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# leisure



## 'HAWKEYE IS A SUPERHUMAN SERIES WITH A HUMAN SIDE'

Marvel Studios' recently released series *Hawkeye* might be a story of superhuman strength and fighting the outlaws but actress Hailee Steinfeld, who plays Kate Bishop, Hawkeye's aide, suggests that at the heart of it, the series is quite human in nature.

## DRAKE WITHDRAWS TWO GRAMMY NOMINATIONS

Drake has withdrawn his two 2022 Grammy nominations, a representative for the Recording Academy has confirmed. Sources told *Variety* the decision was made by Drake and the Grammys honoured the request, although his motivation was unclear at the time of the publication of this news story.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

You will be very enterprising and industrious today. You make your plans very carefully and execute them perfectly. Despite this, your progress will be very slow. However, Ganesh advises you not to despair and showers his blessings on you.

#### TAURUS

This is a great day for showcasing your administrative and organizing abilities, says Ganesh. Go all out and put in all you have, at your workplace or in your business. You can be sure of impressing your colleagues and superiors, partners and competitors and gaining their admiration and support. Just one thing. Do not over do any thing.

#### GEMINI

You had better start sharing your feelings with your family today, says Ganesh. Also, it's time to tell your family about your current financial status. It will help you feel better. Your energy levels will soar and you will approach everything with renewed vigour.

#### CANCER

Today, you and your soul mate will be rolling in the hay; there will be little time or inclination to do anything else. In fact, you will show such single-minded devotion to the act of rolling as if the future of the world lies in the haystack. Your mind can think of nothing more, and nothing less. The best part is your resilience and your ability to spring back into action when everybody else thinks you are down and out.

#### LEO

Try and put on some protective gear today – maybe a suit of armour should do fine, says Ganesh. For, you may find some need for it on this day of mixed fortunes as you miss out the expected and come face-to-face with the unexpected.

#### VIRGO

Today, you will be aspire to be a master of your own destiny. You have the ability to see through the façade that people put up to shield their true self. You will choose your company wisely and plan for success. Polish your presentation skills and you may need to work an extra bit to get your ideas approved, says Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh feels the day will be beneficial for you when it comes to transactions with the government. But you already expect that. It is more than likely that public servants will have encouraging and optimistic achievements lined up for their efforts.

#### SCORPIO

Ganesh feels that you may be confronted with vital decisions at work. You will need to trust the opinions of your close friends and peers so that you may take informed decisions. Keep your mind away from negative thoughts and delegate responsibilities accordingly.

#### SAGITTARIUS

It is not your nature to warm the bench, but you will wake up feeling lazy and laid-back today, says Ganesh. This may be due to the fatigue of some recent endeavours. For a change, you will try and delegate your work and responsibility to those around you.

#### CAPRICORN

Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in a dilemma on more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesh.

#### AQUARIUS

You are loaded with work, but you will be able to complete the pending assignments. It is, however, necessary that you keep on marching ahead otherwise your growth may become stagnant, advises Ganesh. Keep yourself guarded and watch the moves your opponents make to be prepared for any challenge.

#### PISCES

Today is a day of mixed fortunes. So, while you may not win a gazillion dollars in the daily lottery, you might just end up winning a return air ticket to Timbuktu. No one has really been there, but it is better than nothing. However, the distress of those lost dollars is likely to be eased by the ecstasy awaiting you in the evening.

## Samantha bares her heart on separation

**Hyderabad:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has at last opened up on her divorce from Akkineni Naga Chaitanya and the impact it had on her mental health.

Not long ago, celebrated pair Naga Chaitanya and Samantha announced their divorce, sending shockwaves among their fans. Ever since the *Majili* actress announced her separation from Naga Chaitanya, she has been mum on the issue.

Samantha said, "As soon as you accept the fact that you are going through, something, half of the healing is done. Accepting, vocalising, and fighting back is what I did."

Samantha said she felt like she would "crumble and die". But, as she realised that she is going to live her life, with all the issues, she appreciates herself for being such a strong woman.

"I never knew I could pass this. I am proud of myself because I never knew I was this strong", the *Shakuntalam* actress said.

Samantha also mentioned that her divorce from Chaitanya took a toll on her mental health. But she tried her ways to get better.

Samantha, on the work front, has been busy signing new ventures, and will soon be working on two multi-lingual projects, of which one is titled *Yashodha*. Samantha promises that she will shut up her critics only with her hard work, nothing else.

IANS



## Salman likely to skip 'KatVic' wedding

*Katrina is said to have also wanted Salman's parents to attend the ceremony and shower their blessings to the soon-to-be-wed couple*

**Mumbai:** As the suspense surrounding Salman Khan's attendance at the much-hyped wedding of Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal grows with every passing minute, the superstar's family is expected to attend the event. Katrina is said to be close to Khan's sisters, Arpita and Alvira.

According to sources close to the family, the two sisters will attend the wedding along with their husbands – Arpita's husband and *Antim* star Ayush Sharma and actor-director Atul Agnihotri (Alvira's husband).

Katrina is said to have also wanted Salman's parents to attend the ceremony and shower their blessings to the soon-to-be-wed couple, but they won't be able to attend the event because of health concerns. Salman's *Da-bangg* concert tour's dates coincide with Vicky and Katrina's wedding celebrations. The actor is unlikely therefore to attend the function. Salman has flown to Riyadh with his head of security, Shera, who incidentally is monitoring the 'KatVic' wedding security at the Six Senses Fort Barwara in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.

IANS



## LGBTQ REFERENCES

## Trouble for another Disney movie in Middle East

**Mumbai:** After *Eternals*, another Disney film - Steven Spielberg's remake of classic *West Side Story* - has run into rough weather in the Middle East. The film won't be available for exhibition in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait.

While in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the film wasn't granted a release certificate, in Qatar and Oman, Disney refused to comply with cuts requested by censors, reports *Variety*. The film has been banned in the aforementioned countries owing to the strict censorship mandates regarding sexuality, swearing, and other aspects that don't fall congruent to the Middle East's cultural views.

Although *West Side Story* isn't completely irreverent, but Anybodys, a transgender character portrayed by non-binary actor Iris Menas, became the bone of contention for the censors.

Films with LGBTQ references have been regularly targeted by censors in the Middle East, as well as China. *West Side Story*, the second feature film adaptation of the 1957 stage musical of the same name, features Rachel Zegler and Ansel Elgort as star-crossed lovers having affiliation to rival gangs. The film, whose cast also includes Ariana DeBose, David Alvarez, Mike Faist, and Rita Moreno, is set to release theatrically worldwide December 10.

IANS

## Avijatrik: A mesmerising attempt in Ray's league

WHILE SATYAJIT RAY'S FILMS HAVE THEIR PLACE ON THE ARENA OF WORLD CINEMA, SUBHRAJIT MITRA ADDS HIS AVIJATRIK TO COMPLETE THE APU TETRALOGY

Those who have seen Satyajit Ray's Apu Trilogy (*Pather Panchali* - 1955, *Aparajito* - 1956 and *Apur Sansar* - 1959) would experience a riot of emotions before seeing this film. It is like revisiting a long-forgotten, two-third read classic, anticipating if it would evoke or arouse the same kind of feelings that it did the first time around. And those who have not seen the Apu Trilogy, *Avijatrik* would be a good enough reason to revisit the

This Bengali film with English subtitles, is based on the concluding

### FILM REVIEW

chapters of Bhabhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's novel *Aparajito*. It takes off from where it left in *The World of Apu*. It shows us how Apu has finally realised his responsibilities and returns to his roots accompanied by his endearing and likeminded son,



Amitabh Kumar Roy, who he fondly calls Kajol.

