



DEALING WITH TROLLS

Upcoming actress Khushi Kapoor says that she has developed a resilient approach towards social media

LEISURE P2



CLEAN ENERGY PLEDGE

117 governments pledge to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030 at the UN's COP28 climate summit

INTERNATIONAL P10



FIRST OF ITS KIND

R Vaishali joins younger sibling R Praggnanandhaa to become the world's first-ever brother-sister Grandmasters duo

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Parl Winter Session begins tomorrow

New Delhi: At least 21 bills, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill 2023 which aim to replace Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Evidence Act, are likely to be taken up during the Winter Session of the Parliament that will commence Monday and continue till December 22. The Union government Saturday convened an all-party at Parliament Library Building here to discuss the agenda for the session. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi informed that the session will have 15 sittings and several key legislations will be taken up. **P3**

War: Toll in Gaza crosses 15,200

Khan Younis: The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza Saturday said the death toll due to Israeli strikes has surpassed 15,200 and that 70 per cent of those killed were women and children. The figure was announced by ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra, who did provide further details. The previous toll given by the ministry was more than 13,300. Al-Qidra did not explain the sharp jump. **P10**

2 melanistic tigers caught on camera



Bhubaneswar: Two pseudo melanistic tigers were sighted in Odisha Saturday. The wild animals were captured in camera trap during the ongoing tiger census in the state. Taking to X, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, Susanta Nanda said, "What a beautiful pair... Pseudo melanistic Tigers captured in camera trap from our forests."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Stay alert... We may have to raid the pollsters too

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.0°C	30.0°C
TEMP MIN	19.1°C	20.0°C
Humidity	74%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	



EUPHORIA: Agniveer Vayu trainees during their Passing Out Parade at Airmen Training School in Belagavi district of Karnataka, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Boipariguda IIC shown the door

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Odisha Police Saturday dismissed Boipariguda police station inspector-in-charge (IIC) Sushanta Satpathy after his arrest by the Vigilance following the seizure of ₹37.27 lakh in cash from his possession.

The cash was seized from premises belonging to Satpathy during raids conducted by the Vigilance department recently.

"In consonance with zero tolerance policy of the state government towards corruption, the DGP has dismissed Sushanta Satpathy, Inspector of Police, from the service under Article 311(2)(b) of Indian Constitution following his arrest in a corruption case," the Odisha Police said in an X post.

Satpathy was arrested by Vigilance November 28, a day after he was found travelling with ₹2.70 lakh cash in a private bus from Jeypore to Cuttack. Subsequent searches at his office and official quarters in Boipariguda led to the seizure of ₹1.80 lakh and ₹3 lakh respectively. The remaining amount was seized from his Cuttack residence. Earlier, Satpathy was placed under suspension by Rayagada SP for misconduct and dereliction of duty.

ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN CUTTACK

HC slams ex-Collector

ORISSA HIGH COURT ORDERS CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FORMER CUTTACK DM CHAYANI FOR FALSE AFFIDAVIT ON KATHAJODI SAND MINING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 2: Former Cuttack Collector and current Higher Education Director Bhabani Shankar Chayani finds himself in a soup after the Orissa High Court Saturday ordered criminal proceedings against him for conniving with sand miners in allowing illegal excavation of sand from Kathajodi riverbed in Cuttack.

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by social activist Prasant Kumar Das, a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice BR Sarangi and Justice MS Raman said the July 19, 2023 affidavit filed the former Collector was based on "false information and flimsy statements".

"Therefore, it is construed that the said affidavit is a false one and criminal proceedings should be initiated against such persons, which would be a lesson for others," the bench observed.

However, considering a plea made by the Additional Government Advocate (AGA) that the latter sought 'one opportunity' to file a fresh affidavit, the court said it is inclined not to pursue the proceedings if the concerned authorities rectify their mistakes within



15 days.

"This court is concerned about the public health and safety of the people and environment, which is the part of Article-21 of the Constitution of India," observed the bench.

Meanwhile, terming the court's direction as "a victory for the people of Cuttack", counsel for the petitioner SK Dalei said the official-sand mafia nexus should be uprooted in order to prevent imminent environmental catastrophe.

The PIL was filed in the High Court alleging illegal sand mining and transportation from Kathajodi riverbed. The petitioner alleged that the administration had turned a blind eye to the interests of the people of Cuttack. The petitioner had earlier informed the court that the state government has lost revenue to the tune of ₹245 crore due

to illegal sand mining in Cuttack district.

Hearing the petition, the High Court had sought an affidavit from the district administration. Replying to the court, the administration, headed by Chayani had said that nothing of that sort was happening and fine was collected whatever illegal mining had happened.

However, the HC was irked by the administration's false affidavit and said the irresponsible behaviour of the then Cuttack district Collector was not acceptable.

"Since such a false affidavit has been filed by such a responsible officer without visualizing the ground reality, this court takes a very serious view of the matter," the court said.

"It is observed that the quarrying operation is being done in a mechanised way day in and day out violating the clause-C, sub clause-IV of the guidelines issued by the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management April 26, 2019, which deals with quarrying/mining operation," the court said.

Notably, Chayani was transferred and posted as the Director, Higher Education October 26, 2023. Narahari Sathy, replaced him as Cuttack Collector.

HEAVY RAIN TO POUND 5 DISTRICTS

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: The depression over Bay of Bengal Saturday intensified into a deep depression and is likely to become a cyclone before crossing Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam Monday, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The system will trigger heavy rainfall in at least five districts of Odisha Monday and Tuesday, the weatherman said.

If the system intensifies into a cyclone, it will be called 'Michaung', a name suggested by Myanmar. Keeping in view the possible impact on Odisha, the IMD has issued Orange warning (be prepared) to five districts December 5 when they are likely to experience heavy rain. The districts are: Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam.

Similarly, yellow warning (be updated) has been issued to Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts for Monday. Senior weather scientist Umashankar Dash at Meteorological Centre Bhubaneswar said: "Under the effect of the cyclone, some places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam and one or two places in Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and coastal districts are likely to experience light to moderate rainfall December 3."

Meanwhile, the state SRC has put seven coastal districts -- Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda and Ganjam -- on alert.

Results in 4 states today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: In what is seen as a semi-final contest ahead of the general elections in less than six months, counting of votes for the Assembly elections held in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana will be held Sunday.

The Congress, which is in power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and the BJP, which is ruling Madhya Pradesh, are locked in a straight fight in these three states, while K Chandrashekar Rao-led Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is hoping for a hat-trick in Telangana.

Pollsters have been divided on the outcome, with quite a few exit polls putting the BJP ahead in Madhya Pradesh and giving it an edge in Rajasthan while predicting that Congress has an advantage in Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

Starting with postal ballots, counting will commence at 8am amid tight security for 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 90 seats in Chhattisgarh, 119 seats in Telangana and 199 seats in Rajasthan as polling on one seat in the desert state was put off due to the death of a candidate.

A three-tier security arrangement has been put in place, election officials said.

After wresting Karnataka from the BJP in May, the Congress is eyeing Madhya Pradesh and Telangana and is hoping to retain power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Counting will commence at 8am amid tight security for 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 90 seats in Chhattisgarh, 119 seats in Telangana and 199 seats in Rajasthan

An impressive performance in these polls will boost the party's standing in the opposition INDIA alliance which has been formed to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP is seeking to replicate the winning streak of Gujarat, where it has been ruling since 1998, in Madhya Pradesh with four-time Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hoping to form government again. The party is also keen to win back Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh as it seeks to regain its hold in the Hindi heartland states ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

"The face of the Congress has been exposed. Only the results are to come tomorrow. The good governance that the public wanted will be found under the BJP government," Union Minister Anurag Thakur said in Jaipur, adding that the people want the "double-engine" government of the BJP.

With several pollsters predicting a close fight, there were reports claiming that parties have decided to herd their winning candidates swiftly to prevent any poaching.

3 minors meet watery grave

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela/Baripada, Dec 2: Three minors drowned in two separate incidents in Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj districts, Saturday.

In the first incident, a 14-year old boy met watery grave and his friend went missing while bathing in Koel river near Pradhanpalli railway bridge under Chhend police limits in Rourkela. The deceased was identified Priyanshu Bhol, 14, a student of DAV Public School at Basanati Colony in Steel City. Another student, Priyaranjan Padhi, 14, went missing after being swept away in the swirling waters of the river.

Chhend police registered a UD case and sent the body to RGH for post-mortem. All efforts to trace him failed to yield any results when reports last came in, Saturday.

In another incident, two siblings drowned while taking bath in the village pond at Majhisahi, Jyotipur village under Sadar police limits in Baripada of Mayurbhanj district, Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Mala Majhi, 6, and Kartik, 2, -daughter and son of Laba Majhi of the village. On being informed, fire personnel recovered the bodies. Sadar police registered a case and conducted a post-mortem of the bodies at PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada.

Can a woman rape: Top court to examine

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 2: Women are usually the victims of rape but can a woman be booked in a rape case? The Supreme Court has agreed to examine this question after a woman petitioned it for anticipatory bail in a rape case also involving her son.

