farm laws - the main demand of agriculturists who have been staging protests at Delhi borders for over a year. I think no issue is left now and farmer brothers should end their agitation and get engaged in their routine work

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

This is a victory of the people of Goa. This time, all the divine forces are coming together and something good is going to happen

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

People have already given the title of casino capital to Goa. We (government) need not give it. Public has already declared it

G KISHAN REDDY | UNION TOURISM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

2 boys drown

Thane: Two minor boys drowned in a water-filled pit in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday in Shivai Nagar area. The victims, both aged 11, went out of their homes, but did not return following which the police registered a case against unidentified persons under Indian Penal Code Section 363 (kidnapping), Vartak Nagar police station's senior inspector Sadashiv Nikam said.

Three arrested

Thane: Police have arrested three persons for allegedly killing their friend over a dispute while consuming liquor here in Maharashtra, an official said Sunday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday in Indira Nagar locality of Kalwa area here, Assistant Commissioner of Police Venkat Andale said. The body of the 22-year-old victim, Gulab Salamat Sheikh, was found with multiple injuries on Friday morning.

Three found dead

Shajapur: The bodies of three minor boys were found floating in a water-filled quarry in Madhya Pradesh's Shajapur district Sunday morning, a day after they went missing, police said. The three boys, aged 9, 10 and 13, left their homes in Bhiria Khajuria village on Saturday evening to play nearby, but did not return, Kalapipal police station in-charge Uday Singh Alawa said. Later, their family members launched a search and informed the police.

Five killed

Tirupati: Five pilgrims, including an infant, were killed and three others seriously hurt after their speeding car crashed into a road divider at Ithepalli near here Sunday, police said. The accident occurred when the vehicle carrying 8 people from Vijayanagaram district crashed into the divider and flipped onto the other side of the road before it caught fire. The passers-by doused the flames and pulled the victims out of the car.

Man held

Thane: Police have arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly stealing autorickshaws in Thane and Vasai in Maharashtra and recovered from him two such vehicles, an official said Sunday. The accused, Sanu Khan alias Lal Badshah, was nabbed following a tip-off, he said.



Imitation is the best form of flattery. The more the AAP imitates the BJP, the less relevant it will become. Soon, the AAP will become a clone of the BJP

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

VACCINATION COMPULSORY IN PONDICHERRY

The Union Territory of Pondicherry has made it mandatory for all persons to get the COVID-19 vaccine with an aim to achieve cent per cent coverage and said those skipping it would face penal action under law



AAP accuses BJP of poaching

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, Dec 5: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Sunday accused the BJP of trying to poach its lawmakers from Punjab including its state unit president Bhagwant Mann who claimed he was offered money and a place in the Union Cabinet if he joined the saffron party ahead of assembly election.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP to the allegations. Without naming anyone, Mann, who is an MP from Sangrur, claimed that a senior BJP leader contacted him four days ago and asked him, "What would you take to join the BJP?"

The AAP leader claimed he was asked if needed money and was told that he would be made a Union cabinet minister if he joined the BJP. "I told him (BJP leader) that I am on a mission not on commission," Mann told reporters in Chandigarh. Taking a swipe at the BJP, AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha claimed that 25 Congress MLAs have been approaching his party to join it, but the AAP doesn't want this "garbage" and said he is ready to share the list with the BJP if it wants to take them in its fold.

Chadha alleged that "top BJP leaders" from Delhi had approached the AAP leaders in Punjab over phone requesting them to join the saffron party and offering bribes.

"Senior-most leaders of the BJP are making phone calls from Delhi to our party leaders, MP, MLAs in Punjab requesting them to join the BJP offering them to take any amount of money, land, property



THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION FROM THE BJP TO THE ALLEGATIONS

TAKING A SWIPE AT THE BJP, AAP SPOKESPERSON RAGHAV CHADHA CLAIMED THAT 25 CONGRESS MLAS HAVE BEEN APPROACHING HIS PARTY TO JOIN IT, BUT THE AAP DOESN'T WANT THIS "GARBAGE" AND SAID HE IS READY TO SHARE THE LIST WITH THE BJP IF IT WANTS TO TAKE THEM IN ITS FOLD

and position they want for coming to their party fold quitting the AAP." Chadha alleged in a press conference in Delhi.

"Calls have been made to our MP Bhagwant Singh Mann directly from the office of Amit Shah (Union Home Minister)," he added. Hitting out at the BJP, he said leaders and workers of AAP "can neither be intimidated nor purchased".

He asked the BJP not to try to poach the AAP's MLAs and MP from Punjab, saying that all the phone calls from saffron party leaders will now be recorded and made public. "We will make the recorded conversation over the phone public. All the AAP leaders have been asked to record the phone calls from now on from the BJP leaders," he said.

Chadha, co-convenor of the party's political affairs in Punjab, refused to share the names of other AAP leaders and MLAs who were allegedly contacted by the saffron party leaders from Delhi in this connection. "They have been contacted and asked to quote their price or tell whatever they want for quitting AAP and joining the BJP," he alleged.

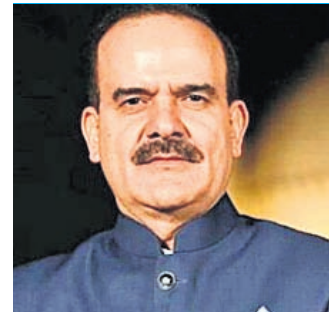
Chadha claimed that as many as 25 Congress MLAs have been "constantly" approaching the AAP expressing their interest in joining the party.

ED records Param Bir's statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, Dec 5: The Enforcement Directorate has recorded the statement of suspended Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh in connection with its money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in the Maharashtra police establishment, official sources said Sunday.

The statement was recorded on December 3 at the agency's office in south Mumbai under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). They said the 59-year-old was quizzed for about five hours with questions on different aspects of the case including the allegations he made against his then boss, former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.



Singh was summoned at least three times in the past by the ED but he never deposed. He may be summoned again. The 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was suspended by the Maharashtra government few days back following registration of police FIRs against him and some other police personnel on charges of extortion.

52% of RS time lost to disruptions in 1st week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The Rajya Sabha lost 52.30 per cent of the scheduled sitting time during the first week of the ongoing Winter session on account of disruptions and forced adjournments, the RS secretary said.

The productivity of the House during the last week has been 47.70 per cent of the scheduled time, officials said, adding that with the House sitting for 33 minutes beyond the scheduled time last Thursday, the overall productivity for the first week against the scheduled time improved to 49.70 per cent.

The best productivity of 100 per cent on the previous day last week, showing signs of return of the House to normal functioning, the secretariat said in a statement.

Rajya Sabha had taken up the Private Members' Business for the full scheduled time of two-and-a-half hours Friday last, doing so after one year, nine months and 24 days, and after 66 sittings.

The last time it happened was on February 7, 2020 during the budget session, the 251st session of the House, the officials said.

The Private Members' Business was not scheduled during the 252nd session, the first full session held under Covid protocol.

It was dispensed with during the 252nd session to take up other business.