Like Ray's trilogy, Subhrajit Mitra's *Avijatrik* is a black-and-white period drama. It is also aligned to auteur Satyajit Ray's mode of narrative, which centres predominantly on the complicated doctrine of the Rasa theory of Sanskrit drama. Here the feelings experienced by the

characters are conveyed in a peculiar artistic way to the spectator, which may at times appear to be too verbose but yet is distinct in style.

But unlike the trilogy, the structure of storytelling in *Avijatrik* differs. The plot is split into five chapters, each titled on a specific location that propels the narrative.

Set during pre-independence India, the first chapter - *The Train Journey* sets Apu's story rolling when by happenstance he meets his childhood friend Lila on the train while travelling to Kashi.

The story is simple and throughout the film we realise how Apu has evolved as a human being, seeking the meaning of life. His meek and unpretentious viewpoints about life are poignant as well as troubling. The simplicity of the character mirroring a simpleton is what makes him appealing and Arjun Chakrabarty essays him with perfection.

Director: Subhrajit Mitra

Cast: Arjun Chakrabarty, Ayushmaan Mukherjee, Sabyasachi Chakrabarty, Arpita Chatterjee, Sreelekha Mitra and others

Equally enchanting is Ayushmaan Mukherjee, who plays his charming son Kajol. All others in supporting roles keep the viewers enthralled with their effortless performances.

Supratim Bhol's camera movements are flawless, and each frame, picture-perfect. The background score and music elevate the viewing experience.

IANS

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

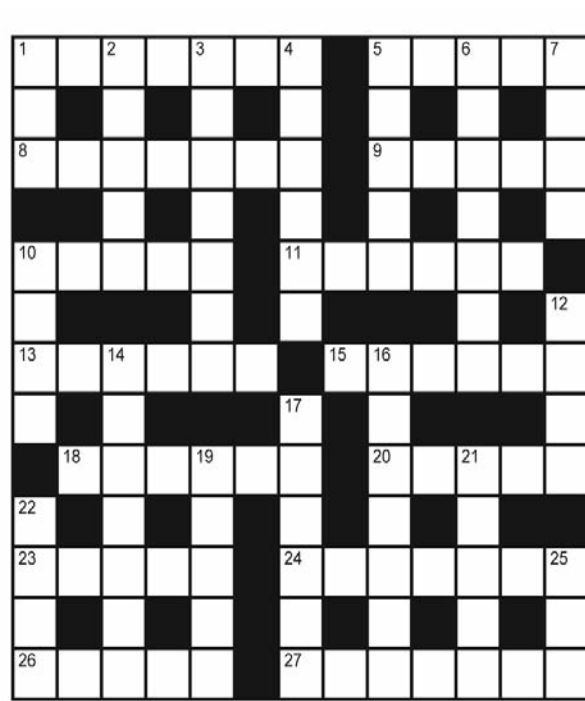


### BREVITY



### FUN post

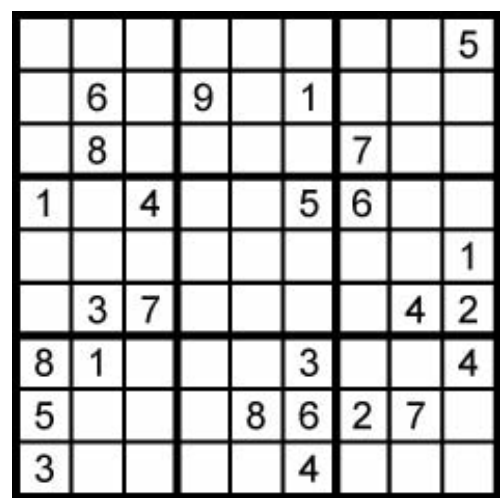
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 The best policy?
  - 5 Like prices in a fancy restaurant
  - 8 Gruesome
  - 9 Poker ploy
  - 10 Wait for the door to open
  - 11 Road sign
  - 13 Conforms
  - 15 Machination
  - 18 Golf lesson topic
  - 20 Sweetener
  - 23 Nettle
  - 24 Embodiment
  - 26 Aegean vacation locale
  - 27 Asian river
  - 5 Pompous walk
  - 6 Gastronomist
  - 7 Yeats or Keats
  - 10 Wharf
  - 12 Low dam
  - 14 Type of shoppe
  - 16 Buffer
  - 17 Green vegetable
  - 19 Family girl
  - 21 Hamlet's father, e.g.
  - 22 Oil cartel
  - 25 Storm centre

### 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.

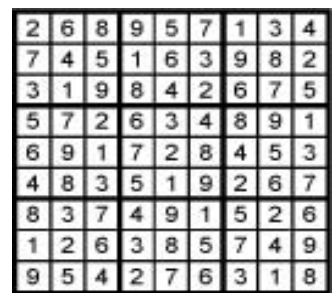


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## BITTER PAST

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu feels she would have crumbled and died had she not ended her marriage

LEISURE



## END OF AN ERA

Merkel is bowing out about a week short of the record for longevity held by her one-time mentor, Helmut Kohl

INTERNATIONAL P8

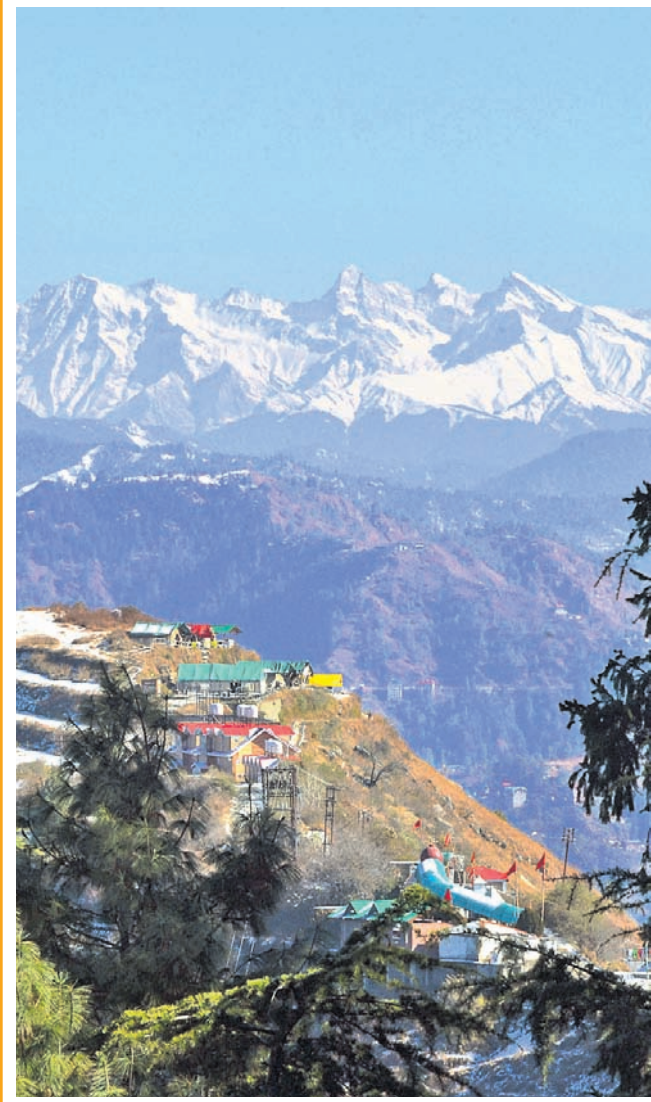


## 1ST ASHES TEST TODAY

Pat Cummins-led Australia face Joe Root-captained England in the first Test of the Ashes in Brisbane

SPORTS BACK PAGE

## CELESTIAL SIGHT



A view of the snow-covered Himalayan Range in Shimla Tuesday PTI PHOTO

# Farmers likely to end protests today

Govt has accepted almost all demands of farmers; submitted written assurance to that effect

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Dec 7:** Farmers' agitation on the borders of the national capital is likely to end soon as the Centre Tuesday gave a written assurance on their demands.