The apex court has asked the Punjab government to respond to the plea filed by a 61-year-old woman who has been implicated in the case filed by her daughter-in-law.

While agreeing to examine the issue, a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Sanjay Karol granted the woman protection



from arrest and directed her to cooperate with the investigation. "Issue notice, returnable in four weeks. In the meantime, the petitioner is protected from arrest. But she is expected to cooperate with the investigation of the crime," the bench

said. At the outset, advocate Rishi Malhotra, who appeared for the woman, argued that all other penal sections in the FIR are bailable barring the charge under Section 376(2)(n) IPC (repeated rape). Conviction under the sec-

tion entails imprisonment of not less than 10 years and may extend to sentence for life.

Referring to an apex court judgement, Malhotra submitted a woman cannot be charged with rape.

According to the case, the complainant was initially in a long-distance relationship with the US-based elder son of the woman, a widow, but they had never met in person. The FIR states that the complainant started living with the widow after entering into wedlock with her son at a virtual marriage ceremony.

Later, the younger son of the widow visited them from Portugal. The widow has claimed

that after the arrival of her younger son the complainant and her family pressured her to end the informal marriage with her elder son. When the younger son was about to leave for Portugal, the complainant insisted that he take her along but he left alone.

As tension mounted between the two families, a compromise was arrived at and the widow gave the complainant ₹11 lakh for ending the marriage with her elder son.

The complainant then approached the local police and lodged an FIR against the widow and her younger son, accusing them of rape and other charges.

leisure



WOMEN GET SEXIER AS THEY AGE: JLO

American singer Jennifer Lopez thinks women 'get sexier as they get older' which is why she she's eager to continue working for many years to come. "I've realised that women just get sexier as they get older. They get more learned and more rich with character," said Lopez.

HELEN FLANAGAN HINTS AT NEW RELATIONSHIP

Actress Helen Flanagan has found a love match in her life again, revealed a source close to her. While the mom of three and Scott called time on their 13-year-long relationship in October last year, she may have found love now that more than a year has passed, it added.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are in a position to affect other peoples' lives. Since you are very compassionate and caring, people will look up to you whether as a peer or a superior. Make good use of this excess energy to solve prickly issues. Ganesh encourages large-scale projects.

TAURUS

Be prepared for taking instant decisions and acting promptly on them. Today you are likely to meet several such situations Ganesh is pleased to see that you have the acumen and experience to deal with such contingencies. You will have no trouble finding the right solutions and seeing things through.

GEMINI

You will be faced with a slew of demands from various people today, and you will find it difficult to meet all of them. However, you will be able to meet the requirements that need to be met to salvage the day. People will praise your intelligence and creativity, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Minor ailments like cough and cold may bother you, warns Ganesh. So avoid cold or sweet items. People admire your helpful nature. Take special care of your health, says Ganesh.

LEO

You need to curb down on your expenses. You need to moderate the risks you take on in the share market. It is a good day for financial gains though. You need to understand the value of compromise, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse shall run through you today. Yet, by the mid-day, expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you. Government officials and other professionals will have an inspiring assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through, and you may be in for some serious praise from the superiors. Smile and accept the positive feedback graciously.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that there are chances that today you might start some long-pending renovation project for your house. You may decorate your home with new paintings and items. There may be guests over in the evening that will make you very happy. You may also go out for dinner with your family and friends or, more probably, with your sweetheart.

SCORPIO

You are all set to paint the town red as you feel romance and love creeping into your life slowly. You may bump into 'someone special' today and see love blossoming for you. There are also chances of marriage proposals and meeting prospective candidates, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

You are in a mood to spend money of home décor, paintings or artefacts. Go ahead, and decorate your home. Ganesh foresees success on your cards today. Workplace has never been such an interesting place before. Planning and implementation will make your day easier.

CAPRICORN

You'll have apparently no time for anything else, as partnerships and projects will keep you on your toes. Your communication skills and diplomacy will fetch you accolades in meetings, and also enable you to judge a person or a situation correctly, and form the right opinion. The efforts you have in the past may come to fruition today, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

Today is the day to turn dreams into reality and how! With your talent, wit, and intelligence you will make a great impression on everyone's mind, feels Ganesh. Icing on the cake will be the cash inflow. You know your cards and you play them well to your advantage.

PISCES

You will communicate with your friends or relatives living abroad today. There is a chance that these communications could translate directly into substantial gain for you. You will find yourself in the mood for socializing. You will likely invite friends over to dinner at your place in the evening, says Ganesh.

FATIMA SLAMS ELITE, PRIVILEGED PEOPLE

Mumbai: Top stars are often seen sharing shocking yet rude instances they've encountered at different places in and outside the industry. Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, who is currently garnering accolades for her latest film, *Sam Bahadur*, in a recent interview opened up about meeting an 'elite drunk girl' who was rude to her.

Recalling the incident, she said, "I realised people have no boundaries. These people are very rude. And these people are not normal. These people are elite, privileged, and entitled and are very rude. They think they can say anything and get away with it. After that, she told me that she works for human rights, and I thought you should feel ashamed."

The Ludo actress felt so bad that she couldn't hold herself back and broke down when she returned home.

After stepping into the industry with Chachi 420 in 1997 as a child artist, Fatima rose to fame by acting as Geeta Phogat in Aamir Khan-led *Dangal*. She was later seen in *Thugs of Hindostan*, *Ludo*, *Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari*, *Ajeb Daastaans* and *Thar*.

AGENCIES

Khushi on navigating pitfalls of social media

Mumbai: Making her foray into the Hindi film industry, Khushi Kapoor, the younger daughter of Boney Kapoor and Sridevi Kapoor, is set to debut in Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*.

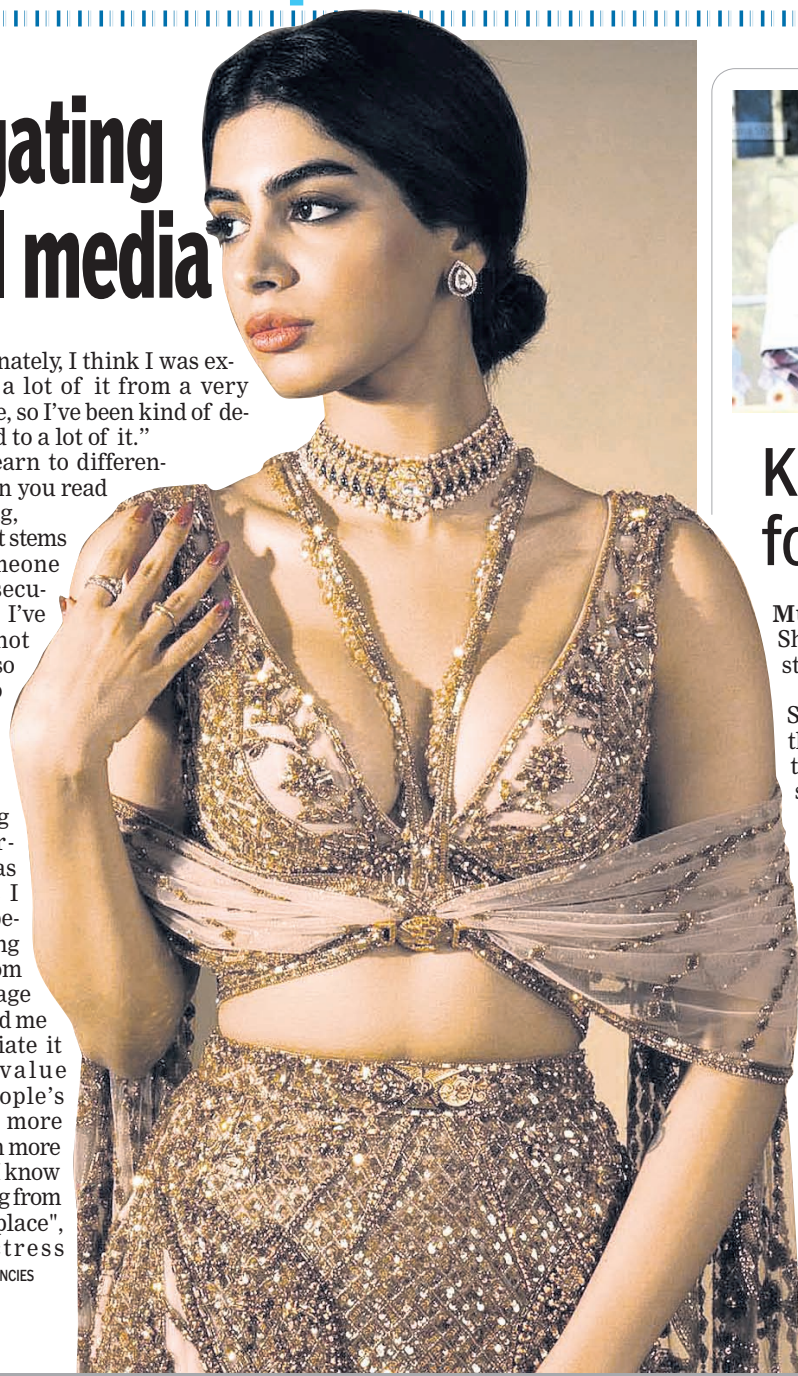
Ahead of the film's release, the budding actress has garnered a significant fan base through her active engagement on social media. While many admirers offer encouragement, a portion of the audience doesn't hesitate to engage in trolling and leave negative comments.