No business could be transacted during the 254th session on Fridays,

During the first week of the Winter session, two bills -- the Farm Laws Repeal Bill and the Dam Safety Bills were passed by the House

meant for Private Members' Business due to disruptions, they added.

On Friday last week, 22 Private Members' Bills were introduced in Rajya Sabha and one was discussed. Introduction of one such Bill seeking to amend the Preamble of the Constitution was put on hold.

During the first week of the current winter session, two bills -- the Farm Laws Repeal Bill and the Dam Safety Bills -- were passed by the House.

A total of 27 Zero Hour and 15 Special Mentions were made in the House, the data compiled by the secretariat said.

Twenty-three of the listed 67 starred questions were orally answered and eight listed questions had to be deleted further to suspension members who raised those questions.

On Friday last week, Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu discussed with some opposition leaders and ministers their views on suspension of 12 members of the House in the wake of the demand of the opposition for the revocation of the decision.

Why no recruitment when there are vacancies: Varun

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: Criticising police action against protesting candidates of UP teachers' test in Lucknow, BJP MP Varun Gandhi Sunday asked why recruitments are not taking place when there are vacancies in the government.



Sharing a video of police action against candidates holding a candlelight march over alleged irregularities in the 2019 UP Teachers' Entrance Test (UPNET) 2021, he lamented that no one is ready to listen to their demand.

Saturday, UPNET candidates were holding a candle march demanding recruitment of teachers on vacant posts in Uttar Pradesh. Gandhi, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Pilibhit, is regularly questioning his own party government on several issues from farmers' protest to the Lakhimpur incident and now over irregularities in UPNET.

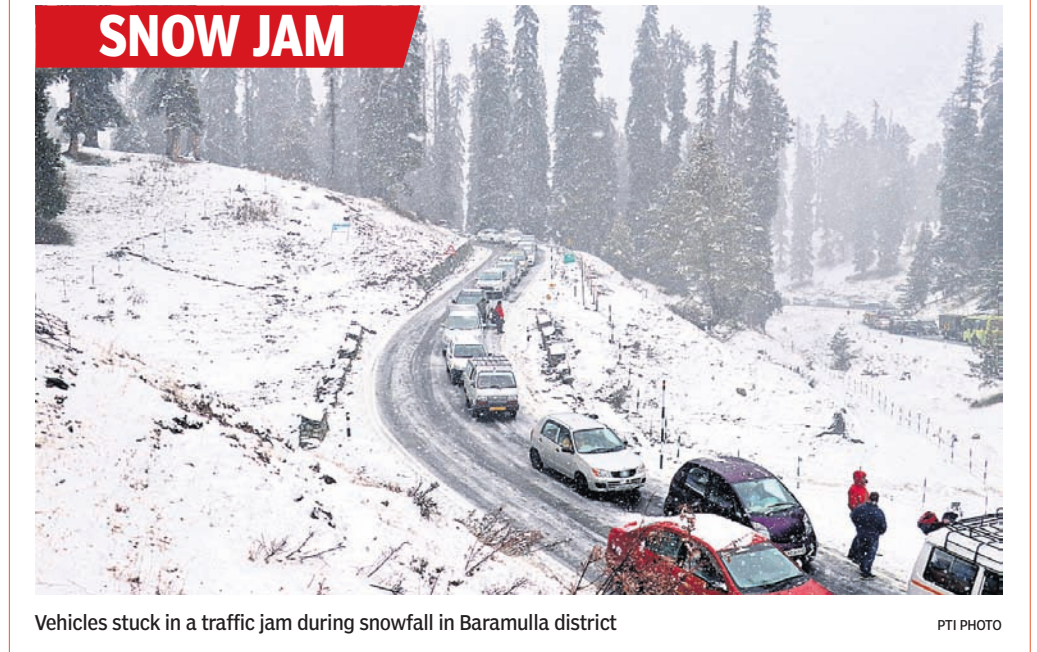
He also requested people think if the aspirants would be treated in the same way if they were their

In October Varun Gandhi and his mother Maneka Gandhi were dropped from BJP's national executive committee

own children. Tweeting a video of police reportedly using batons, he said: "These children are also 'Son of Mother India', let alone accepting their demands, no one ready to listen to them. Above this, barbaric 'lathicharge' on them. Put your hand on heart and think they would be treated the same if they were your own children. You have vacancies as well as qualified candidates, so why are recruitments not taking place."

On November 28, the UPNET 2021 had to be cancelled after the paper was leaked. On December 2, Varun Gandhi questioned the BJP government on job and paper leaks.

"First, there is no government job, if some opportunity comes, then the paper gets leaked, if you give the exam, there are no results for years, then it gets cancelled in some scam. 1.25 crore youths are waiting for Railway Group D exams for two years. Same is with the Army recruitment. How long should the youth of India have to be patient," Varun Gandhi had tweeted. In October Varun Gandhi and his mother Maneka Gandhi were dropped from BJP's national executive committee - the party's top decision making body.



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam during snowfall in Baramulla district

PTI PHOTO

Woman jumps into well with daughters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan), Dec 5: Upset over regular fights with her husband, a 40-year-old woman allegedly jumped into a well with her five minor daughters, all of whom died, when the man had gone to attend the condolence meeting of a relative, police said Sunday.

They said the villagers spotted the six bodies Sunday morning and informed the police who rushed the bodies to a local hospital. The deceased woman has been identified as Badamdevi, a mother of seven and the wife of Shivalal Banjara, a resident of Banjaran Ka Dera at Kaliyahedi village under Chechat police station.

The five minor deceased girls are Savitri (14), Ankali (8), Kajal (6), Gunjan (4) and one-year-old Archana. Police said the two other daughters - Gayatri (15) and Punam (7) - escaped the ill-fate as they remained asleep.

Chechat Circle Officer DSP Praveen Nayak said prima facie the routine fights between the woman and her husband was the reason behind the woman taking the extreme step. Shival worked as a blanket and cloth vendor.

The CO said the man was not present at his home when the incident occurred on the intervening night of Saturday on Sunday as he had gone to attend the condolence meeting at his relative's home in another village. Chechat police station SHO Rajendra Meena said the well is just 100 meters from the house of the woman.

Nitish to gauge women's mood

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 5: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will soon embark on another yatra across the state to gauge the views of women voters over the liquor prohibition law.

This move comes after the recent panchayat elections, as he is likely to visit all districts of the state and to also take stock of the development works.

Sources say that as the Chief Minister has been criticised over this law, the main aim of this visit is to see the implementation of the liquor ban on the ground and gauge

LIQUOR BAN



people's opinion as well as take stock of various development works. Whether in or out of power, Nitish Kumar had been taking out 'yatra's across the state in the past.

Till now, the Chief Minister has undertaken 'Nyay Yatra', 'Vikas Yatra', 'Dhyanwada Yatra', 'Pravas Yatra', 'Vishwas Yatra', 'Seva Yatra', 'Adhikar Yatra', 'Sankalp Yatra', 'Sampark Yatra', among others to gauge the political pulse of people in the state.

While interacting with the media, the Chief Minister had himself said that after the end of panchayat elections, he will embark on a tour of the state. In the past, he usually started his yatra from Champaran but this time he is yet to make an official announcement as to from where he will start his yatra.