After a meeting in the evening, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which is spearheading the agitation, said they will meet again Wednesday as they have sought some clarifications from the government on its communication.

It is learnt that in the point-wise written assurance, the Centre has said that the Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister have already announced the formation of a committee consisting of representatives of the Centre, states, farmer organisations, and agriculture scientists on Minimum Support Price (MSP). "The SKM members will be part of the farmer representatives in the committee," the government conveyed to the SKM.

It was also learnt that the government has assured the SKM that police cases filed against the farmers will be withdrawn as soon as the protest ends. "The Uttar Pradesh and Haryana gov-



ernments have agreed to withdraw cases with the end of the protest. Departments related to the Government of India and the Union Territory have agreed to withdraw cases as farmers end their protest," the Centre assured the farmers.

On the question of compensation for farmers who died during the protest, sources said: "The Centre mentioned that the Punjab government has already announced ₹5 lakh, to which Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have in principle agreed."

About the demand for withdrawal of the draft electricity bill, the Centre said that the opinion of all the stakeholders would be taken into before tabling

it in Parliament.

On the issue of penal action for burning stubble, the government assured the SKM that farmers will be freed from criminal liabilities on the issue.

Farmer leaders said that a proposal has been received on which a discussion was held Tuesday.

"We discussed the proposal received from the Union government. Some farmers felt that some more clarification was needed on some issues. We hope that we will receive a reply from the Centre. The government has put some conditions and we want unconditional assurance," farmers leader Yudhvir Singh said.

## 'Nanda Master' no more; tributes pour in

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Dec 7:** Centenarian teacher Nanda Prusty, a Class 8 pass-out who had been educating children and village elders free of cost for last seven decades in Odisha, died at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

The 104-year-old teacher, popularly known as 'Nanda Master', was bestowed with the Padma Shri November 9 for his long contribution in the field of education and social service.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death and said the much respected "Nanda Sir" will be remembered for generations due to his efforts to spread the joy of education in Odisha.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted, "Nation will always remember this



noble soul for his selfless service." A resident of Kantira village in Sukinda block of Jajpur district, Prusty was admitted to a CHC November 29 after he complained of cough and cold, and old-age-related problems. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "His valuable contribution in education and lifelong sacrifice will remain as an ideal forever. May his soul rest in peace." Governor Ganeshi Lal conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Sorry, I can only change his religion, not nature

## High drama in House

Assembly sees high political drama as both Oppn and ruling party adopt innovative ways of protests; Oppn beats gongs while BJD MLAs sprinkle Ganga water on Cong, BJP members

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 7:** Logjam continued to prevail in the Assembly for the sixth consecutive day as both opposition and ruling party members created a ruckus in the house forcing the Speaker to adjourn proceedings thrice Tuesday.

As soon as the house assembled, BJP and Congress members rushed to the well holding placards. Wearing black gamucha, BJP members beat gongs and bells as a mark of protest. They demanded removal of Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra over Mamita Meher case.

The BJD members also joined the bandwagon as they sprinkled 'sacred water' on the opposition members seeking good sense to prevail upon them and come for the discussion. This is for the first time that the treasury bench members agitated in the well.

As the gong sound and slogans rent the air, Speaker SN Patro adjourned the proceeding till 4 pm.



The Congress had brought the adjournment motion notice in the Assembly Tuesday for a discussion on Mamita murder case to which Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha was supposed to reply. However, it could not be discussed due to the stalemate. Following the adjournment, members of all three parties continued protests outside the hall and inside the Assembly premises too.

BJP MLAs staged demonstration outside the house beating gongs and bells, while Congress members went on a 'Parikrama' (making round) of the Assembly building. The BJD legislators, holding banners, staged dharna before the Mahatma Gandhi statue.

The situation remained the same in the post-lunch session as the opposition MLAs continued their protests inside Assembly. Adjourning the proceedings for 30 minutes, Speaker called an all-party meeting. However, the meeting failed to resolve the logjam.

## 406 JUMBOS KILLED IN STATE IN 5 YEARS

**Bhubaneswar:** As many as 406 elephants have died in the state during last five years, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha told the State Assembly Tuesday. Replying to a question of Suresh Kumar Routray (Congress), Arukha said 162 jumbos died in accidents while 11 were killed by poachers and the rest due to various other reasons between 2016 and 2021. Out of 162 accidental deaths, 14 died in train accidents, four in road accidents, 54 in electrocution and 90 for other reasons. He said the government has formed three elephant conservation projects - Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Mahanadi elephant conservation projects to check the deaths of elephants.

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	57633.65	↑ 886.51
NIFTY	17176.70	↑ 264.40
DOLLAR	75.46	↑ ₹0.07
EURO	84.90	↓ ₹0.16
GOLD	₹47,995	↑ ₹81
SILVER	₹61,539	↑ ₹269

### WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.5°C	29.2°C
TEMP MIN	19.4°C	18.5°C
Humidity	93%	91%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy	sky

## Switzerland legalises death capsule

Shaped like coffins, the machine brings the oxygen level inside the glass capsule down to a critical level within a few seconds

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Dec 7:** Switzerland has legalised the use of a 'Suicide Machine' named Sarco which offers painless death to those who desire it. It allows users to kill themselves painlessly by inducing hypoxia and hypocapnia (the state of inadequate oxygen supply at the tissue level and reduced carbon dioxide in the blood leading to death).

Shaped Like coffins, the machine brings the oxygen level inside the glass capsule down to a critical level within a few seconds, reported Independent citing the Machine's creators.

The entire process takes less than a minute and allows the person to die "relatively peacefully and painlessly". It is the latest example of advances in euthanasia machines, which are devices specifically engineered to allow an individual to die quickly with minimal pain in countries where voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide is legal.

The suicide machine can be taken to a location of preference and after its use, the



biodegradable capsule is detached from the base in order to serve as a coffin. Sarco "the suicide machine" is invented by Dr Philip Nitschke, dubbed 'Dr Death', and is short for "sarcophagus". "Barring any unforeseen difficulties, we hope to be ready to make Sarco available for use in Switzerland next year. It's been a very expensive project so far but we

think we're pretty close to implementation now," Dr Philip Nitschke said.

However, Nitschke received adverse reactions because of the method used by his machine. "Some have even said that it's just a glorified gas chamber," the Independent reported. According to the reports, with the Sarco machine being legal scrutiny in Switzerland, its creators are likely to put it up and ready for operation in the country from next year. "In its initial days, the machine faced heavy criticism, specifically due to its nature wherein nitrogen flows into the capsule, displacing oxygen, leading to death.

## A LEGEND WHO LIVES ON

### SURESH CHANDRA AGARWAL

1948 : 2020

*The business tycoon and legend of outdoor industry. Throughout your life you have touched everyone with your warmth and benevolence. Your vision and expertise will inspire us forever. With reverence and an unswerving love in our hearts, today on your 1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary. We pledge to eternize your unique legacy*

DEEPLY MOURNED BY, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND EMPLOYEES



SHORT TAKES

Spurious liquor claims one life



Patana: A woman reportedly died after consuming spurious liquor at Kuthaghar Kudar Sahi village under this block in Keonjhar district, police said Tuesday.

Illegal LPG depot raided

Patana: During a raid at Sarnapasi village under Patana police limits in Keonjhar district Tuesday state Civil Supplies and Consumer Welfare department officials seized 17 LPG cylinders from the house of a villager, identified as Rabindra Maharana.