During a recent interview, she opened up about navigating the pitfalls of social media.

Khushi shared that she has developed a resilient approach towards social media, no longer letting everything she reads affect her, a departure from her previous mindset. Khushi remarked,

"Unfortunately, I think I was exposed to a lot of it from a very young age, so I've been kind of desensitized to a lot of it."

"You learn to differentiate when you read something, whether it stems from someone else's insecurity. Now, I've learned not to take it so much to heart. I don't really go through everything and over-think it as much as I used to before. Seeing it a lot from a young age has helped me differentiate it now. I value other people's opinions more who mean more to me, as I know it's coming from a better place", the actress added. AGENCIES



Kapil, Sunil reunite for OTT special

Mumbai: India's top-rated comedians Kapil Sharma and Sunil Grover are reuniting for a streaming comedy special.

The makers of the show dropped a video Saturday in which the two can be seen with their arms around each other's neck as they tell the viewers that they are joining forces for a web special.

The other members of the OG gang like Archana Puran Singh, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda and Rajiv Thakur, also make an appearance in the video.

In the video, Kapil says, "Hi friends, this is Kapil Sharma and I am soon coming with a show." Sunil Grover adds the same and Kapil says, "Let's go together."

Sunil Grover, who became a household name after playing his popular fictional characters Gutthi and Dr Mashoor Gulati on *The Kapil Sharma Show*, shocked everyone when he quit in 2018 after his major fallout with Kapil Sharma.

Meanwhile, Kapil is set to bring his entire gang of standup comedy and talk show on Netflix with fresh, new and exciting comedy extravaganza for his fans around the world. IANS



SRK DELVES INTO ESSENCE OF SUCCESS

'Appreciate every breath you take'

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan, during his interactive #AskSRK session on Twitter, delved into the essence of success when quizzed about his perspective on the matter. Responding to a fan's query about the definition of success, the Bollywood superstar articulated his profound insight into the concept. SRK expressed that success, in his view, revolves around the ability to relish life's uncomplicated and modest pleasures.

According to SRK, genuine success is derived from savouring the smallest and simplest joys that life offers and acknowledging the significance of every breath taken. He emphasized

that celebrating life in its entirety, with an appreciation for its nuances, is the true essence of achieving success.

A Twitter user's question read, "Sir according to you, what is success? @iamsrk #AskSRK" and the 'Dunki' actor replied, "Success is to be able to enjoy the smallest simplest things in life...and appreciate every breath you take. Celebrating life is success."

On the work front, the audiences are eagerly awaiting the release of Rajkumar Hirani and SRK's upcoming comedy drama film *Dunki* which is releasing worldwide on December 22. IANS

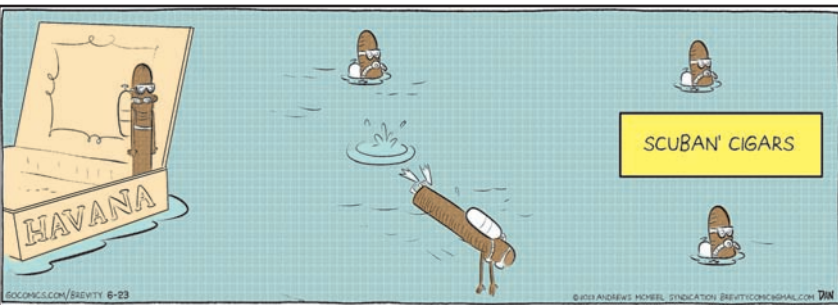
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

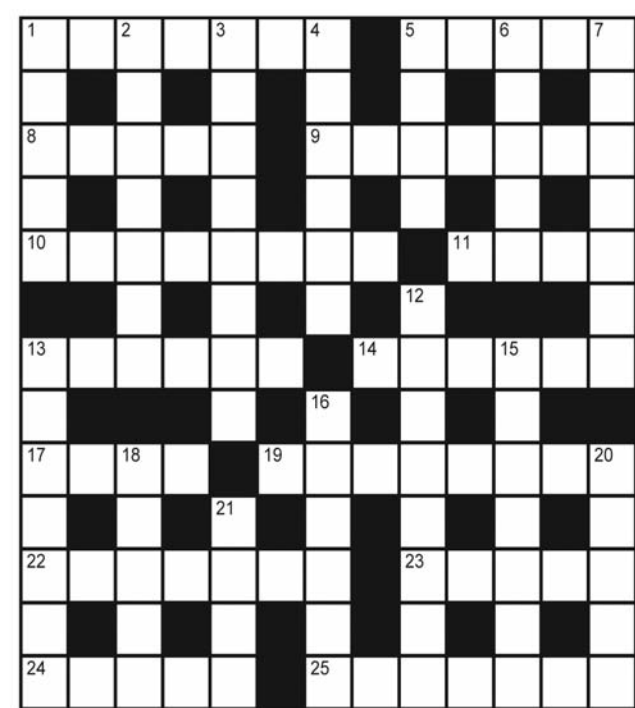


BREVITY



FUN post

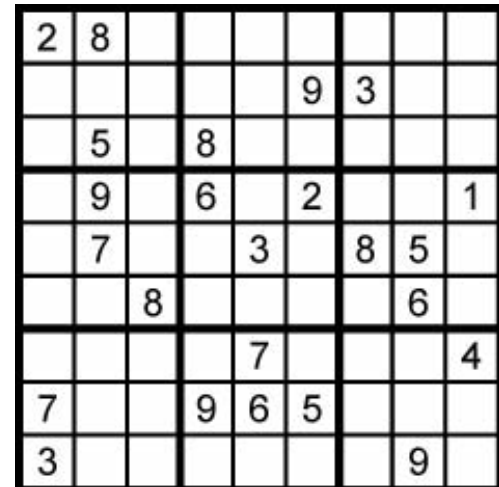
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Egyptian paper reed
 - 5 Come to pass
 - 8 Blatant
 - 9 Suppress
 - 10 Antelope types
 - 11 European erupter
 - 13 Overnight case
 - 14 Shade provider
 - 17 Unfeeling
 - 19 Age of Reptiles
 - 22 Risk taker
 - 23 Small egg
 - 24 Synthetic fabric
 - 25 Persecute
- Down
- 1 Antler point
 - 2 Salty snack
 - 3 Cruel
 - 4 Black eye
 - 5 Narcissus
 - 6 spurned her
 - 7 Firth
 - 12 Lover
 - 13 Salad oil's pal
 - 15 Muddy
 - 16 Castle part
 - 18 Pharaoh, maybe
 - 20 High point
 - 21 Scheme

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

downtown

TALENT RECOGNITION

Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera presents cash reward of ₹9.40 lakh to athlete Srabani Nanda for her remarkable performance in the 37th National Games-2023, at Kalinga Stadium, Saturday



WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT CEC appointment bill among 21 likely to be taken up



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, is among the 21 key legislations likely to be taken up during the Winter session of the Parliament which begins Monday.

The other legislations are - the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023 (as passed by Lok Sabha), the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (as passed by Rajya Sabha), The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023 (as passed by Rajya Sabha), The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes

Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Post Office Bill, 2023, the Boilers Bill, 2023, the Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023, the Central Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The government is likely to bring two financial bills - Presentation, Discussion and Voting on First Batch of Supplementary Demands for

Grants for the year 2023-24 and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill, and Presentation, Discussion and Voting on Demands for Excess Grants for the year 2020-21 and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi also said that the government is ready to hold discussion on every issue under the rules and procedures of the Parliament and sought opposition's cooperation for smooth functioning of the winter session. He said that 30 leaders from 23 parties attended the meeting.

Impending expulsion of Mahua Moitra

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha will also adopt the Ethics Panel's report recommending the expulsion of Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra from the lower house over a "cash-for-query" complaint.



CRAFT AND COMMERCE: Visitors through a handmade wooden item stall at Baliyatra in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

3 YR RI TO EX-FINANCIAL CONSULTANT IN GRAFT CASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: A special Vigilance court here Saturday convicted a retired financial consultant to rigorous imprisonment for three years for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a person to get his bills cleared.

The court also issued a non-bailable warrant against the co-accused in the case, who happened to be his senior at the time

of the commission of the offence, for his absence during the awarding of sentence in the case.

The special judge also found Jayanarayan Trailokya Nath, a former financial consultant in the District Project Coordinator office of Sarva Sikhya Abhiyaan unit at Rayagada under section 7 and 13(2) of prevention of corruption Act, 1988 and sentenced him to two years rigorous imprisonment, in addition to a cash fine of Rs 5,000. In case of default

of payment, Jayanarayan will face another jail-term of 3 months. Both the sentences will run concurrently.