SP finds new icon in 'missile man' APJ Abdul Kalam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Dec 5: Aggressively positioning itself against the BJP in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the Samajwadi Party seems to have found a new icon for itself -- former President APJ Abdul Kalam -- who shares space with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and socialist leaders on Akhilesh Yadav's campaign path.

The 'Samajwadi Vijay Yatra' rath -- Akhilesh Yadav's personalised campaign vehicle -- carries pictures of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and socialist icons like Acharya Narendra Dev, Ram Manohar Lohia and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar; apart from that of former President Kalam.

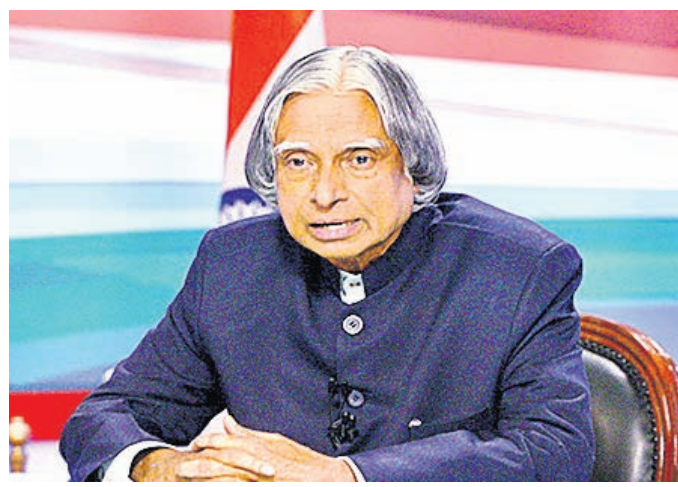
The use of the former President's picture for election purposes appears uncommon, but Samajwadi Party leaders justify it, citing his

proximity to party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav who they claimed was the first person to propose his name for presidency in 2002.

They dismissed charges that it was an attempt by the party to compensate for the loss of the party's "Muslim face" Azam Khan, who is lodged in a jail in Sitapur with dozens of cases registered against him.

"The Samajwadi Party respects all the great personalities, and an attempt has been made to incorporate photographs of a large number of eminent personalities who have given a direction to the country and the society," SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said.

"It was Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) who had proposed his (Kalam) name for the presidential elections in 2002," Chaudhary said. He also dismissed the "loss of



Muslim face" theory.

"There is no communal angle involved in this, and it is purely a nationalist angle. Azam ji enjoys the same respect, which he was get-

ting earlier in the party." When contacted, Abu Asim Azmi, the chief of SP's Maharashtra unit and an MLA from Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar assembly constituency in Mumbai, said, "APJ Abdul Kalam was a great scientist, and was fondly known as the 'People's President'. The attraction which he had among the different sections of the society no other President had."

"People hold him in high esteem. They celebrate his birthday. Despite his achievements, he remained a modest person throughout his life. This is the reason that he continues to inspire many of us."

Azmi also said it was the idea of party chief Akhilesh Yadav to include Kalam's photo along with those of other eminent personalities. He also rejected suggestions that it was done deliberately to woo Muslim voters. "No. Kalam saahab had nothing to do with religion. He used to say that he reads Vedas after getting up in the morning."

Samajwadi Party Uttar Pradesh unit chief Naresh Uttam echoed

similar views as he hailed the contributions of the former president. The BJP, however, took a swipe at the Samajwadi Party over the issue.

"It seems that better sense and wisdom have prevailed on him (Akhilesh Yadav) as instead of (Muhammad Ali) Jinnah's photo, former President APJ Abdul Kalam's photograph appears in his rath along with those of other leaders," said BJP leader Mohsin Raza, also Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj.

"Now, the SP chief has understood that one has to follow the path of a person who has been the pride of the nation, and not that person, who had divided the nation. Now, he (Akhilesh Yadav) is making an attempt to come on the right track and it seems that now he is finding a way for atonement of his sins," he said.

international



Europe continues to stall, falling prey to forms of nationalistic self-interest rather than being an engine of solidarity. At times, it appears faltering and uncoordinated

POPE FRANCIS

OMICRON FOUND IN MORE US STATES

New York announced three more cases of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus Saturday, bringing the number of state cases linked to the new variant to eight



of the day quote

The Pentagon intends to work better with private industry to develop high-tech systems and to strengthen relations with allies in the Indo-Pacific region in order to maintain a competitive edge over China

In the hope of inspiring a few other people to get active and take some extra time for their own mental health - I wanted to share a few of my stories and favourite songs with you in an episode of 'Time to Walk'

More offshore wind means more jobs for iron workers, line workers, engineers, electricians, plumbers, pipefitters

US LARGEST GENERATOR OF PLASTIC WASTE

Washington, Dec 5: The US was the world's "top generator of plastic waste" in 2016, exceeding all European nations combined, *The Hill* reported recently. An article, entitled "US must cut plastic production to save oceans," was published Wednesday, citing a new study by the National Academy of Sciences.



metric tons of such waste in 2016, the report said. "The waste is devastating the

ocean's health and marine wildlife," it reported. "Plastic waste is an environmental and so-

With a population of about 330 million, accounting for only 4.3 per cent of Earth's population, the US generates a total of 42 million metric tons of such waste in 2016

port was quoted as saying in *The Hill's* article. However, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) - a trade group that represents 28 companies, including oil giants, major chemical manufacturers and plastic makers - slammed the study's recommendation that plastic production should be limited, *Xinhua* news agency reported. Joshua Baca, Vice President of plastics at the ACC, was quoted by the report as saying that "plastic is a valuable resource that should be kept in our economy and out of our environment."

US makes Covid-19 test report mandatory for passengers

Washington, Dec 5: The US has made it mandatory for all incoming passengers, including those from India, to carry a negative Covid-19 test report or a proof of recovery from the contagion amidst rising number of cases of the new Omicron variant.



As per the new amended order, effectively for flights departing to the US from a foreign country at or after 12:01 AM EST (5:01 AM GMT or 10:31 AM IST) December 6, 2021, passengers are required to show a -ve test result taken no more than a day before travel

The new protocol comes into effect from December 6, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has said. "This amendment updates Covid-19 testing requirements for air passengers 2 years or older boarding a flight to the United States," Indian government officials informed Indian-American community leaders Saturday. Documentation of a negative SARS-CoV-2 viral test result from specimen collected no more than 1 calendar day preceding the passenger's flight to the United States or documentation of having recovered from Covid-19 in the past 90 days, before they board their flight.

Nepal calls for seamless linkages between the Himalayas and Indian Ocean

Kathmandu, Dec 5: Nepal Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal Sunday said the government's priority is to link Nepal's highlands in the Himalayas with the Indian Ocean, while underscoring the need for greater economic and regional cooperation, which would bolster trade and investments in the region.