Mob clashes with police in Berhampur

Berhampur: Tension ran high at Goudabandha Sahi under ward no-36 of Berhampur Municipality Corporation (BeMC) during an eviction drive carried out by the civic body as per NGT norms Tuesday.

Illegal fishing in Gahirmatha endangers Ridley's

Mahakalapara, Dec 7: Nesting of Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha sanctuary in Kendrapara district have gone for a toss as hundreds of illegal fishing trawlers were found anchoring at Bahakud ferry ghat near Mahandi river mouth here due to the cyclonic storm Jawad, a report said.



These trawlers illegally enter the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary to fish in the sea and transport the catch outside of the state. These illegal fishing trawlers from Balasore, Bhadrak, Dhamra, Balaramgadi, Kashaphala, Digha and neighbouring West Bengal areas catch large

VLSRSTA Missile test-fired

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Dec 7: India Tuesday successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed new Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile from Odisha coast here, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.

The DRDO-developed quick reaction surface-to-air-missile was test launched from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur here at about 3.08 pm, an official of the organisation said.

To monitor the missile's trajectories, a number of tracking instruments were used. The missile has an operational range of 50 to km distance and features mid course inertial guidance through fiber optic gyroscope and active radar homing in terminal phase, he said.

The DRDO in its official twitter post said, "Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile for @IndianNavy was flight-tested



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, Indian Navy and industry for the successful flight-test of VLSRSTA and said it will enhance the defence capability of Indian naval ships

from ITR Chandipur. The missile was tested against an electronic target at a low altitude. The weapon is planned for integration onboard naval ships."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, Indian Navy and industry for the successful flight-test of VLSRSTA and said the system will enhance the defence capability of Indian naval ships against aerial threat, RMO (Defence Ministry) India said in its official Twitter post.

Ahead of the test-firing of the tactical missile Tuesday, Balasore

district administration as a safety measure temporarily shifted more than 4,500 people residing within 2.5 km radius of launch pad number 3 of the ITR from where the weapon with a dummy payload was positioned and launched.

A revenue official said, "On the request of ITR authority people residing in six hamlets in close proximity to the ITR launch site were temporarily shifted to nearby shelter centres with compensation. They will return home after the DRDO gives the green signal for it."

Covid Delta variant infects two students in VIMSAR

19 OTHER GIRL STUDENTS TEST COVID POSITIVE IN JAJPUR, ANGUL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur/Jajpur/Angul, Dec 7: Apprehensions regarding the spread of the Omicron variety of Covid-19 in VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur district was laid to rest after reports of RT-PCR test of 12 students ruled out the presence of virus in the hospital, Tuesday.

However, two out of 12 students who underwent the test for Covid-19 have tested positive for the Delta variant of the virus, while the remaining 10 students were found suffering from mild presence of the Delta variant, Professor Jayshree Dora, principal of VIMSAR, said. She added that the health condition of all the affected students is stable.

The students and staff have heaved a sigh of relief after receiving the test reports. Earlier, 75 persons including students, staff and nurses had tested positive for the Delta variant of the virus. The district administration had then declared five hostels of VIMSAR as containment zones. The restrictions are still in force in the medical college and hospital.

Meanwhile, nine girl students of the Kasturba Government Girls' High School were infected with the virus in Dasarathpur area of Jajpur district. Similarly, 10 students of a



As many as 10 girl students of Panchayat High School in Balipata panchayat of Angul district have tested positive during antigen test

Girls' High School at Balipata panchayat in Angul district also tested positive for the virus.

As per precautionary measures, all the affected have been put under isolation, while all students and employees, including teachers of the school, have undergone Covid-19 test. This apart, sanitisation work has been carried out on the school prem-

ises to prevent further spread of the virus, said Chakravarti Singh Rathore, Jajpur Collector.

As many as 10 girl students of Panchayat High School in Balipata panchayat of Angul district have tested positive during antigen tests. Covid tests of the students were conducted after many of them displayed the symptoms. Following this, the students tested positive for the Covid-19 virus during the antigen test.

The antigen test result of 10 girl students staying in a hostel was positive. They have undergone an RT-PCR test whose results are awaited, while contact tracing is being carried out by the authorities, Siddharth Shankar Swain, Angul Collector said.

1.5L people of city outskirts moot ordinance

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 7: Nearly one-and-a-half lakh people live on the outskirts of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC), but they are not a part of the civic body. Several slums have also come up around the city.

They have been demanding inclusion of their areas in the civic body for long. Now, they suggest that their areas be included in the BeMC through an ordinance.

The areas, which have been out of the purview of the civic body, are in Nimakhandi, Lochapada and Bhabanipur panchayats. Lochapada

MERGER WITH BECM



panchayat is very close to the BeMC area. Several slum areas like Sidarthanagar, Vijaynagar, Basudevsnagar, Goutamnagar,

Rajbinagar, Nilachalnagar, Alkapuri, Gobindanagar and Bank Colony in Bhabanipur panchayat are close to the BeMC area. People of these areas have long been agitating for their inclusion in the BeMC, but no step has been taken in this regard as yet.

They have also formed an action committee to carry forward their demand. They argued that after inclusion of their areas in the civic body, they will see faster development of the basic amenities.

Ahead of the civic body and panchayat polls, they suggested that the government bring an ordinance for inclusion of their areas on the outskirts in the BeMC.

amount of fish from the sea and earn handsomely from its sale. They employ the local fishermen from Mahakalapara and Rajnagar areas to avoid getting into any trouble during fishing.

Reports said that these trawlers were found fishing in the Gahirmatha sanctuary area for years together in complete disregard to a fishing ban imposed by the Forest department for the protection of the turtles.

They even do not fear the Forest officials patrolling in the area and get into fights with them on the slight pretext. These turtles travel thousands of miles in sea and come to Gahirmatha sanctuary for mating and nesting.

Such rampant fishing by these trawlers is the biggest threat to the endangered turtles. The threat comes in the form of accidental entanglement of the turtles in the nets of the fishing vessels that scour the sea in the sanctuary, which is the mating and nesting site of the turtles. These trawlers use a special kind of fishing net known as Ganja



net which entangles the turtles during fishing and eventually leads to their death. The fishing nets remain in the sea for five to seven hours during which the turtles get caught inside and die, stated a fisherman requesting for anonymity. However, the forest and Coast Guard personnel keep a watch on such illegal fishing inside the sanctuary area.