Vigilance sources said that Jayanarayan and Laxmi Narayan Satpathy were working as Financial Consultant and Project coordinator, respectively at the said government office in Rayagada, Jayanarayan, acting on the direction of Satpathy, had demanded the bribe amount from the complainant for is-

suance of cheques against pending work bills. Jayanarayan was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe and both Jayanarayan and Satpathy were subsequently booked under Section 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, along with 120 (B) of IPC.

However, when the court awarded the sentence, Satpathy was absent, hastening the court to issue a non-bailable warrant against him.

BMC TO BUILD 27 PUBLIC TOILETS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: In a move aimed achieving the target of zero defecation in public places, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday announced to build 27 new public and community toilets within the city limits.

The tender process has been completed for the proposed toilets, while several others will open for public use soon, BMC said.

BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said the initiative will come into effect in three-zones of the city including Southwest, Southeast and North, ensuring the promise of providing basic hygiene to urban dwellers. He said it should be a collective responsibility of the government and the public to take proper care of public toilets.

Addressing the concern of open defecation in slums, BMC Additional Commissioner, Suwendu Sahoo said Swachh Saathis are creating awareness amongst slum dwellers for using public toilets and clean them at regular intervals for personal hygiene. This apart, 800 defunct public toilets have been identified in the City which will be revamped very soon by BMC, he added.

Experts blame 'normalisation of violence' for spike in teen crimes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Across the country, there has been an increase in juvenile crimes with more teens being involved in violent activities. Odisha too has seen a rise in such violent activities by teenagers in the recent past.

In the latest instance, a juvenile brutally murdered his teacher's minor son, a class IX student in Benapanjuri village under Jatni police limits in Bhubaneswar November 1.

During the probe, the police found that the victim's father used to give tuition to the accused juvenile who was staying at the house of his uncle, a neighbour of the victim's family, two years back.

The accused hadn't paid pending tuition fees of around Rs 3,000. The victim's father reportedly asked him several times to make the payment which angered him.

The accused stabbed the victim multiple times with a knife before fleeing the crime scene. He also confessed to police that the tuition teacher used to boast about his son who was very good at studies so he targeted the minor to teach the victim's father a lesson.

This is not an isolated incident as a school student was bludgeoned to death by his friends in Sundargarh this September following a fight over a Bluetooth earphone.

"The normalization of violence in society, exposure to violence online and other media, rampant drug addiction and lack of sensitization at educational institutions and fam-



ilies, and online videos are responsible for the significant rise in criminal activities by teens," said ex-DGP Sanjeev Marik.

Medical experts attributed the violent crimes by teens to a variety of factors like hormonal changes during adolescence, family problems, the lack of emotional support and discipline, exposure to domestic violence, and social pressures including bullying, peer conflicts, low self-esteem, poor tolerance to frustration and struggle for identity.

"The development of the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for decision-making and impulse control, is not yet complete in teenagers. This biological immaturity can lead to poor judgment and heightened emotional responses," said psychiatrist Amrit Pattojoshi.

Pattojoshi also noted that gadgets like TVs and online video games affect the behavior of teens, particularly when the content is violent or aggressive.

"Prolonged exposure to violent media can lead to desensitization, where teens become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others," he added.

Family support and guidance are vital for development of teenagers as the experts believe that criminality or violent behaviour peaks during the years of adolescence. And the lack of emotional support from family, inconsistent discipline and exposure to domestic violence is pushing many teens towards violence.

A police official privy to the investigation into the ghastly murder case in Jatni said that the accused juvenile showed no remorse for killing the minor son of his teacher. He drank flavoured milk from a shop after killing the minor. He was behaving normally and was asking the police whether he could join the army after being released from jail.

"A lack of remorse after committing a crime can be a sign of deeper psychological issues, such as conduct disorder or a lack of empathy. This can be due to a combination of genetic, environmental, and psychological factors, including exposure to violence, family dynamics, and mental health issues," Pattojoshi said on the lack of remorse in this case.

Experts suggest that remedies including healthy family relationships, incorporation of social and emotional learning in schools and communities can be used to rein in this rising trend in juvenile violence.

Singing to babies helps with language learning

A new study, co-authored by an Indian-origin Cambridge University neuroscientist, claims that singing rhymes and alphabets to babies helps them with language learning.

Professor Usha Goswami is among researchers from the University of Cambridge and Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, who jointly investigated babies' ability to process phonetic information during their first year for their findings published Friday in the 'Nature Communications' journal.

They concluded that parents should speak to their babies using sing-song speech, like nursery rhymes, as soon as possible because babies learn languages from rhythmic information, not phonetic information, in their first months.

"Our research shows that the individual sounds of speech are not processed reliably until around seven months, even though most infants can recognise familiar words like 'bottle' by this point," said



Goswami.

"From then individual speech sounds are still added in very slow steps - too slowly to form the basis of language," she said.

Phonetic information, the smallest sound elements of speech, typically represented by the alphabet, has been considered by many linguists the foundation of language.

Infants are thought to learn these small sound elements and add them together to make words.

However, the new study suggests

that phonetic information is learnt too late and slowly for this to be the case. Instead, rhythmic speech helps babies learn language by emphasising the boundaries of individual words and is effective even in the first months of life.

The researchers recorded patterns of electrical brain activity in 50 infants at four, seven and eleven months old as they watched a video of a primary school teacher singing 18 nursery rhymes to an infant. Low frequency bands of brainwaves were fed through a special al-

gorithm, which produced a 'read out' of the phonological information that was being encoded.

The researchers found that phonetic encoding in babies emerged gradually over the first year of life, beginning with labial sounds (eg d for "daddy") and nasal sounds (eg m for "mummy"), with the 'read out' progressively looking more like that of adults.

First author, Professor Giovanni Di Liberto, a cognitive and computer scientist at Trinity College Dublin and a researcher at the ADAPT Centre, said: "This is the first evidence we have of how brain activity relates to phonetic information changes over time in response to continuous speech."

Previously, studies have relied on comparing the responses to nonsense syllables, like 'bif' and 'bof' instead. The current study forms part of the BabyRhythm project led by Goswami, which is investigating how language is learnt and how this is related to dyslexia and developmental language disorder. EN

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Pandian reviews Srimandir Project

5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian directs officials to complete the landscaping work of north, south and west sides of the temple by December 9



take steps for smooth darshan of devotees, crowd control, and to speed up the restoration of mutts and landscaping works. He reviewed the project from 5am to 7am and also discussed with the devotees. The 5T chairman directed the authorities concerned to speed up the restoration of Emar Mutt, Punjabi Mutt along with the development of Dolabedi area and

painting works front part of the Parikrama project. Pandian suggested removing the vending zone from both sides of the grand road from Singhdwar to Marichikot chhak and rehabilitating the traders somewhere else. Pandian directed the officials to complete the landscaping work of north, south and west sides of the temple by December 9.



The 5T chairman suggested hiring more skilled craftsmen to rebuild the mutts. He also suggested that all the electrical works near the Meghanad Prachira should be completed soon. He ordered the immediate relocation of various poles, wires and other service systems there. He focused on the preservation of the historic small temples

and structures near the Meghanad Prachira. Pandian emphasized on the timely completion of the effluent treatment plant, the improvement of the sanitation system in the town. During his visit, Pandian was accompanied by Puri Collector, IG, SE, OBCC MD and the officials from various executing agencies.

Ex-BJD MP Jayaram Pangi joins Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Former BJD MP Jayaram Pangi, who had recently severed ties with Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), Saturday joined the Congress and vowed to fight against the ruling party in Odisha and the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Pangi along with former chief minister Giridhar Gamang had joined BRS in Hyderabad in the presence of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in January this year. The prominent tribal leader from southern Odisha had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on a BJP candidate from Koraput but later quit the saffron party. Pangi joined the Congress in the presence of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Sarat Pattanayak and senior



leaders at the party's state headquarters here. "I will work hard to restore the glory of Congress in the state. I know the strategy of both the BJD and the BJP. My experience will help Congress in Odisha," he said. He had won the Koraput Lok Sabha constituency on a BJD ticket in 2009. However, he resigned from the party and joined BJP in May 2017. He was also elected to the Odisha assembly four times from the Pottangi segment in Koraput district.