Speaking at the Fifth Indian Ocean Conference, IOC 2021 in Abu Dhabi, Paudyal asserted that a land-locked country like Nepal attaches great importance to the Indian Ocean and considered it an economic lifeline. "There is a need for international and regional support for landlocked developing countries to enhance their capacity for reaping the benefits by linking the highlands in Nepal with the Indian Ocean through seamless hardware and software of connectivity," he said. In the wake of the challenges posed by Covid-19, the Foreign Secretary opined that a more robust vaccine cooperation and sharing of technical knowhow and capacity enhancement should be at the forefront in the region.

INDONESIA VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Smoldering debris hinder rescue op

Lumajang (Indonesia), Dec 5: Rescuers were sifting through smoldering debris and thick mud in search of survivors a day after the highest volcano on Java island erupted with fury, killing at least 14 people with searing gas and ash. Mount Semeru in Lumajang district in East Java province spewed thick columns of ash more than 12,000 meters (40,000 feet) into the sky in a sudden eruption Saturday triggered by heavy rains. Villages and nearby towns were blanketed and several hamlets buried under tons of mud from volcanic debris. Flows of hot gas and lava traveled up to 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) to a nearby river at least twice on Saturday and three times on Sunday with a smaller distance of up to 2 kilometers (1 1/2 miles), according to Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Agency. Authorities warned the thousands of people who fled the volcano's wrath not to return during Sunday's lull in activity. But some were desperate to check on livestock and possessions left behind. In several areas, everything — from the thinnest tree branch to couches and chairs inside homes



— was caked with ash. "There's no life there ... Trees, farms, houses are scorched, everything is covered in heavy gray ash," said Haryadi Purnomo of East Java's search and rescue agency. He said that several other areas were virtually untouched. Search and rescue efforts were temporarily suspended Sunday afternoon because of fears that hot ash and debris could tumble down from the crater due to heavy rains. Authorities warned the thousands of people who fled the volcano's wrath not to return during Sunday's lull in activity. But some were desperate to check on livestock and possessions left behind. In several areas, everything — from the thinnest tree branch to couches and chairs inside homes

Search and rescue efforts were temporarily suspended Sunday afternoon because of fears that hot ash and debris could tumble down from the crater due to heavy rains. Authorities warned the thousands of people who fled the volcano's wrath not to return during Sunday's lull in activity

still further collapse, causing an avalanche of the blistering gas and debris trapped beneath it. A thunderstorm and days of rain, which eroded and partly collapsed the dome atop the 3,676-meter (12,060-foot) Semeru, triggered the eruption, said Eko Budi Lelono, who heads the geological survey center. Semeru, the stratovolcano in shape of a cone, is also known as Mahameru, meaning "The Great Mountain" in Sanskrit. It has erupted many times over the last 200 years. Still, as with other volcanoes — it is one of 129 under watch in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago — more than 62,000 people call Sumeru's fertile slopes home. It last erupted in January, with no casualties. Indonesia, an archipelago of

SHORT TAKES

31 killed in Mali attack

Bamako: At least 31 people have been killed and 17 others injured when armed men attacked a truck carrying civilians in central Mali, authorities said in a statement. The statement, issued by the transitional government of Mali Saturday, said a group of unidentified armed bandits had attacked and set ablaze a truck carrying people to a fairground near the village of Songho on Friday, *Xinhua* news agency reported.

18 died in Kenya bus accident

Nairobi: At least 18 commuters died after a bus ferrying choir members plunged into a river in Kitui County, eastern Kenya, the police said. Mwingi East Sub-County Police Commander Joseph Yakan said 10 passengers have been rescued after a bus which had at least 30 people on board when the accident occurred at 11 a.m. on Saturday plunged into the river.

Blizzard warning issued in Hawaii

Los Angeles: A blizzard warning is in effect for Hawaii's Big Island mountain summits, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, both taller than 13,000 feet (3,962.4 meters). According to the US National Weather Service (NWS), at least 12 inches (30.48 cm) of snow are expected to fall in the region this weekend and Monday amid wind gusts of 100 miles per hour (160.9 km per hour).

Quake rattles S Philippines

Manila: An offshore earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.1 struck Davao Occidental province in the southern Philippines Sunday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. The institute said the quake, which struck at 7:48 a.m. local time, hit at a depth of 156 km, about 285 km southeast of Sarangani island, *Xinhua* news agency reported.

CNN fires Chris Cuomo

Los Angeles: American TV journalist Chris Cuomo has been fired from CNN in the wake of revelations that he had helped his brother, former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, while he faced multiple accusations of sexual harassment, doing so in ways of which CNN management had not previously been aware of and breaching the traditional ethics of journalism.

Pak has no space to park 14-storey cruise ship

Islamabad, Dec 5: A magnificent 14-storey cruise ship will now be sold in junk as there is not enough space to park the beautiful and comfortable vessel at the country's biggest port in Karachi, *Geo News* reported. The cruise's new owner from New Choice Enterprises, Ahmadullah Khan, said he made efforts for the ship to provide recreation as he planned to turn it into a hotel or cruise to promote tourism. Originally, he purchased the ship to be dismantled in Pakistan, however, when he saw the ship in perfect shape, he changed his mind and thought of turning it into a tourist attraction, the report said. However, he said that he contacted the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) and other authorities, but no place could be allocated for the cruise ship in the largest port of the country.

REMEMBERING MOSCOW BATTLE



World War II re-enactors dressed in Red Army World War II and Nazi Germany uniforms take part in a staged battle to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Moscow, in the Patriot Park outside Moscow, Russia

After 16 years of being in charge, Merkel wants a 'little nap'

THE VETERAN CHANCELLOR HAS BEEN TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT WHAT SHE WILL DO AFTER HANDING OVER THE REINS TO HER SUCCESSOR OLAF SCHOLZ ON DECEMBER 8

Berlin, Dec 5: After 16 years in charge of Europe's biggest economy, the first thing Angela Merkel wants to do when she retires from politics is take "a little nap". But what about after that? The veteran chancellor has been

tight-lipped about what she will do after handing over the reins to her successor Olaf Scholz December 8. During her four terms in office, 67-year-old Merkel was often described as the most powerful woman in the world — but she hinted recently that she will not miss being in charge. "I will understand very quickly that all this is now someone else's responsibility. And I think I'm going to like that situation a lot," she said during a trip to Washington this summer. Famous for her stamina and her ability to remain fresh after all-night meetings, Merkel once said she can store sleep like a camel stores water. But when asked about her retirement in Washington, she replied: "Maybe I'll try to read something, then my eyes will start to close because I'm tired, so I'll take a little nap, and then we'll see



where I show up." "SEE WHAT HAPPENS" First elected as an MP in 1990, just after German reunification, Merkel recently suggested she had never had time to stop and reflect on what else she might like to do. "I have never had a normal working day and... I have naturally stopped asking myself what in-

terests me most outside politics," she told an audience during a joint interview with Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. "As I have reached the age of 67, I don't have an infinite amount of time left. This means that I want to think carefully about what I want to do in the next phase of my life," she said. "Do I want to write,

do I want to speak, do I want to go hiking, do I want to stay at home, do I want to see the world? I've decided to just do nothing to begin with and see what happens." Merkel's predecessors have not stayed quiet for long. Helmut Schmidt, who left the chancellery in 1982, became co-editor of the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* and a popular commentator on political life. Helmut Kohl set up his own consultancy firm and Gerhard Schroeder became a lobbyist, taking a controversial position as chairman of the board of the Russian oil giant Rosneft. German writer David Saffier has imagined a more eccentric future for Merkel, penning a crime novel called *Miss Merkel* that sees her tempted out of retirement to investigate a mysterious murder. 2ND PARTY APPROVES DEAL FOR SCHOLZ'S NEW GOVT: Germany's pro-business Free

Democrats on Sunday approved a deal to form a new government with two center-left parties, moving Chancellor-designate Olaf Scholz a step closer to taking office as the country's new leader this week. The Free Democrats reached an agreement last month to form a coalition with Scholz's Social Democrats and the environmentalist Greens, effectively crossing the aisle to ally with the two parties. "This is a coalition agreement for policies of the center, which won't shift our country to the left but wants to move it forward," party leader Christian Lindner told a largely online party convention. Delegates voted 535 to 37 to approve the agreement, with eight abstentions. After the Social Democrats backed it overwhelmingly Saturday, only one more hurdle remains before parliament can elect Scholz Wednesday.