Croc gets trapped in fishing net, rescued

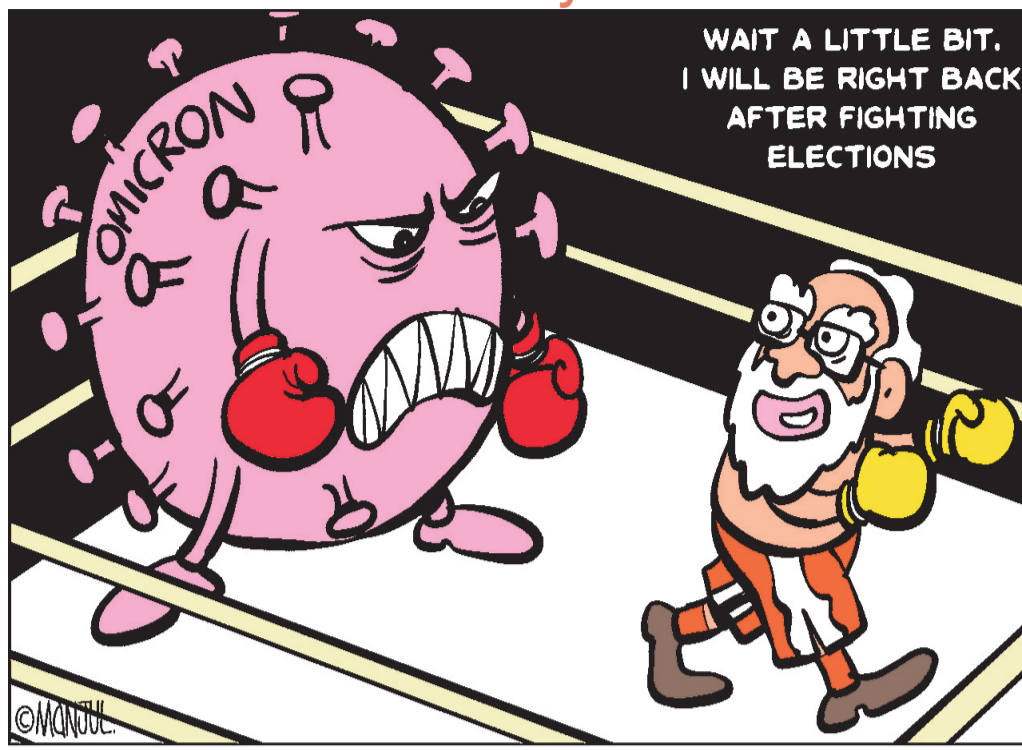
KENDRAPARA: A five-foot-long estuarine crocodile was rescued from Kendrapara district Tuesday after it got trapped in a fishing net, officials said. The juvenile crocodile strayed into Luna river from the Bhitarkanika river system and a fisherman found the animal stuck in his net near Orataghat village in Mahakalapada police station area, they said. After spotting the reptile entangled in the net, the fisherman informed the police and forest personnel who rescued it, they added. The crocodile is safe and there was no injury to it, forest officials said. The crocodile was later released into the wild of the Bhitarkanika river system. Fishermen of the area were left panic-stricken as the crocodile was found. Crocodiles stray into the water bodies of the area in search of food and leave for their habitat within a few days, forest officials said.



Such rampant fishing by these trawlers is the biggest threat to the endangered turtles. The threat comes in the form of accidental entanglement of the turtles in the nets of the fishing vessels that scour the sea in the sanctuary, which is the mating and nesting site of the turtles. These trawlers use a special kind of fishing net known as Ganja

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POLITICKLE by MANJUL



WAIT A LITTLE BIT. I WILL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER FIGHTING ELECTIONS

Students walk 5 km to lodge plaint with DM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Dec 7: Frustrated over multiple problems, hundreds of students of the Ekalavya Residential School at Siriguda run by the SC and ST Welfare and Development department came out of the school and walked about 5km to convey their grievances to the Collector, Tuesday.

The tribal students alleged that they were being served sub-standard food at the hostel while toilets are in unhygienic condition. Fresh uniforms are not given them. They also complained of teacher shortage, which is hampering their studies. The principal also misbe-



haves with them if the shortcomings of the school are brought to his notice, they alleged. The students sat on a dharna in front of the Collector's office seeking redressal of their grievances. Later, the students talked to officials of the district administration about their problems. Collector Saroj Mishra said that immediate steps would be taken to sort out the issues of the students.

WOMAN BOOKED FOR SUICIDE BID

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Dec 7: A quarrel between a couple turned horrific as the woman tried to slit her throat to commit suicide in presence of police at Nuapada in this town, Tuesday. The injured woman, identified as Lakshmi Behera, 42, wife of Rajesh Meher of the area, was rescued in critical condition and admitted to the district headquarters hospital. Later, she was shifted to VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur district after her condition deteriorated. Police registered a case against the woman and begun an investigation. The actual reason behind her extreme step is yet to be ascertained.

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 29/ET/SBP/ENGG/2021-22 Date: 03.12.2021 e-Tender No. 30-eT-DEN-SSB-21

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR ADVERTISEMENT No. Rectt/01/Non-Teaching/2021 dt. 29/11/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH E-mail Id-eevw\_deogarh@yahoo.co.in

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE 3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Co-applicant/Co-Obligorant/Guarantor in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.



# national



**I am wondering what has happened to Amit Shah. He is coming to Rajasthan and saying absurd things. It seems the state BJP did not make him aware of the truth or they do not have the courage to tell the truth to Amit Shah or they are deliberately trying to mislead the public**  
ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

### KEJRIWAL WOOS SC COMMUNITY

In a bid to impress the Scheduled Caste community ahead of Punjab Assembly polls, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday promised to provide free education to their children, besides bearing their coaching fees for higher studies, if his party comes to power

### of the day quote

I cannot comment on the findings of the CAG report. Senior officials of the state government will examine CAG findings. But I will certainly say that Bihar is marching ahead on the progress path  
NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

The country is heading in the direction shown by Dr B R Ambedkar, but some "narrow-minded" tendencies are trying to throw it off the track  
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | BJP LEADER

Is booster dose required then? We have doses available today. There is a need to take a decision at the national level in this regard I think. There are different opinions about it. So, it should be told why it needs to be given or why it shouldn't. Only experts who have researched it (the infection) can talk about it  
AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

## Nagaland 'tense but calm,' Hornbill fest put off

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**Kohima, Dec 7:** The situation in Nagaland, where protests and rioting broke out after firing by security forces claimed 14 civilian lives, remained tense but calm on Tuesday as the state cabinet met and decided to write to the Centre demanding repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. The Cabinet which met in an emergency sitting under the leadership of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Tuesday also called off the ongoing Hornbill Festival in protest against the killing, state ministers said.



Coffins of the people, who were killed by Armed Forces, buried during their funeral in Mon district  
PTI PHOTO

streets in protest against the firing was "tense but calm". Rio, while attending the funeral of the 14 civilians in Mon town on Monday, had joined a growing chorus of demands seeking the repeal of AFSPA that gives special powers to security forces in "disturbed areas". A report submitted to the state government on Sunday claimed the army made no attempt to ascertain the identity of the civilians returning from work on a pick-up truck before shooting them in Nagaland's Mon district on Saturday. Critics have maintained that the controversial law gives the armed forces to act with impunity, leading to human rights violations. The joint report by the state's Director General of Police (DGP) T John Longkumer and Commissioner Rovilatuo Mor quoted eyewitnesses, who said the Army's special forces tried to "hide" the bodies of six people by wrapping and loading them on a pick-up van with the intention of taking them to their base camp.

## Narcotics worth ₹500 cr seized along Myanmar border

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**Imphal/New Delhi, Dec 7:** Narcotics worth ₹500 crore were seized from Manipur's Moreh town near the India-Myanmar border in one of the biggest drug hauls in the Northeastern state's history, officials said on Tuesday. In a joint operation by the state police and 43 Assam Rifles, a warehouse was raided Monday afternoon, Tenugopal district's Superintendent of Police Vikramjit said. About 54 kg of brown sugar (an adulterated form of heroin) packed in 3,716 soap cases, and 152 packets of crystal methamphetamine weighing 154 kg were seized in the raid, officials said.



People use a rope to come out of a flooded area of Verma Nagar due to the overflowing Ariyar river following heavy rainfall in Trichy district  
PTI PHOTO

## Sena's big pat for Congress



PHOTO BY PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

their strategies to fight the BJP would be separate. "While we are in separate compartments, our destination will be the same. To remove the BJP," TMC MP Derek O'Brien said, days after Mamata Banerjee's statement in Mumbai questioning the very existence of the anti-BJP combine United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the Congress's leadership of the opposition group.