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: On the instructions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian visited Puri Srimandir early in the morning Saturday and reviewed the ongoing Parikrama project. He directed the officials to



BOOK RELEASE: Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, retired IAS officer AR Balakrishnan and former diplomat Lalit Mansingh unveil 'Hrudayara Manisha,' a biography of cardiologist Jadunath Prasad Das, written by Prasanna Kumar Baral, at KM Convention in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

'Will replicate KISS-like model in the Philippines'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: "I shall file a bill in the Congress that will mirror the noble endeavour of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in the Philippines and establish a school dedicated to providing free education to individuals from indigenous communities in the country", said Rufus B Rodriguez, Member of the House of Representatives of the Philippines. Addressing 40,000 indigenous students of KISS in a special programme, he said, "KISS truly inspired him and he would soon move legislation in his country to establish the KISS model." He lauded the initiatives of KIIT & KISS founder Achyuta Samanta for championing the cause of the tribal communities and empowering thousands of indigenous children through free education. He also invited Samanta to



the Philippines and shared his valuable insights for setting up the proposed institute. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi and his teaching, he said that KISS and Samanta are shining examples of offering selfless dedication and service to society. Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy on social service is truly reflected in KISS, he added. Expressing his gratitude, he said, there has been a good relationship between India and the Philippines for many years. There is a similarity between the culture and tradition of India

and the Philippines. The name 'Kalinga' is synonymous with the Philippines, as the 'State of Kalinga' is the name of one of the states. In his address, Samanta spoke about the yeomen services provided by KISS for empowering the tribals and realizing the cherished dreams of the tribal children. Among others, Pro-Chancellor KISS-DU Amareshwar Galla, Vice Chancellor Deepak Kumar Behera, Registrar PK Routray and other senior functionaries of KISS were present.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Bijay Kumar Mallick, S/o- Late Sukdev Mallick, resident of 5A, Gobinda Sarkar Lane, BOW Bazar, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin-700012 declare by this Affidavit No.13AA 479867 Dtd.16.11.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as BIJAYA KUMAR MALLICK for all future purposes.
I, Rajanibala Dhal, W/o- Ajay Kumar Dhal, resident of Plot No.- 578/2804, 577/2805, Niladri Nagar, Jagamar, PS- Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar- 751030, Dist.- Khordha, Odisha declare by this affidavit No- 13 dtd. 02.12.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Rajani Dhal for all future purposes.

Odisha, East India can create global benchmarks: Pradhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday said that given the right opportunity, Odisha and Eastern India have the potential to make the country developed and create global benchmarks in the coming days. Pradhan, said this while addressing the two-day International Conference on 'Purvodaya Prospective: Reflection on Regional Connectivity' organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Confederation of Indian Industry and Energy Forum India. Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraliedharan was also present on this occasion. "Odisha has been the biggest beneficiary of Eastern Mission.



The visionary leadership and vision of the Prime Minister are creating new opportunities for mission advancement. With natural resources, talented human capital and geographical location, Eastern India and Odisha will lead the growth of developed India in the coming days," Pradhan said. The Union Minister said that out of the 800 crore population of the world, about 10 crore people live in the "Eastern" region which is Eastern and North Eastern states.

The culture of our neighbouring countries Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh is almost the same. The potential of this region is even greater than the Himalayas, he said adding that there is no shortage of skills in these states including Odisha. The region is rich in natural resources and is inhabited by hardworking human resources. The Union Minister said the people present at the grand event should create a roadmap that will lead towards a brighter and more developed India.

ECoR cancels 54 trains in view of Cyclone Michaung

Bhubaneswar: In anticipation of Cyclone Michaung, the Indian Railways has taken preventive measures by canceling 54 trains passing through the East Coast Railway (ECOR) jurisdiction. The cancellations are scheduled on various dates between Saturday and December 8 to ensure the safety of passengers and trains during the cyclone "As of now 54 express trains originating, terminating and passing through ECOR's jurisdiction have been cancelled by Indian Railways," the East Coast Railway (ECOR) informed. In the press statement, the ECOR said that this has been done to ensure the safety of passengers. Twelve of the affected trains either originate from or terminate at stations within the ECOR zone. Notable cancellations include Howrah-Chennai-Howrah Express (12841), Bhubaneswar-SMV Express (12845), Dhanbad-Allepy-Dhanbad Express (13351), and Bhubaneswar-Tirupati-Bhubaneswar Express (22871).

CUO holds 2-day int'l seminar on NEP 2020

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) organised a two-day international seminar on "Transforming Indian Tradition and Ethos through NEP-2020: Multilingual and Multidisciplinary Culture of Education" at its campus, Saturday. The seminar is being held in collaboration with Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh. CUO VC Chakradhar Tripathi presided over the inaugural programme. Prakash Chandra Bhattarai, Associate Dean, School of Education, Kathmandu University, Nepal was the guest of honour. Other guests included Mahendra Kumar, Higher

Education Wing In-charge, ABRSM from Gorakhpur, Narayan Mohanty, Executive Member, ABRSM, Narasingh Charan Panda, Registrar In-charge, Central University of Odisha and Ramendra Kumar Parhi, Head I/c, Department of Education and Coordinator of the International Seminar. Speaking on the occasion, Tripathi said that Koraput is the best place to begin with such discourses on National Education Policy (NEP) due to its mythological importance and natural beauty. He stressed the need for Indianisation of Education, for successfully implementing the NEP 2020. We should believe in ourself and have faith on human being, as Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore said.

Vitamin D pills do not prevent bone fractures in kids

Vitamin D supplements do not increase bone strength or prevent bone fractures in children with the vitamin deficiency, claims a major clinical trial of over 8,000 kids. Around one-third of children have at least one fracture before the age of 18. This is a major global health issue, as childhood fractures can lead to life years of disability and/or poor quality of life. The findings, published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, challenges widely held perceptions relating to the effects of vitamin D on bone

health. "The absence of any effect of sustained, generous vitamin D supplementation on fracture risk or bone strength in vitamin D deficient children is striking," said Dr Ganmaa Davaasambuu, Associate Professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "In adults, vitamin D supplementation works best for fracture prevention when calcium is given at the same time - so the fact that we did not offer calcium alongside vitamin D to trial participants may explain the null findings from this study,"



Davaasambuu added. Researchers from Queen Mary University of London and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health conducted the trial on children from Mongolia

- a setting with a particularly high fracture burden and where vitamin D deficiency is highly prevalent. Over the course of three years, 8,851 schoolchildren aged 6-13

living in Mongolia received a weekly oral dose of vitamin D

supplementation. About 95.5 per cent of participants had vitamin D deficiency at baseline, and study supplements were highly effective in boosting vitamin D levels into the normal range. However, they had no effect on fracture risk or on bone strength, measured in a subset of 1,438 participants using quantitative ultrasound. The findings are likely to prompt scientists, doctors and public health specialists to reconsider the effects of vitamin D supplements on bone health.

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MSME Policy 2023

Eligible Projects

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as defined in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 and its amendments from time to time.

Type of project	Investment	Turnover
Micro	Up to ₹1 Cr.	Up to ₹5 Cr.
Small	Up to ₹10 Cr.	Up to ₹50 Cr.
Medium	Up to ₹50 Cr.	Up to ₹250 Cr.

INCENTIVES

Capital Subsidy

Micro	Small	Medium
Up to ₹0.5 Cr	Up to ₹2.5 Cr.	Up to ₹4 Cr.
Stamp Duty Reimbursement		Up to 100%
DPR Assistance		Up to 75%

Interest Subsidy

Micro	Small	Medium
Upto ₹5 Lakh/Yr	Upto ₹6 Lakh/Yr	Upto ₹7 Lakh/Yr
Mandi fee reimbursement : 50% up to ₹5 lakhs/unit/Yr		

- Exemption on Electricity duty for 5 Years
- Up to Rs 15 lakhs additional Capital subsidy under the Most Priority category
- Reimbursement of Quality certification fee- 75% of cost incurred

Private Industrial Estate Policy 2023

Eligible Projects

- Private industrial estate/ area can be setup by an individual promoter/ developer/ partnership firm/LLP/Company or any entity registered under the company act/ society act etc. (with consent in writing from all the concerned land owners.
- For the establishment of a private industrial estate, it is necessary to have a minimum of 30 acres in the plain area and a minimum of 2 acres in the hilly region.
- The proposed land should be duly in full possession of the promoter & free from any encroachment.
- The rates of industrial plots will be determined and marketed by the promoter/ board of directors of the estate itself. The state Govt. will have no role in this.

Fiscal incentive

Capital Subsidy

Capital grant of INR 10 lakh per acre on saleable area of infrastructure cost of each industrial park/estate promoted by any private sector investor, business entity, etc.

CETP

40% of capital subsidy, a maximum of INR 1 Crore of the fixed capital investment on plant for setting up a CETP

Logistics Policy 2023

Eligible Projects

All projects whether new or existing- going through an expansion in Logistics Park, Inland Container Depot, Warehousing facility, Truck Terminal, Fleet Operators, Cold Storage

INCENTIVES

Unit Type	Incentive
Warehousing facility	Upto 20 percent of the Project cost
Truck Terminal	Upto 20 percent of the Project cost
Vehicle Purchase Incentive (minimum three Trucks/ Small Trucks/Mini Pickup trucks/Reefer vans)	Upto 10 percent on big trucks and upto 15 percent on small and medium trucks, up to Rs. 10 Lakhs
Cold Storage	Upto 15 percent of the Project cost
Infrastructure Facilities	20 percent of the Project cost
Logistics Park (MMLP/Dry Port/Air Cargo/Integrated Logistics Park)	For project cost of up to Rs. 50 cr., subsidy upto Rs. 8 cr.
Inland Container Depot	For project cost of more between Rs50-150 cr., subsidy upto Rs. 24 cr.
Skill Development Incentive	For project cost of more than Rs.150 cr., subsidy upto Rs. 32 cr.