The grieving wife of Diyawadana has pleaded for justice from both the Pak and Lankan governments, saying her husband was a very innocent man

The post-mortem report of the Sri Lankan national revealed that 99 per cent of his body was burned, and with the exception of one foot, all his bones were broken, it said. According to a Punjab Police spokesperson, following the autopsy, Diyawadana's body was sent to Lahore where it will be handed over to the Sri Lankan consulate. After all legal formalities, the body will be sent to Sri Lanka via a special flight, the report quoted the official as saying.

business



I think we are in a moment of great pain. The economy is still well below as against what it was in 2019. We don't know how much below, but it is substantially below. And I am not blaming anybody, I am just saying

ABHIJIT BANERJEE | NOBEL LAUREATE ECONOMIST

TATA, HONDA, RENAULT MULLING PRICE HIKE

With input costs continuing to rise, automakers like Tata Motors, Honda and Renault are looking to increase vehicle prices from January next year to offset the impact. Already, car market leader Maruti Suzuki and luxury automakers Audi and Mercedes-Benz have announced to hike vehicle prices from next month



of the day quote

Can we create a platform as powerful, seamless, good, as digital as UPI platform for providing very quick and easy credit to the MSME, small industries, small businessmen. People really at bottom of pyramid

ASHWINI VAISHNAV | IT MINISTER



In the next round of funding we will probably feel closer to it. I think in the next 6-12 months we will be unicorn. It's just a tag you get and it doesn't change anything on the business front

KUSHAL NAHATA | CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, FAREYE



In India and globally, there is a lot of positivity about the Indian real estate sector. The reason is that the structure of the industry is changing in a very meaningful way

ABHISHEK LODHA | MD AND CEO, MACROTECH DEVELOPERS



SHORT TAKES

SBI to sell NPA acc KSK Mahanadi Power

New Delhi: SBI has invited bids from asset reconstruction companies, and other financial institutions to sell an NPA account KSK Mahanadi Power Company, with total outstanding against the company standing over Rs 4,100 crore. The e-auction of KSK Mahanadi is scheduled to take place on December 31, 2021. With fund based outstanding of Rs 3,815.04 crore and non-fund based outstanding of Rs 286.83 crore, company's total loan dues towards SBI stands at Rs 4,101.87 crore as on date.

HC to hear Reliance's plea against DMRC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court will hear the execution petition of Reliance Infrastructure's subsidiary Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd (DAMEPL) Monday. The execution petition was filed by the DAMEPL against Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), to get the Supreme Court order enforced, that had upheld the Rs 7,100 crore arbitration award in favour of the company. Over three months have passed since the pronouncement of the order by SC in favour of DAMEPL, DMRC is yet to make the payment to the company.

Metro Brands IPO to open Dec 10

New Delhi: The initial share-sale of footwear retailer Metro Brands Ltd, which is backed by Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, will open for public subscription December 10. The initial public offering (IPO) will conclude December 14. The initial share-sale comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 295 crore and an offer for sale of 2.14 crore equity shares by promoters and other shareholders. Through the IPO, the company's promoters will offload nearly 10% stake.

Centre expands SCALE committee

New Delhi: The government has expanded the SCALE committee (Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports) by adding three new members, hailing from diverse industry backgrounds, according to an industry insider. "The new appointees are Panasonic India Chairman and CEO Manish Sharma, Toyota Kirloskar Vice-Chairman Vikram S Kirloskar, and Asian Paints co-promoter and Chairman Adverb Technologies Jalaj Dani," he said.

LIC improves asset quality; lowers NPA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Ahead of its proposed initial public offering (IPO), insurance behemoth LIC has improved its asset quality for the financial year ended March 2021.

The non-performing assets (NPAs) as of March 31, 2021, are Rs 35,129.89 crore out of a total portfolio of Rs 4,51,303.30 crore, according to the latest Annual Report of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

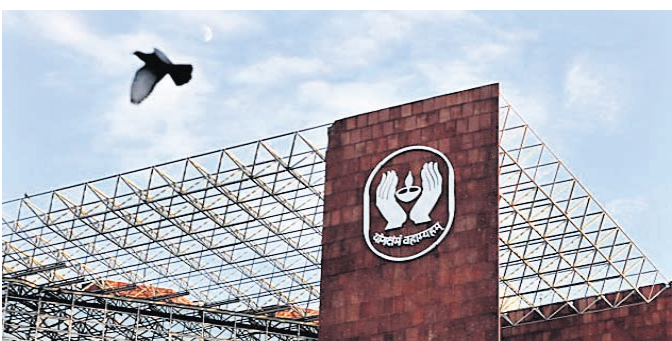
The sub-standard assets are Rs 254.37 crore whereas the doubtful assets are Rs 20,369.17 crore and loss assets are Rs 14,506.35 crore. An amount of Rs 34,934.97 crore is provided as per IRDAI guidelines in the books of accounts towards non-performing assets, it said.

The percentage of gross NPA is 7.78 per cent while the net NPA is 0.05 per cent at the end of March 2021. This is lower than gross NPA of 8.17 per cent (as a percentage of its debt portfolio) and net NPA of 0.79 per cent in the previous year.

In absolute terms, the NPA was Rs 36,694.20 crore out of a total debt of Rs 4,49,364.87 crore in 2019-20. Stress threshold for banks is different from that for insurers. LIC usually makes full provisions for all NPA in the debt book.

"The management has reviewed the asset quality and performance of investments in respect of real estate, loans, investments, other fixed assets etc and adequate provision for impairment/diminution in

AHEAD OF IPO



The percentage of gross NPA is 7.78 per cent while the net NPA is 0.05 per cent at the end of March 2021

The corporation has made provisions to the tune of ₹37,341.6 crore, of which ₹34,934.97 crore is towards doubtful, sub-standard, and loss assets

FM Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget speech had said the IPO of the LIC would be launched in the current financial year

value of investments/assets have been provided for wherever necessary," the annual report said.

The government earlier this year amended the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, to facilitate the listing of LIC.