**New Delhi, Dec 7:** After his meeting with Rahul Gandhi, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut Tuesday said there can be no opposition front without the Congress, in a clear message to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over her "no UPA" taunt, even as another ally NCP asserted it will make every effort to form a broad-based alliance that will also include the Congress. As the NCP distanced itself from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo's jibes at the main opposition party, TMC sources said its national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee conveyed to all its MPs at its Parliamentary Party meeting that the party will not play second fiddle to anyone, including the Congress. During the meeting, the TMC also discussed that while it will be one with the opposition, including the Congress on all issues in Parliament, but outside

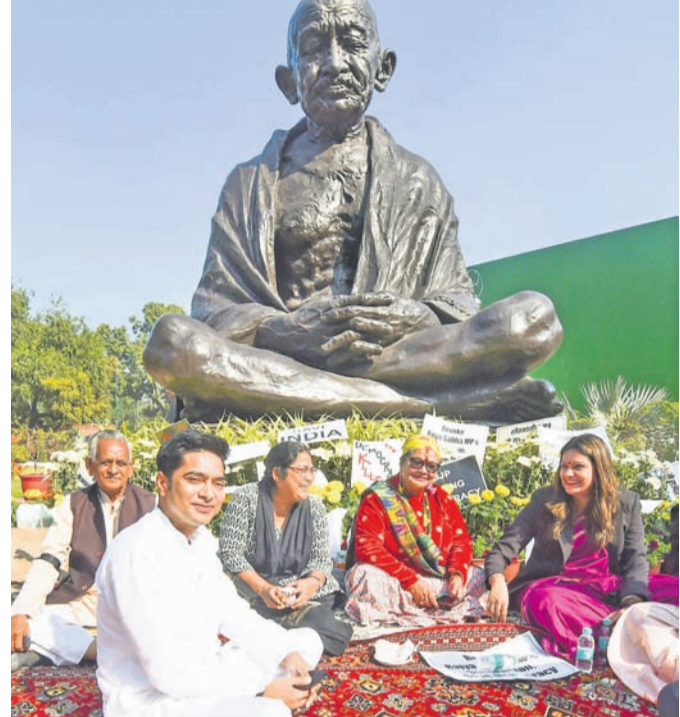
## India updates list of 'at risk' countries



PHOTO BY PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 7:** India Monday added Ghana and Tanzania to the list of "at risk" countries, passengers from where have to follow additional COVID-19 testing and quarantine measures. The Aviation Ministry said Tuesday that the list of "at risk" countries was updated on Monday. Countries in Europe, including the UK, and South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Ghana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tanzania and Israel have been placed in the "at-risk" category, the Aviation Ministry noted. Delhi had reported its first case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus on Sunday with a 37-year-old fully vaccinated man, who arrived in Delhi from Tanzania, testing positive.

## Oppn blames govt for RS deadlock



TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee joins suspended Rajya Sabha MPs who have been staging a dharna near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi demanding revocation of their suspension, during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi  
PTI PHOTO

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**New Delhi, Dec 7:** Holding the government responsible for the deadlock in Rajya Sabha, opposition members Tuesday said they will continue their joint protest against the suspension of 12 MPs till the time it is revoked. The Upper House did not transact any significant business for the second consecutive day as opposition parties kept up their protest, demanding the revocation of the action against the MPs. The government, however, insisted that the suspended MPs will have to first apologise for the unruly conduct in the House. Addressing reporters outside Parliament, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the suspension is against the rules and undemocratic. He said they will continue to protest in support of the suspended members and sit on a dharna with them. The Congress leader also urged Lok Sabha members to join the sit-in. "The government is fully responsible for the deadlock in Rajya Sabha. We have been meeting the chairman and the government and have stressed that they cannot suspend members like this. They have wrongly and undemocratically suspended 12 MPs for what has hap-

### SHORT TAKES

#### ₹17 lakh stolen

**Amaravati:** A gang of burglars looted ₹17 lakh from an ATM in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa town by using gas cutters, police said Tuesday. The incident occurred on the outskirts of the town on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. According to police, the burglary was committed at an ATM of State Bank of India (SBI) near the KSRM Engineering College.

#### Teacher arrested

**Rajnandgaon:** A teacher of a government school in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district allegedly raped a 16-year-old student on the pretext of taking her for an educational trip, police said Tuesday. Based on a complaint lodged by the parents of the Class 11 student, the police Tuesday arrested the science teacher of the high school in Dongargaon police station area, an official said.

#### Five held

**Mumbai:** Five persons have been arrested for allegedly trying to sell a 10-day-old baby for ₹2.5 lakh in Navi Mumbai, police said Tuesday. Based on a tip-off, the NRI police nabbed the accused, including three women, who had come to sell the infant near Nerul railway station on Sunday, an official said.

#### 2 dead, 25 hurt

**Shimla:** A pick-up vehicle fell into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district Tuesday, leaving two people dead and 25 others injured, a district official said. The accident took place at Bharari at Sarog Nala near Bharari, which comes under the jurisdiction of Chowari police station, Chamba Deputy Commissioner Rana said.

## HC quashes 'frivolous petition', fines petitioner ₹1.5L

In his petition, Thavamani said that Covid-19 and its variants were not deadly diseases and curable in due course if the state health department, doctors and health professionals were more vigilant and had provided proper medical care to the people

**Chennai, Dec 7:** The Madurai bench of the Madras High Court has come down heavily against frivolous petitions and fined a petitioner ₹1.5 lakh, who wanted the orders issued by the government pertaining to Covid-19 restrictions, as "unconstitutional, null and void". Sixty-three-year-old M. Thavamani had petitioned the court seeking to pay him a compensation of ₹5 lakh, saying that the lockdown had infringed upon his fundamental rights and af-

fects him financially. The court rejected the petition and said that it was not maintainable. The division bench of the Madras High Court comprising Justices S. Vaidyanathan and G. Jayachandran observed that the attitude of persons like Thavamani was detrimental to the selfless service rendered by doctors, health workers and other Corona Warriors who have lost their lives during the course of the pandemic. In his petition, Thavamani said that Covid-19 and its variants were not deadly diseases and curable in



due course if the state health department, doctors and health professionals were more vigilant and

had provided proper medical care to the people. The Madras High Court Judges said: "Unless 'busybody' like the petitioners were punished for their senseless activity and approached the court with frivolous petitions, this court fears that the sacrifices of selfless people will go in vain." The judges observed that the petitioner was mocking the sincere efforts taken by the state to curb the pandemic and was condemning the preventive measures taken by the Central and state governments to stop the spread of the infection.

The Madurai bench directed the petitioner to pay a fine of ₹1.5 lakh to the credit of the Covid-19 ward at the Government Rajaji hospital, Madurai, within 15 days of the judgment and if he fails to pay the fine within the stipulated time, the Madurai District Collector can evocate the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890, and collect money from the petitioner. The Court came down heavily on the petitioner and said that he had approached the court for the sake of publicity and was trying to waste the precious time of the court.