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FOCUS JUSTICE

DELAYED MEANS DENIED



Inordinate delay inflicts irreversible long-term consequences. Slowly, stealthily and steadily, it kills faith in the justice system



GN Bajpai

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK AT ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ITS DISPUTES RATHER THAN CLOGGING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

As the sanctum sanctorum of India's democracy, the Parliament, moved house from the historic structure to a new facility, it underlined the theme of change that has marked the BJP's days in power at the Centre. The old edifice has its history and sentiment and story. As Minister Jitendra Singh put it: "Even the bricks and walls of that building had stories and anecdotes to tell right from British times, down to the tenures of India 15 Prime Ministers after independence ... The Old Parliament emerged as the hub of the highest seat of democracy ... (It) will remain immortal for all times to come." The place has been aptly named 'Samvidhan Bhavan' or Constitution House because, after all, the Constitution of Independent India was tabled, debated and adopted here. While we change, become more modern, expand spaces to use and consume, literally in the case of the building shift and metaphorically in terms of our approach and ideas, it is appropriate to revisit solemn promises. The Preamble of the Constitution inter-alia enshrines, "we the people of India, having solemnly resolved ... to secure to all its citizens justice, social, economic and political ..."

The 3rd Indian Justice Report released on 4 April 2023 recorded that a total of 49 million cases remained pending across High Courts and District Courts as of December 2020; as many as 190,000 cases of these were pending for 30 years; and 5.6 million for over 10 years. Further, 77% of the incarcerated population comprises of undertrials. The average period that 88,725 undertrials spent in custody in 2021 was 1-3 years; over 24,033 undertrials spent 5 years and 11,049 above 5 years. A total of 71,411 (56,365 civil and 15,076 criminal) cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 2 August, 2022.

This is an alarming picture of justice not delivered. The simplest way to put it is to say 'jus-

tice delayed is justice denied'. Section 40 of the Magna Carta reads "to no one will we deny or delay right to justice." The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 also guarantees the right to justice. Inordinate delay inflicts irreversible long-term consequences. Slowly, stealthily and steadily, it kills faith in the justice system.

Successful governments have taken steps like setting up fast track courts, special tribunals, consumer courts, Lok Adalat etc. The causes of delay have also been identified, like the point that the government is the biggest litigant, inadequate budgets for the system, a low ratio of judges to population, competence and commitment deficiency, adjournments as the norm, the long judicial process, work cultures et al. Suggestions like a special infrastructure corporation, establishment of a separate authority charged with supervising the administration of justice and carrying out administrative reforms, separation of administrative and judicial work, cooperation and coordination with the government have been made.

However, the common litigant continues to find justice illusory and unaffordable. Meet anyone waiting for over five years for a trial, and the pain of irreversible consequences on life and liberty will be writ large on the face. This is not to point out that a large number of peo-

ple who suffer thus are poor and disadvantaged in multiple ways.

But for some in the justice system, delays make economic sense. For instance, delays would benefit some of the advocates involved. Thus, there is an urgent need for a radical rethink in this area. The government today is said to stand for expeditious execution of priorities, and speaks of pursuing goals in "mission mode"; an example of this is the plan for, say, making water available on tap for all, or the 'nal se jal' programme of the government.

Similarly, delivery of justice should also be a mission. The journey of such a mission should begin with the identification of who, how and what delays the disposal of cases. Unconventional methods to deal with delays, especially inordinate ones, should be considered. If warranted, laws, codes, rules, regulations, procedures should be considered for amendment. After all, this is possible. As in the case of the Women's Reservation Bill which was passed by both Houses of the Parliament without delay.

It should also be possible to segregate cases into categories to expedite disposal. A time limit must be fixed and enforced for the disposal of cases based on such a categorisation. Accountability for delay in the various processes should be delineated, fixed and action taken expeditiously. The judiciary should also be sub-

jected to accountability. In every district, at least a dozen monitors could be appointed. They need to be assisted by limited administrative personnel for computerisation, categorisation and close monitoring of hearings, evidence gathering/production, arguments and final orders' writing and delivery. Progress should be tracked at the highest level and tabled in Parliament every six months. Cases that are more than one year old should be dealt with by separate courts and those that are one year or less should be dealt with separately. For these cases, time limit should be minimal depending upon the kind of case. The government should look at alternative mechanisms for settlement of its disputes rather than clogging the judicial system.

Massive recruitment, training, infrastructure building may be required in the coming years and then only can the exercise of disposal of cases be pursued. Volunteering should be invited from senior advocates in particular in the interest of delivering justice on time and at affordable costs as well as their understanding and the appreciation of the ground realities and pain of litigants.

There is bound to be opposition. But the entire process will require an open mind, confidence building, an all-party consensus, a willingness to accept suggestions and change direction in the interests of fairness and transparency.

The time for half-hearted attempts and/or conventional methods has gone by when it comes to delivering justice. Action needs to be taken that is cautious yet bold, speedy yet fair, in the interest of the large number of people suffering but without in any way short-circuiting the legal process. This will be a Herculean task like none other, but it is something that has to be done.

The writer is a former Chairman of SEBI and LIC. Views are personal.

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Bumbling Along

In 1990, meaning 33 years ago, India's per person income was \$367 and China's was \$317. That was the last time we were ahead of them. Notice that China was slightly behind India around when both nations went into the phase we call liberalisation. But liberalisation has not helped us replicate what they have done. China grew at 11.7% in the 1990s (versus our 5.6%), then 16.5% in the 2000s (against our 6.5%) and then 8.8% in the 2010s (versus our 5.1%). China should interest us most because China has a large population as ours and is an Asian nation. And it was exactly as poor as us at one point in time. The World Bank's data shows that India's per capita income in 1960 was \$82, while China's was \$89. In 1970, we were even with India at \$112 and China at \$113. In 1980, India was \$266 and China considerably behind at \$194. In 2000, we were \$1357 and China was \$4450. In 2022, India was at \$2388 and the Chinese at \$12,720.

To grow at 15% per year is an astonishing feat which we have never achieved ever, but these three nations consistently delivered it in sustained fashion over several years to escape poverty. Japan grew by 13.7% through the 1960s to reach our current level (\$2056) in 1970. In the decade to 1980, it again grew its economy by 16% a year to reach \$9463. In the four decades after that it averaged a growth rate of 3.5% to come to over \$39,000. The other success story, South Korea, grew at an average of 5.8% in the decade between 1960 and 1970. From 1970 to 1980 it grew at 20% a year, in the decade after that it grew at 14.4%. In the decade after that (1990-2000) it grew at an average of 6.3%, between 2000 and 2010 at an average of 6.5% and in the last decade to 2020 it grew at 3%, having arrived at 'developed' status. In 1970 Korea's per capita GDP in dollars was twice as much as India's. Today it is 15 times more.

At the point in their history when all three nations had an average per capita GDP of where we are today, they were growing in the double digits every year. We never have and that is why we do not really belong on that list with the other three. So where do we belong?

The World Bank defines lower middle income nations as those where per person GDP is between \$1,036 and \$4,045 (at \$2200, we are lower middle income and have been here since 2008, around when we crossed \$1000). Upper middle-income economies are those with per capita national income of between \$4,000 and \$12,300. China went over that, to reach \$12,556 in 2021. Above this is classified as high income.

Our historical average for growth in the last six decades has been 5.02%. After 2014 our growth has been an average of 5.05%. Meaning that there is little difference, once again, between an India that is run under an economic ideology defined as Nehruvian socialism, as Indiran 'License Raj' or, as it has been over the last 30 years, under liberalisation. We bumble along.

Though today they are marginally ahead of India in per capita GDP, Bangladeshis came out of the womb in bad shape economically. In the decade between 1971 and 1980, Bangladesh's GDP grew by an average of just 1.04% a year. In three of those 10 years it registered negative growth, contracting by 14% in 1972. This led the world to write it off as a viable state and an American diplomat, Alexis Johnson, described it as an 'international basket case', a term with which secretary of state Henry Kissinger, who died a few days ago, agreed. And yet here it stands today, alongside the next superpower India and in fact slightly ahead (\$2688). In the last decade Bangladesh grew at an average of 6.4%. Our sister Pakistan outperformed India in the 1960s. Pakistan grew its economy by an average of 7.25% per year in the decade between 1961 and 1970. In two years, 1965 and 1970, it grew by more than 10%. The American political scientist Samuel Huntington (who coined the phrase 'clash of civilisations') likened Pakistan's president in that period, field marshal Ayub Khan, to the Greek lawgivers Solon and Lycurgus.

And yet here is Pakistan today, behind Bangladesh in per capita GDP and not too far ahead of Sub-Saharan Africa, the poorest region of the world. Pakistan's GDP grew by an average 3.7% in the decade between 2011 and 2020, ahead of the global average of 2.38%.

The world's GDP per capita per year is an average of \$12,262. China is slightly ahead of the world average and Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are one fifth. We were five times less than the global average in 1960 also, when the globe was at \$459 and India at \$82. Note that this is per person income and of the world's 7.7 billion people, South Asia contributes a full 23%. Meaning we are a drag on the world's economy and productivity and have been for 60 years, at more or less the same rate.