According to the amendment, the central government will hold 75 per cent in the LIC for the first five years after the IPO and then

it will subsequently hold at least 51 per cent at all times after five years of its listing. The government currently owns a 100 per cent stake in LIC.

The authorised share capital of the LIC shall be Rs 25,000 crore divided into 2,500 crore shares of Rs 10 each, as per the amended legislation. As much as 10 per cent of the LIC IPO issue size will be reserved for policyholders.

LIC, once listed, has the potential to become one of the biggest domestic companies by market capitalization with an estimated valuation of Rs 8-10 lakh crore.

On LIC IPO and strategic sale of BPCL, Sitharaman recently said, "We are progressing with each one of them...The detailing requires a lot of time. The tying up of loose ends among different departments consumes its own time and this is being expedited."

State govt to set up Chhatua producing units in 314 blocks

The decision has been made for the holistic development of women and also to boost MSMEs in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: In a bid to encourage women entrepreneurship, the state government has planned to set up Chhatua producing centres in 314 blocks of Odisha.

The MSME department official said that all centres will be operational in month of March next year. The department has passed on the information to district collectors.

Incessant strive of Chief Minister towards holistic development of women in the state has yet again been reflected by the above step taken by MSME department, the Nodal Department in implementing PMFME (Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises) scheme under which women SHGs are the major group of beneficiaries among others.

It has been decided to promote and foster the SHGs involved in production of the take home ration Chhatua under the PMFME scheme, said an official.



In association with department of Mission Shakti and Department of W&CD, MSME department has formulated a plan to select one SHG from each block in the State involved in production of Chhatua, the official added.

The department of W&CD has shared a list of 314 such Chhatua producing SHGs with MSME Department which has been forwarded to all District Collectors for further action.

The Principal Secretary of MSME department Satyabrata Sahu said that around Rs 18 lakh to Rs 20 lakh of loan will be provided to the producing centres through banks.

Sahu also said that there is a facility to provide about 35% of loan subsidy for these loans.

"This will usher in formalization of the unorganised Chhatua producing SHGs by technological gap analysis and providing hand holding support, branding & marketing assistance," he said.

Discoms' dues to gencos rise 1.3% in Dec

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 5: Total outstanding dues owed by electricity distribution companies (discoms) to power producers rose 1.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,13,227 crore in December.

Discoms owed total Rs 1,11,762 crore to power generation firms in December 2020, according to portal PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators).

In December 2021, the total overdue amount, which was not cleared even after 45 days of grace period offered by generators, stood at Rs 1,01,436 crore as against Rs 98,334 crore in the same month a year ago. The overdue amount stood at Rs



1,00,417 crore in November this year.

Power producers give 45 days to discoms to pay bills for electricity supply. After that, outstanding dues become overdue and generators charge penal interest on that in most cases.

To give relief to power generation companies (gencos), the Centre enforced a payment security mechanism from August 1, 2019. Under this mechanism, discoms are re-

quired to open letters of credit for getting power supply.

The Centre had also given some breather to discoms for paying dues to gencos in view of the Covid-19-induced lockdown. The government had also waived penal charges for the late payment of dues. In May 2020, the government had announced a Rs 90,000-crore liquidity infusion for discoms under which these utilities got

loans at economical rates from Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd.

This was a government initiative to help gencos remain afloat. Later, the liquidity infusion package was increased to Rs 1.2 lakh crore and further to Rs 1.35 lakh crore.

Discoms in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu account for the major portion of dues to gencos, the data showed.

Overdue of independent power producers amounted to 51.18 per cent of the total overdue of Rs 1,01,436 crore of discoms in December 2021. The proportion of central PSU gencos in the overdue was 23.95 per cent.

NXTDigital's shares surge around 40%

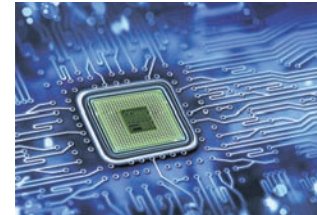
New Delhi: When benchmark Indian indices were on a downward trend due to Omicron concern-led weak broader market sentiment, shares of NXTDigital have risen around 40 per cent in the past two trading sessions. On Friday, Sensex and Nifty settled at 57,696.46 points and 17,196 points, down 1.31 per cent and 1.18 per cent from their previous close, respectively. NXTDIGITAL, a subsidiary of Hinduja Group, provides digital television services to consumers. On Friday, shares of the company settled at Rs 472.50, nearly 11 per cent higher from its previous close. The intra-day high was Rs 511.8 per share. Notably, the company has recently raised Rs 560.13 crore through rights issue, against an issue size of Rs 288.61 crore.

Tata's chip plan may hit obstacles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: The Tata Groups' reported plans to set up a \$300-million semiconductor manufacturing facility on a wartime basis is likely to face some headwinds given the absence of raw materials in the country and its scarce availability outside due to the ongoing shortage globally since the pandemic, says a report.

The pandemic and its after effects on increased demand for data and consumer electronics have left semiconductor makers unable to keep up with supplies, according to a note by Fitch Solutions, an af-



filiate of Fitch Ratings.

So far, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana have been identified as possible locations for the plant and the Tatas aim to finalise the location this month itself and have it up and running by late 2022.

"The facility will assemble and test semiconductor chips after

sourcing the sophisticated silicon wafers from semiconductor foundries like Taiwan-based TSMC," Fitch Solutions said quoting media reports.

"The Tata plant will rely on wafer production from offshore chip foundries, which are already struggling under intense demand. Tata's will, therefore, be vulnerable to further disruptions to silicon wafer manufacturing," the report said.

The report sees the domestic consumer electronics market to grow from \$66.7 billion in 2020 to \$105.1 billion in 2025, indicating the large prospective market for chip makers.

Climate goals difficult without compromising eco targets: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: India's new climate goals will be difficult to achieve without significantly compromising the country's stated economic targets and its ambition to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25, according to global forecasting firm Oxford Economics.

It further said India's pledge to achieve "net zero" emissions by 2070 is admirable, but the path announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 toward achieving that goal is ambitious.

"We think the new climate goals will be difficult to achieve without significantly compromising India's stated economic targets and its ambition to become a \$5 tril-

lion economy by 2024-25. Indeed, it may not even be possible," Oxford Economics said.

In 2019, Modi envisioned to make India a \$5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25. Last month, the Prime Minister announced a bold pledge that India will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and asserted that it is the only country that is delivering in letter and spirit the commitments on tackling climate change under the Paris Agreement.

According to Oxford Economics, financing the transition will also be a big challenge. Studies peg the investment bill at around \$200 billion per year in 2020s and 2030s for India to become net zero by



BIG HURDLES

Studies peg the investment bill at around \$200 billion per year in 2020s and 2030s for India to become net zero by 2070

Oxford Economics noted that India will be relying on private investment to fill the gap between its domestic resources and the requirements

Oxford Economics also noted that India's de-carbonisation plan suffers from low emphasis on carbon removal strategies

In 2019, Modi envisioned to make India a \$5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25

2070. The spending requirements increase progressively as the low

cost technologies are exhausted, it said. Net-zero emissions mean

that the world is not adding new emissions to the atmosphere. With

funding from developed economies likely to disappoint, Oxford Economics noted that India will be relying on private investment to fill the gap between its domestic resources and the requirements.