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**  
E-mail: eemisundargarh@yahoo.co.in  
No.2221/MID Dated 06.12.2021

**CORRIGENDUM**

No.A-703:- Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender floated vide this office tender call notice No. EE MID SNG 05/2021-22 is hereby cancelled.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Sundargarh  
OIPR-32124/11/0005/2122

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PANIKOILI (R&B) DIVISION, PANIKOILI**  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
Email ID: eepwd.pki@rediffmail.com  
**Corrigendum to e-Procurement**  
Notice No. 33/2021-22 Dt.02.12.21

Letter No. 6587 No. B-763: Tender for 1 (One) No. of work cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.  
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Panikoli (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34067/11/0022/2122

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
Office of the Engineer-In-Chief,  
**Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar**  
Email Address: cemech.eicwr.od@gmail.com  
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- CEM/ MDB-04/ 2021-22

1. Name of the Work	: Mechanical Gate Works
2. No. of Works	: 01 (One)
3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: CEM / MDB - 04 / 2021-22
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 27,65,999.00
6. Period of Completion	: Thirty days.
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt.09.12.2021 (10.00 AM) to dt. 23.12.2021(5.30 PM)
8. Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the Portal	: dt.23.12.2021 (up to 5.30 PM)
9. Date and Place of opening of Bid	: dt.24.12.2021 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/O the undersigned)
10. Name of the Officer inviting bid	: Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C. Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda / Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

Sd./- Chief Engineer, Mechanical  
O/o- Engineer-In-Chief, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR-32033/11/0003/2122







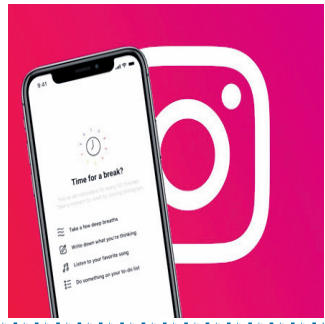
# international



**Bangladesh and India are neighbours. We should celebrate the fact that these two neighbours have enjoyed 50 years of good relations. This is a precious achievement**  
TOMMY KOH | AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, SINGAPORE

## TAKE A BREAK

Instagram Tuesday launched a feature that urges teenagers to take breaks from the photo-sharing platform and announced other tools aimed at protecting young users from harmful content on the Facebook-owned service



## of the day quote

The United States will pay a price for its wrongdoing. The boycott of the Games will only make people around the world see its sinister intentions even more clearly, and further erode its credibility and morality  
ZHAO LIJIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, CHINA

While the surge in infections is of great concern, we should remember that we anticipated it. Disease modellers in our country have told us that we would likely experience a fourth wave around this time and that it was almost inevitable that new variants of the virus would emerge  
CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

Both the US and India have federal structures where the states need to be the engines that drive growth. My recommendation to both the governments would be to prioritise such engagement between states with business leaders working alongside  
ARUN KUMAR | FORMER OBAMA ADMIN OFFICIAL

## SHORT TAKES

### Lynched Lankan's kin get ex gratia

**Colombo:** The Sri Lankan government Tuesday approved a compensation of Rs 2.5 million (nearly USD 12,500) to the kin of Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana, who was lynched by a mob in Pakistan's Punjab province over allegations of blasphemy. In a shocking incident on Friday last, supporters of the hardline Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked a garment factory in Sialkot in Pakistan and lynched its general manager Diyawadana, 49, before setting his body on fire over allegations of blasphemy.

### Explosion levels building; 3 missing

**Paris:** French rescue workers pulled a toddler and the child's mother from the rubble of a three-story apartment building that collapsed in a suspected gas explosion on southern France's Mediterranean coast. They were still searching Tuesday for three other people feared buried under the giant pile of debris. The child, thought to be 18 months old, was located by sniffer dogs and extracted by rescue workers who dug their way through the debris, fire department Capt. Aurelia Mannaioni said.

### Moscow: Gunman opens fire, kills 2

**Moscow:** A gunman opened fire in a Moscow city customer services facility, killing two people Tuesday and wounding three others, city authorities said. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said on Twitter that a suspect was detained. Sobyenin didn't offer any details about the assailant or his possible motive, saying only that the incident took place in the southeast of the city.

### 4 women stripped, thrashed over theft

**Lahore:** A group of people in Pakistan stripped four women, including a teenager, dragged and beat them up after accusing them of "shoplifting" in the country's Punjab province. The incident took place in Faisalabad, some 180 kms from here, Monday. The four women, including a teenager, were seen in a viral video pleading to the people surrounding them to let them have a piece of cloth to cover themselves after being stripped but they were beaten with sticks.

## End of an era: Germany's Merkel bows out after 16 years

*Named 'The World's Most Powerful Woman' by Forbes magazine for the past 10 years in a row, Merkel steps down with a legacy of breaking through the glass ceiling of male dominance in politics*

books as soon as she became Germany's first female chancellor Nov 22, 2005. Over the next 16 years, she was credited with raising Germany's profile and influence, working to hold a fractious European Union together, managing a string of crises and being a role model for women. Now that near-record tenure is ending with her leaving office at age 67 to praise from abroad and enduring popularity at home. Her designated successor, Olaf Scholz, is expected to take office Wednesday. Merkel, a former scientist who grew up in communist East



Germany, is bowing out about a week short of the record for longevity held by her one-time mentor, Helmut Kohl, who reunited Germany during his 1982-

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**Berlin, Dec 7:** Angela Merkel was assured of a place in the history

## Biden, Putin talk for 2 hours on Ukraine and other concerns



**Washington/Moscow, Dec 7:** US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin held two hours of virtual talks on Ukraine and other disputes Tuesday amid Western fears that Moscow is poised to invade its southern neighbour. Russian TV footage showed Biden and Putin greeting each other in a friendly manner at the start of what was expected to be a tense exchange. Biden told Putin he hoped their next meeting would be in person. The White House issued a statement saying the talks had started, but did not display any visuals from the secure 'Situation Room' where Biden was located. The two leaders talked for two hours and one minute, according to the White House. The Kremlin has said it hopes the two leaders can hold an in-person summit to discuss what it has described as the lamentable state of US-Russia relations, which have sunk to their lowest since the end of the Cold War. US officials said before the video conference that Biden would tell Putin that Russia and its banks could be hit with the toughest economic sanctions yet if it attacks Ukraine. They said the sanctions, which one source said could target Russia's biggest banks and Moscow's ability to convert roubles into dollars and other currencies, were designed to dissuade Putin from using tens of thousands of troops massed near the Ukrainian border to attack its southern neighbour. The Kremlin, which said before Tuesday's meeting it did not expect any breakthroughs, has de-

**The White House issued a statement saying the talks had started, but did not display any visuals from the secure 'Situation Room' where Biden was located**

nied harbouring any intention to attack Ukraine and has said its troop posture is defensive. But Moscow has voiced rising vexation over Western military aid to Ukraine, a fellow former Soviet republic that has tilted towards the West since a popular revolt toppled a pro-Russian president in 2014, and what it calls creeping NATO expansion. Moscow has likewise questioned Ukrainian intentions and said it wants guarantees that Kyiv will not use force to try to retake territory lost in 2014 to Russia-backed separatists, a scenario Ukraine has ruled out. "We're looking for good, predictable relations with the United States. Russia has never intended to attack anyone, but we have our concerns and we have our red lines," said Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov. Leaders from Britain, the United States, France, Germany and Italy will hold a call at 1800 GMT following the Biden-Putin talks, the White House and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said. The same allies spoke Monday and "agreed to stay in close touch on a coordinated and comprehensive approach in response to Russia's military build-up on Ukraine's borders," the White House said.