We can either accept that by looking at our actual performance and the hard data over 60 years or we can delude ourselves with our rhetoric. But where do we go from here? That is the subject of the book that I am working on currently and we will look at that next week.



Aakar Patel

The world's GDP per capita per year is an average of \$12,262. China is slightly ahead of the world average and Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are one fifth

WISDOM CORNER

It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love. This is how the whole scheme of things works. All good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get. **CONFUCIUS**

They who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night. **EDGAR ALLAN POE**

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. **TS ELIOT**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1854: After hastily constructing a fortification and barricading themselves inside, miners ("diggers") working in the Eureka goldfield in Victoria, Australia, opened fire on government forces surrounding the stockade, the culmination of long-standing grievances on the part of the diggers.

1910: First public demonstration of neon lights. Seen in most urban settings and cities today, the neon light was invented by French inventor and engineer, Georges Claude. They were first displayed at the Paris Motor Show.

1927: First Laurel & Hardy movie released. Putting Pants on Philip, a short silent film starring the comedy duo marked the beginning of a long partnership.

1984: Bhopal Gas disaster. A gas leak from a Union Carbide India Limited pesticide plant in the city of Bhopal, India killed over 3000 people and affected thousands of others. It is said to be the world's worst industrial disaster.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Decarbonising our food



Anna Lappé & Patty Fong

GIVEN INCREASED MARKETING OF AND DEMAND FOR ENERGY-INTENSIVE FOOD, DECOUPLING FOOD PRODUCTION FROM FOSSIL FUELS IS ESSENTIAL TO MEET OUR CLIMATE GOALS

As political leaders, policy-makers, environmental advocates, and philanthropists gather for this year's COP28, food systems will be high on the agenda for the first time. Given that the food sector accounts for one-third of all greenhouse-gas emissions, its inclusion is long overdue. But this welcome breakthrough risks being offset by the fact that COP28 is hosted by a petrostate, and presided over by the leader of that petrostate's oil company. This is particularly concerning since averting catastrophic climate scenarios requires that we phase out fossil fuels and transform food systems with equal urgency.

Fortunately, these two challenges need not compete for our attention, because transforming food systems is also a powerful way to reduce our global dependency on fossil fuels. As our organisation shows in a new report, Power Shift: Why We Need to Wean Our Industrial Food Systems Off Fossil Fuels, food systems, from farm to plate to landfill, account for at least 15% of annual global fossil-fuel use – equal to that of the EU and Russia combined. And if the current approach to industrial food production continues,

that figure is expected to increase significantly. Today's industrial food system is increasingly fossil-fuel-intensive. Fossil fuels go into synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, as well as plastics that are used in everything from the coatings for those pesticides and fertilizers to most food packaging. Moreover, most packaging is needed to store ultra-processed foods – from meat and dairy to sweets and sugary drinks – all of which require highly energy-intensive manufacturing and petrochemicals in the form of plastics. Worryingly, the energy sector views the food system as a promising growth market. Food-related plastics and synthetic fertilizers account for approximately 40% of all petrochemical products, and the International Energy Association predicts that petrochemicals will drive nearly half the growth in oil demand by 2050, outstripping sectors like aviation and shipping. Similarly, research from the Center for International Environmental Law has shown that fossil-fuel companies are banking on the expansion of these markets.

Finally, we're also seeing a push to use more agricultural land for incredibly inefficient

energy production. The US already dedicates about 40% of its corn harvest to ethanol fuels, which are estimated to be "at least 24% more carbon-intensive than gasoline."

Fortunately, there are many ways to phase out fossil fuels in food systems. These include strategies to end the use of fossil-fuel-based fertilizers and pesticides, and to move away from input-dependent crop-based energy systems like corn ethanol; shifting to renewable energy for processing, cooling, and drying food; supporting minimally processed, less energy-intensive foods and encouraging plant-rich diets; and encouraging the uptake of seasonal, locally grown food.

Shifting away from industrial methods toward more sustainable ways of farming not only would protect the planet. It also would create jobs, improve health, protect biodiversity, and help address roots of hunger. Evidence from around the world shows that approaches like agroecology and regenerative agriculture are effective in driving a shift away from fossil-fuel dependency. With these strategies, yields remain steady or improve, while emissions fall, farm-

workers' health improves, and biodiversity is protected.

There is no technical barrier to shifting from dependence on synthetic inputs toward agroecological and regenerative food production, or to replacing fossil-fuel energy with renewable sources. But many governments offer very few subsidies to support these transitions, and many more incentivise business as usual.

Now that we have come to understand just how endemic fossil-fuel usage is across our economies, we must take pains to ensure that all sectors are included in the transition to a fossil-fuel-free future. Despite COP28's dubious staging in a petrostate, we are pleased to see food finally taking center stage. But that discussion must not be isolated from the one about ending the use of fossil fuels as fast as possible. There will be no food-systems transformation without phasing out fossil fuels, and there will be no phasing out fossil fuels without food-systems transformation.

Anna Lappé is Executive Director and Patty Fong is Programme Director at the Global Alliance for the Future of Food.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Diplomatic victory

Sir, this refers to "All-out efforts on to bring back 8 Indians from Qatar," Orissa POST, Dec 2. In the first place, the acceptance of the appeal against the death sentence of eight former Indian Navy officers by a Qatari court is a significant development in the international legal sphere. This marks a pivotal moment in the ongoing legal battle for the eight Indian ex-naval servicemen, casting a spotlight on the diplomatic relations between India and Qatar. The court's decision to accept the appeal introduces a new phase in the legal proceedings. The appeal was formally lodged by the families of the eight men, bolstered by the support of the Indian government. With the appeal now accepted, the court will delve into a detailed examination of the case and subsequently determine a date for the next hearing. The Indian government's role in this case has been quite proactive, as they have been extensively engaged with Qatari authorities to secure the release of these former officers. This case has showcased the Indian government's commitment to its citizens, even those who find themselves entangled in international legal matters. The acceptance of the appeal is, therefore, not just a significant legal development, but also a diplomatic one.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Judicial service

Sir, Since lower courts are the life lines for a common man, picking their presiding officers with care and caution cannot be over-emphasised. The process of selection of lower court judges has not consistently met the nod of approval by the knowhow. The need to have a uniform mechanism for picking judges at the entry level on an all India basis is widely felt. President Droupadi Murmu recently pitched for an All India Judicial Service, and there are a plethora of legal experts who believe the time is ripe for such a system on the lines of Indian Administrative Service. An All India Judicial Service could captivate meritorious young minds that are at present not keen on considering judiciary as a career. The Centre does not seem averse to the idea but it may not easily pass muster with the judiciary because the latter's authority stands threatened.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

BJP or Cong or fractured verdict in MP

The state saw a record voter turnout of 77.82 per cent, 2.19 per cent more than the 2018 elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Dec 2: The fate of the candidates locked in EVMs for 230 assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh will be unsealed Sunday as arrangements for counting of votes are ready, a top poll official said Saturday.

Many exit polls have kept the incumbent BJP ahead of the Congress in what was a straight contest between two main parties. Assembly polls were held in the state in a single phase November 17.

The state saw a record voter turnout of 77.82 per cent, 2.19 per cent more than the 2018 elections, the official said.

The counting for all 230 assembly seats in MP will begin at 8 am Sunday (December 3) at 52 district headquarters amid tight security.

"All necessary preparations for the counting have been made," he said. Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh Anupam Rajan said that 77.15 polling per cent was recorded through the electronic voting machines (EVMs).

If postal ballots are added, the polling percentage goes up to 77.82, which is 2.19 percentage points more than the previous polls (2018), when turnout was 75.63 per cent, Rajan said.

A total of 692 tables have been placed for the counting of postal ballots in all districts, while 4,369 tables have been set up to place the EVMs, he said.

According to Rajan, postal bal-



lots will be counted between 8 am and 8.30 am, after which the counting of votes through EVMs will begin in the presence of officials and political parties' authorised agents.

Soon after the postal ballots are counted, its result will be declared candidate-wise by the officials concerned and the exercise will be followed after the completion of each round of counting, he said.

At 26, Jhabua seat will see the highest number of counting rounds, while the lowest number of 12 rounds will be held in Sevda constituency in Datia district, he said.

"All arrangements have been made for conducting the counting and all the district returning officers, police commissioners and superintendent of police were directed to follow necessary security protocols. The government has declared the day of counting a 'dry' day, during which all wine and liquor shops

shall remain closed," he said. A three-tier security arrangement will be in place and only people holding valid passes will be allowed to enter the counting centres, he said.

Rajan said that 51,259 citizens above 80 years and 12,093 physically challenged voters polled from home this time.

He said about 3.04 lakh personnel engaged in polling work exercised their franchise through postal ballots.

The EVMs will decide the electoral fate of 2,533 candidates who were in the fray for the 230 assembly seats, including political bigwigs like Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his predecessor and rival Kamal Nath, in a poll that was largely a bipolar battle between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress.

Of the 230 seats, 47 are reserved

for Scheduled Tribes and 35 for Scheduled Castes.

Besides CM Chouhan (from Budhni seat) and state Congress president Nath (Chhindwara), the EVMs will also decide the fate of three BJP Union ministers - Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Fagga Singh Kulaste.