The bleak track record of foreign investment in infrastructure projects doesn't augur well in this regard, it said.

The global forecasting firm suggested that given these issues, "we think India's net-zero timeline will need to be revisited. We maintain our baseline view of India's carbon emissions beginning to peak in the late 2040's. Oxford Economics also noted that India's de-carbonisation plan suffers from low emphasis on carbon removal strategies.

ASHWIN TURNS IT ON AS INDIA AIM FOR FOURTH DAY FINISH AGAINST NEW ZEALAND IN THE SECOND AND FINAL TEST OF THE TWO-MATCH SERIES

India inch closer to win



IMPRESSIVE START: Indian players appeal for the wicket of NZ skipper Tom Latham, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: India's middle-order worries going into South Africa series remained but that didn't deter Ravichandran Ashwin (3/27) from turning the heat on as his three quick blows left New Zealand tottering at 140/5 in pursuit of an impossible 540 on day three of the second Test.

While Daryl Mitchell (60, 92b, 7x4, 2x6) and Henry Nicholls (36 batting, 86b, 7x4) added 73 runs for the fourth wicket, there is no denying that India in all likelihood will finish it early on the fourth day with Ashwin looking menacing after every passing over.

What will hurt New Zealand team most in this defeat is the fact that this is the game where one of its own - Ajaz Patel, equalled the world record and grabbed a match-haul of 14 wickets, something that no one has ever done against India in Test cricket.

The tall Mitchell at least tried to use his reach to counter Ashwin and also attack Jayant Yadav and Axar Patel (1/42) but looked more like the last man standing, trying to delay the inevitable before a rush of blood saw him being holed at deep extra cover. Tom Blundell had a suicidal run-out going for a non-existent single.

But it was Ashwin, who again got the new ball and immediately got



into the act by removing skipper Tom Latham with an angular delivery while Will Young gave bat pad to forward short leg and Ross Taylor, who has been a walking wicket, failed miserably in his attempt to slog sweep the wily off-spinner.

There was one over where Ashwin literally toyed with left-handed Nicholls who couldn't gauge

which one would turn away like a classical off-break and the one that will straighten or come in with the angle.

But there will be some issues that would need coach Rahul Dravid's urgent attention. For India, even in what could be a facile victory, the wobbly middle-order would keep them worried going into the South Africa series.



FINISHING TOUCH: Axar Patel lofts one for a maximum during his aggressive innings in India's second essay at the Wankhede Stadium

Ajinkya Rahane failed in the first Test and had to be dropped on pretext of a hamstring niggle. Cheteshwar Pujara had three bad innings and one where he looked better but that was after the pressure was released by the bowlers. Skipper Virat Kohli, whose primary aim of not enforcing follow-on was to get some batting time under his belt, also didn't look confident during a scratchy innings of 36 off 84 balls. India declared their second innings at 276/7 after Axar (41 n o, 26b, 3x4, 4x6) propped up the innings towards the end.

Kohli's idea of batting again was partially successful because Pujara did look good during his 47 (97b, 6x4, 1x6) and Mayank Agarwal (62, 108b, 9x4, 1x6) did his cause no harm by smashing another half-century to top up his first innings score of 150.

The duo added 107 runs for the opening stand to add insult to New Zealand's injuries and it was compounded by another 82 runs that Shubman Gill (47, 75b, 4x4, 1x6) added with Kohli.

Brief scores: India 325 & 276/7d (Mayank Agarwal 62, Shubam Gill 47, Cheteshwar Pujara 47, Axar Patel 41 n o, Virat Kohli 36; Ajaz Patel 4/106, Rachin Ravindra 3/56); New Zealand 62 & 140/5 (Daryl Mitchell 60, Henry Nicholls 36 batting, Will Young 20; R Ashwin 3/27, Axar Patel 1/42). Match to continue.

India finish 4th after loss



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Title hopes already shattered, defending champions India even failed to finish on the podium as they lost 1-3 to France in the bronze-medal playoff match of the FIH Junior Hockey World Cup here Sunday.

France skipper Timothee Clement slammed a hat-trick to stun the hosts once again and secure the bronze medal. Clement converted three penalty corners



France players celebrate after finishing third; Indian team members (top) acknowledge the support after their loss to France, Sunday

Bukkens ensures 5th place for Dutch

BHUBANESWAR: Miles Bukkens slammed a hat-trick to help Netherlands beat Belgium 6-4 and end their campaign at the fifth position in the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday. Bukkens scored from a field effort in the eighth minute before converting two penalty corners in the 20th and 27th minutes. Brent van Bijnen (15th), Guus Jansen (39th) and Casper van der Veen (50th) were the other goal getters for the Dutch side. Last edition's runners-up side Belgium tried to make a valiant fight back and scored four goals through Thibault Depluis (25th), Roman Duvekot (36th, 38th) and Jeff de Winter (52nd) but it eventually turned out to be too late. Earlier in the first match of the day, Pau Cunill (49, 55th, 58th) scored a hat-trick, while Eduard de De Iganicio-Simo struck a field goal as Spain defeated Malaysia 4-1 to finish in the seventh spot.

for France in the 26th, 34th and 47th minutes while India's lone goal was struck by Sudeep Chirmako in the 42nd minute.

It was the second consecutive flop show from the Indians after their superlative performance against Belgium in the quarterfinals.

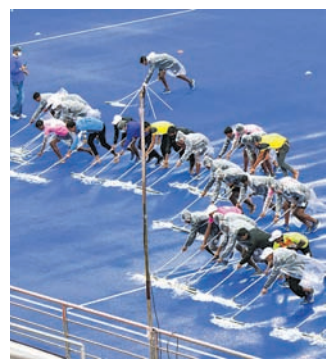
The third-fourth place match was a chance for India to avenge

their 4-5 defeat against France in their tournament opener, but it was not to be as the European side continued to dominate the hosts with a superb performance.

France were by far the better side on the pitch as they controlled the proceedings after a sedate first quarter and earned as many as 14 penalty corners as against India's just three.

France were the dominators from the beginning and finally got their reward in the 26th minute when Clement converted France's fifth penalty corner of the match. He doubled the lead just after the change of ends converting yet another penalty corner.

In the 42nd minute Odisha boy Sudeep gave the host's a ray hope by reducing the margin with a field goal. But France continued to attack and earned their 11th penalty corner in the 47th minute and once again Clement was bang on target.



Field staff remove water from the turf after the rain at Kalinga Stadium

Silver for Sindhu at World Tour Finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Dec 5: Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu settled for a silver medal at the BWF World Tour Finals after going down meekly against Korean teen sensation An Seyoung in the summit clash, here Sunday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion and two-time Olympic medalist, could neither match the pace nor breach the defence of the World No.6 Korean, losing 16-21, 12-21 in the 40-minute lop-sided clash.

It was Sindhu's third successive loss - all straight games - to the Korean in as many meetings. With this victory, An Seyoung became the first ever South Korean woman to win the season-ending title. It was also her third straight title in Bali, following wins at the Indonesia Masters and Indonesia Open in the last two weeks.