## Rohingya refugees sue FB for \$150bn

**London, Dec 7:** Rohingya refugees sued Facebook parent Meta Platforms for more than USD 150 billion over what they say was the company's failure to stop hateful posts that incited violence against the Muslim ethnic group by Myanmar's military rulers and their supporters. Lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit Monday in California saying Facebook's arrival in Myanmar helped spread hate speech, misinformation and incitement to violence that "amounted to a substantial cause, and eventual perpetuation of, the Rohingya genocide." Lawyers in the United Kingdom have issued notice of their intention to file a similar legal action. Facebook, which was recently renamed Meta, did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

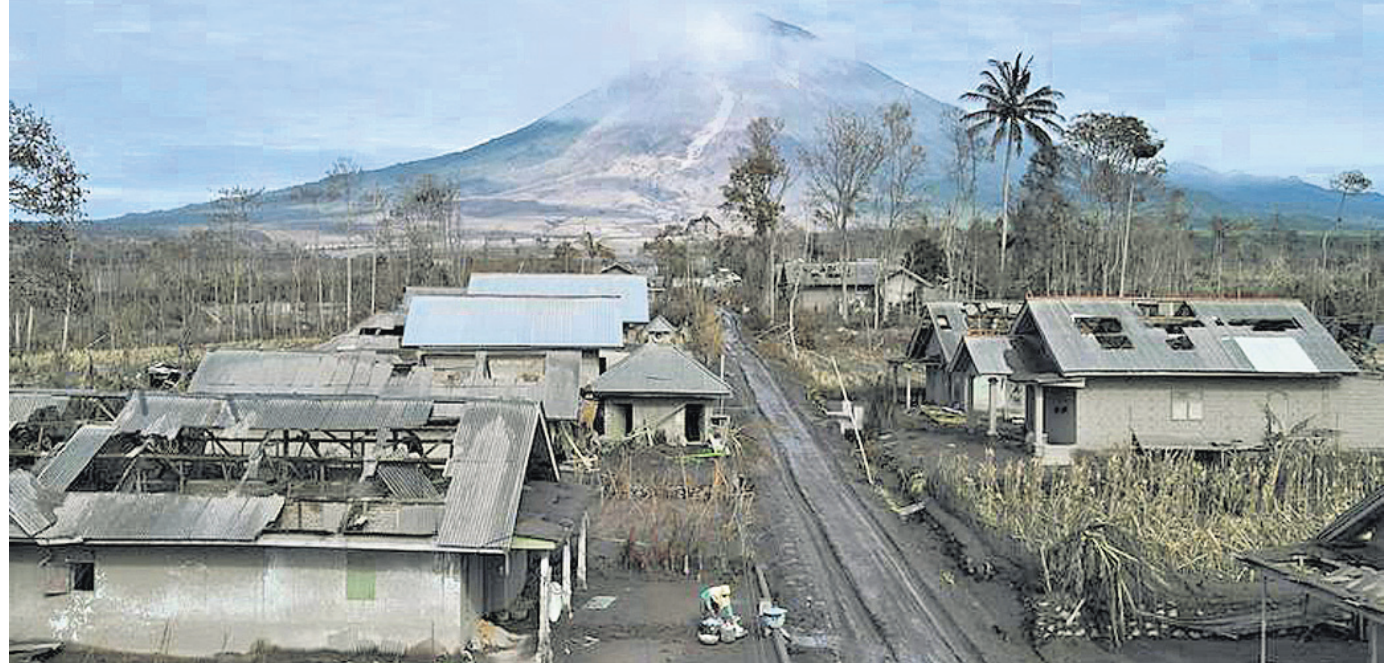
## MYANMAR VIOLENCE



It's the latest in a series of accusations that the social media giant fueled misinformation and political violence, outlined in redacted internal documents obtained by a consortium of news organisations, including The Associated Press. The combined legal claims from Rohingya refugees are being filed on behalf of anyone worldwide who survived the violence or had a relative who died from it. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group forced to flee persecution and violence in Myanmar starting in 2017, with an estimated 1

million living in refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh. Some 10,000 have ended up in the United States. In 2018, United Nations human rights experts investigating attacks against the Rohingya said Facebook had played a role in spreading hate speech. More than 10,000 Rohingya have been killed and more than 150,000 were subject to physical violence, according to the law firms organizing the cases. The lawsuits say Facebook's algorithms amplified hate speech against the Rohingya people and that it didn't spend enough money to hire moderators and fact checkers who spoke the local languages or understood the political situation. They also say Facebook failed to shut accounts and pages or take down posts inciting violence or using hate speech directed at the ethnic group.

## AMONG THE ASHES



A local collects usable goods from her damaged house, at an area affected by the eruption of Mount Semeru volcano, in Curah Kobokan, Pronojiwo district, Lumajang, Indonesia

## Workweek in UAE to be Monday through Friday

**Dubai, Dec 7:** The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday its official workweek will move to Monday to Friday, a major change that brings the Islamic nation that is home to major financial institutions in line with Western schedules. The decision, which is to take effect next month, makes the Gulf Arab state, home to Abu Dhabi and

**Government employees would work a half-day on Friday and then take Saturday and Sunday off**

work a half-day on Friday, the traditional Muslim holy day, and then take Saturday and Sunday off, the announcement said. The government shift likely will see private industry and schools follow suit, as they did in 2006, when the week changed from Saturday to Wednesday — an Islamic workweek followed in some Muslim countries, such as Iran and Afghanistan.

The Emirati government hailed the decision as making it "the first nation in the world to introduce a national working week shorter than the global five-day week" — a reference to Friday becoming only a half-day workday. "The extended weekend comes as part of the UAE's government efforts to boost work-life balance and enhance social wellbeing," the statement added.

## Explainer: What's behind Russia-Ukraine tensions?

**Moscow, Dec 7:** Ukrainian and Western officials are worried that a Russian military buildup near Ukraine could signal plans by Moscow to invade its ex-Soviet neighbour. The Kremlin insists it has no such intention and has accused Ukraine and its Western backers of making the claims to cover up their own allegedly aggressive designs. It's unclear whether the Russian troop concentration heralds an imminent attack. Russian President Vladimir Putin has pushed for Western guarantees precluding NATO's expansion to Ukraine, and the buildup could reflect an attempt to back up the message. Here is a look at the current tensions:

**Roots of Russia-Ukraine standoff**  
Ukraine, which was part of the Russian empire for centuries before becoming a Soviet republic, won independence as the USSR broke up in 1991. The country has moved to shed its Russian imperial legacy and forge increasingly close ties with the West. A decision by Kremlin-leaning Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to reject an association agreement with the European Union in favour of closer ties with Moscow sparked mass protests that led to his ouster in 2014. Russia responded by annexing Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and throwing its weight behind a separatist insurgency that broke out in Ukraine's east. Ukraine and the West accused Russia of sending its troops and weapons to back the rebels. Moscow denied that, charging that Russians



who joined the separatists were volunteers. More than 14,000 people have died in the fighting that devastated Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland known as Donbas. A 2015 peace agreement brokered by France and Germany helped end large-scale battles, but efforts to reach a political settlement have failed, and sporadic skirmishes have continued along the tense line of contact.

**Latest Russian military buildup**  
The US intelligence officials last week determined that Russia is planning to deploy an estimated 175,000 troops and almost half of them are already stationed along various points near Ukraine's border in preparation for a possible invasion that could begin as soon as early 2022. Ukraine has complained that Moscow has kept over 90,000 troops not far from the two coun-

tries' border following massive war games in western Russia in the fall. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry said units of the Russian 41st army have remained near Yelnya, a town about 260 kilometers north of the Ukrainian border. Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told lawmakers Friday that the number of Russian troops near Ukraine and in Russian-annexed Crimea is estimated at 94,300, warning that a "large-scale escalation" is possible in January. Russia hasn't provided any details about its troop numbers and locations, saying that their deployment on its own territory shouldn't concern anyone. **What Moscow wants**  
The Kremlin has accused Ukraine of failing to honour the 2015 peace deal and criticized the West for fail-

ing to encourage Ukrainian compliance. The agreement was a diplomatic coup for Moscow, requiring Ukraine to grant broad autonomy to the rebel regions and offer a sweeping amnesty to the rebels. Ukraine, in turn, has pointed to cease-fire violations by Russia-backed separatists and insists there is a continuing Russian troop presence in the rebel east despite the Kremlin's denials. Amid the re-primations, Russia has rejected a four-way meeting with Ukraine, France and Germany, saying it's useless in view of Ukraine's refusal to abide by the 2015 agreement. Moscow has strongly criticized the US and its NATO allies for providing Ukraine with weapons and holding joint drills, saying that encourages Ukrainian hawks to try to regain the rebel-held areas by force.