Up against the 19-year-old Korean, Sindhu once again looked short of ideas. She couldn't mount her attacking game or make use of the full court.

An Seyoung looked more polished at the nets and rode on her good quality of strokes. She produced some sensational full stretch diving saves with her swift movement to blunt Sindhu's game plan. The Indian had a forgettable start and was left to fight a tough battle after lagging 0-4. Sindhu

played a good rally to log her first points with a cross court return. She tried to narrow the gap by engaging her rival in rallies but An Seyoung was quick on her feet and showed better anticipation to always keep her nose ahead.

The Korean doubled the lead to 16-8 after resumption. Sindhu tried to make up the deficit with a few good points but the Korean managed to collect eight game points.

Sindhu saved four game points by putting pressure on her opponent's backhand, while the Korean also sent one long. An Seyoung, however, sealed the opening game with a body return.

The second game started on an even keel with Sindhu managing to take a 5-4 lead for the first time but the agile Korean was quick to wrest back the lead after the Indian went long twice.

The teen shuttler soon extended her lead to 10-6 as she was relentless in the rallies, sending everything back to Sindhu. A razor sharp return on her opponent's forehand gave her an 11-8 advantage at the break.

After the interval, An Seyoung continued to control the proceedings, galloping to a 15-8 lead with another exceptional full dive return. In a jiffy, An Seyoung grabbed a massive 10 match points. Sindhu saved two before sending one to the net as the Korean celebrated.



India eves run riot over Thailand



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Donghae (South Korea), Dec 5: Dragflicker Gurjit Kaur scored five goals as the Indian women's hockey team thrashed Thailand 13-0 in its first game at the Asian Champions Trophy here Sunday.

Gurjit gave India the lead in the second minute of the match after an infringement from Thailand in their defensive third awarded them a penalty stroke.

Gurjit, who scored four goals at the Tokyo Olympics, kept a cool head and put the ball in the back of the net. Conceding an early goal put Thailand on the back foot straight away, and Vandana Katariya, the only Indian women's player to score a hat-trick at the

Olympics, found the second goal five minutes later.

By the time the first quarter ended, Lilima Minz added another field goal in the 14th minute, while Gurjit and Jyoti scored two more from penalty corners in the 14th and 15th minute, giving India a 5-0 lead.

The second quarter started much the same way as India kept most of the possession giving no room to Thailand to cause any danger.

Within the first minute of Q2, Rajwinder Kaur, who made her international debut on Sunday, scored a field goal in the 16th minute, and in the 24th minute, Gurjit scored her third goal and Lilima scored another from a penalty corner also in the 24th minute.

The Indian team demolished the

Thai defence as they struck another in the 25th minute through Gurjit, giving them a massive 9-0 lead at the end of the second quarter.

Returning from the 10-minute halftime break, India dominated by continuing to make threatening circle penetrations from the left flank. But Thailand dug in deep and defended well for the first six minutes in the third quarter.

Jyoti broke the threshold, scoring another field goal in the 36th minute to exceed India's lead by 10 goals. A defensive error four minutes later from Thailand gave India another penalty corner, but this time Gurjit's powerful flick was deflected by the opposition. A well-constructed move from the middle late in the 43rd minute caught Thailand's defence napping as Sonika struck in her first goal in the match.

The fourth quarter saw Navneet Kaur threatening Thailand's defence with penetrating runs from the right flank. But Thailand's defensive troops managed to keep the danger at bay, preventing any further damage to the scoreline.

In the 55th minute, Monika managed to get her stick on a long pass inside the circle, as she deflected the ball into the back of the nets to exceed India's lead by another goal. Three minutes later, Gurjit scored her fifth goal of the match from a late penalty corner, adding in the 13th goal for India.

Odisha FC go down fighting vs Blasters

AGENCIES

Goa, Dec 5: Odisha FC suffered their first loss at this season's Indian Super League (ISL) as they went down 1-2 against Kerala Blasters at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Vasco, Sunday. This was Blasters' first win in four matches this season.

Alvaro Vazquez (62nd minute) and substitute Prasanth Karuthadathkuni (85th) scored second-half goals to hand the yellow shirts their first victory in 11 months. For Odisha, Nikhil Raj pulled one back in second-half stoppage time.

Courtesy the result, Kerala rose to sixth in the points table with

five points from four games. Odisha, meanwhile, remain on third having six points from three outings.

After a goalless-but-entertaining first half, Blasters took the lead from a counter-attack. Adrian Luna was in the thick of things as his through ball found Vazquez who timed his run to perfection. The Spaniard ran 30 yards, rounded the keeper and put the ball in the back of the net.

Midfielder Prasanth's moment of saviour came five minutes to the final whistle when he dinked a perfectly weighed Luna ball past the keeper after a lovely run off the Uruguayan. Raj scored a late goal for Odisha but it did not matter in the end.



REAL WIN, BARCA LOSE AT HOME

BARCELONA: When Karim Benzema went down injured, Vinicius Junior and the rarely used Luka Jovic stepped up to secure Real Madrid a 2-0 win at Real Sociedad and strengthen its hold of the Spanish league lead. The young attacking players struck goals early in the second half in San Sebastian to give Madrid its eighth consecutive win across all competitions and leave it eight points clear of nearest chaser Sevilla. Madrid's victory came after Atletico Madrid and Barcelona were upset at home, leaving them further adrift. Atletico Madrid trailed by 10 points in fourth place after the defending champion was stunned by Mallorca 1-2 in the capital. Barcelona was a whopping 16 points behind in seventh place following a 0-1 loss to Real Betis, its first defeat since Xavi Hernandez took over as coach.

SPURS, UNITED SCRIPT WINS

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United registered contrasting wins in their respective Premier League fixtures at home, Sunday. Spurs thrashed Norwich City 3-0 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, while United had to toil hard before Fred's strike allowed them come out with full points against Crystal Palace at the Old Trafford. Son Heung-min was the star for the Antonio Conte's side. The South Korean set up the opening goal for Lucas Moura in the 10th minute, before scoring his team's third goal in the 77th. Davinson Sanchez scored the second for the home side. Defending champions Manchester City are on top of the league for the first time this season. On a day when previous leader Chelsea faltered, City displayed total dominance in a 3-1 win at Watford, Saturday.

MEDVEDEV LIFTS RUSSIA

MADRID: Daniil Medvedev had just put Russia into the Davis Cup final by sealing a win over Germany when he turned to the stands at Madrid Arena and started pointing repeatedly at the hard court beneath his feet. He was here to stay in Madrid for one more day, to lead Russia against Croatia for the most illustrious team trophy in men's tennis. Medvedev brushed aside Jan-Lennard Struff aside 6-4, 6-4 to seal the Russian victory on Saturday after Andrey Rublev won the opening singles over Dominik Koepfer 6-4, 6-0. Germany won the doubles when Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz beat Aslan Karatsev and Karen Khachanov 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to make the final score 2-1. Croatia awaits Russia after eliminating Novak Djokovic's Serbia Friday. Russia and Croatia will be aiming for a third Davis Cup title.

NEWS IN BRIEF