It will also decide the political fortunes of BJP general secretary Kailash Vijaywargiya who contested from Indore-1 and three Lok Sabha MPs of the saffron party - Rakesh Singh, Ganesh Singh and Riti Pathak.

Besides main contenders Congress and the BJP, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) are among the other players that fielded their candidates. The number of votes garnered by these candidates will also be a crucial factor in deciding the winner from any constituency.

The electioneering saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda, Union minister Rajnath Singh, CM Chouhan addressing rallies to drum up support for the saffron party's nominees.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Digvijaya Singh and Nath were among the key leaders of the opposition party who held rallies to canvass for their nominees.

39 yrs on, horrors of Bhopal gas tragedy continue to haunt many

AT LEAST 3,787 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND MORE THAN FIVE LAKH WERE AFFECTED PHYSICALLY AFTER A TOXIC GAS LEAKED FROM THE PESTICIDE FACTORY ON THE INTERVENING NIGHT OF DECEMBER 2 AND 3, 1984



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Dec 2: The toxic gas leak from the now-defunct Union Carbide factory on the chilly night of December 2 not only killed thousands of people in Bhopal but continues to give nightmares to the survivors 39 years since the tragedy.

At least 3,787 people were killed and more than five lakh were affected physically after a toxic gas leaked from the pesticide factory on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984.

"I shudder in fear and tremble on December 2 nights. I saw people collapsing dead on that chilly night," Mahendrajeet Singh (79), a gas victim and retired chief reservation superintendent of railways, told PTI Saturday. Recalling the fateful night, Singh said, "My family was asleep around 2 am when shouts and cries of people in the railway colony some

distance from the Union Carbide factory woke us up. We ran out of the house and fled on a scooter and on foot to escape the gas emanating from the killer factory."

His family spent the night at a hotel 4 km from their house, said Singh, the president of All India Retired Railwaymen Federation Western Zone.

Some years later, Singh lost his mother and younger brother who were exposed to toxic gas.

"Three days after the gas leak, I noticed the leaves of a peepal tree near our house had fallen and it appeared dead and lifeless," he said, adding that the effect of the toxic gas on trees and plants was noticed in other parts of the city as well.

"After the tragedy, there were rumours that the remaining toxic gas would be released from the factory. In light of such unconfirmed reports, we sought refuge in the neighbouring Hoshangabad district," Singh said.

The former railwayman said he had lost several of his colleagues in the tragedy and those who survived, were

living with ailments, especially breathing problems.

Rambali Prasad Verma (83), a retired assistant station master, said he was lucky to survive the disaster.

"My duty at the railway cabin located close to the boundary wall of the Union Carbide factory ended at 10 pm on the night of December 2," he recounted.

Around midnight, when the gas leaked from the factory, Verma was at his house in the railway colony near the railway station.

"We ran helter-skelter to escape the poisonous gas and found refuge in an Army vehicle at a far-off place," he said.

Verma and his family returned home at daybreak, but again left their home a few hours later as there were rumours that the remaining toxic gas would be released around 11 am December 3.

After some days, Verma's family went to Indore and returned when things settled down.

"When I think of that chilly night, I start shivering. I have breathing problems and asthma as I was exposed to the gas," the octogenarian said.

BSP seeks nationwide caste census

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Dec 2: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati Saturday reiterated the party's demand for a nationwide caste census and alleged that massive awareness among the exploited sections on the issue was giving the ruling BJP sleepless nights.

The party raised its voice in favour of the caste census during an all party meeting convened by the government, two days ahead of the Parliament's Winter Session.

Mayawati, during an all party meeting called by the government Saturday, stressed that the

In a series of posts on X, the BSP leader also said that though some state governments are trying to half-heartedly satisfy the public sentiments, a true solution was possible only through a caste census at the national level.

"In the all-party meeting today before the winter session of Parliament starting from 4th December, BSP again demanded the government to conduct a caste census in the country. Now that



The unprecedented interest/awareness towards the caste census among the people of the country suffering from inflation, poverty, unemployment, poor roads, water, electricity, education, health and law and order and those facing casteist exploitation and atrocities, is giving sleepless nights to BJP. And the Congress is busy covering up its crimes

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

the demand for this is rising from every corner of the country, it is necessary for the central government to take immediate positive steps in this regard," Mayawati said on X.

Continuing, she said, "The unprecedented interest/awareness towards the caste census among the people of the country suffering from inflation, poverty, unemployment, poor roads, water, electricity, education, health and law and order and those facing casteist exploitation and atrocities, is giving sleepless nights to BJP. And the

Congress is busy covering up its crimes."

"Although various state governments are half-heartedly trying to satisfy the public sentiments to a great extent by conducting caste census in the name of 'social justice', but its true solution is possible only when the central government conducts the correct caste census at the national level and ensure that people are given their rights," Mayawati added.

The Winter Session of Parliament begins December 4 and will have 15 sittings till December 22.

No Scindia, no traitor left in Cong: Digvijaya

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Dec 2: Former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh Saturday denied the possibility of 'horse-trading' in Madhya Pradesh, if the Congress is voted to power Sunday.

The former Chief Minister said, "We have no Scindia (Jyotiraditya) and no traitor in the Congress now." On the eve of vote counting scheduled for Sunday, the Congress leader told the press that the Congress was confident of returning to power by unseating the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in MP. He said, "Tomorrow we will know where CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan stands. We will win more than 130 seats, not less than that in Madhya Pradesh."

The Congress has been targeting Jyotiraditya Scindia for leaving the party and defecting to the BJP, by calling him a 'traitor.'

Teachers in UP to defy AI-based attendance

Teachers say that the face recognition system for attendance is practically impossible

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Dec 2: Primary school teachers in Uttar Pradesh have decided to defy a state government order if the new artificial intelligence (AI)-based attendance system was not withdrawn immediately.

The teachers said that the face recognition system for attendance is practically impossible.

The system has been launched as a pilot project in six districts under which teachers have to register attendance at a given time through face recognition application on their



mobile phones.

Teachers in various primary schools across the state signed a dissent note at their respective block level registers demanding withdrawal of the system.

"Most of the government primary schools are

located in rural areas where roads are in bad shape and transportation is a big issue. My primary school is located in a village where you have no option but to walk for 4 km from the main road," said a primary teacher from Barabanki.

She said the new rule says salary will be deducted or a teacher will be marked absent if he or she is even a minute late, which is unfair for teachers who make an effort to reach the school located in an interior and remote location on time.

Another teacher from Deoria said: "Network is

the biggest issue in most of the primary schools. Even if we reach in time, due to massive network issue we will not be able to mark our attendance and in such situation, pay loss is unfair."

Teachers from Bahraich also complained that to reach their school they have to cross forests, ponds and bad roads.

Anand Mohan, president of Rashtriya Shikshak Sangh, said: "A majority of primary schools are in rural areas and teachers travel kilometres from their home to reach school. This system is impractical."

M/s Laxmi Infra Venture (P) Ltd., Bhubaneswar. ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha has accorded Environment Clearance for Construction of Multi-storeyed Residential Apartment & Commercial Building under the Mouza-Nuahat, Ps- Cuttack Sadar, Tahasil-cuttack Sadar, Dist: Cuttack, over Khata No. 498/111 of Plot No.1390 & 1380 of M/s Laxmi Infra Venture (P) Ltd.

The Copies of environmental Clearance, E C 2 3 B 0 3 8 OR110720, Dtd. 30.11.2023 are available for reference with SEIAA, Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and may also be seen at website of Board.

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha has accorded the Environment Clearance for the said Project under the Provision of EIA Notification-2006.

M/s Laxmi Infra Venture (P) Ltd., Bhubaneswar

TENDER NOTICE

Maa Markama +3 College, Bissamcuttack invites sealed Tenders for following items from the reputed agencies. The Tender document may be downloaded from our website- <https://mmpplus3college.in/>

Sl No.	Name of the items	Required No.	Last date & time of submission of Tender form	Date & time of opening technical bids
1	AC	06 Numbers	26.12.2023 5.00 P.M.	28.12.2023 10.00 A.M.

Interested agencies may submit their sealed tenders in two bid system i.e. Technical bid & financial bid as per terms & conditions of the tender documents. The filled in tender form of each item with tender fees and earnest money by Demand Draft in favour of Principal-cum-Secretary, Maa Markama +3 College, Bissamcuttack. The document should reach to the college office clearly superscribed "Tender for"

-Sd/-
Principal-cum-Secretary
Maa Markama +3 College, Bissamcuttack
mmdegrecollege@gmail.com. www.mmpplus3college.in



File Number: NHA/BOT/11012/58/2005/PL/LA/NH-16/3D

District: Balasore
<https://egazette.gov.in>
Publication date, 20 September 2023
<https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReaDdata/2023/248906.pdf>

Phase-I work of Ayodhya airport to be completed by December 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya, Dec 2: The construction work of the first phase of the Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport being built in Ayodhya will be completed by December 15, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Saturday.

Adityanath said this after inspecting the construction work at the international airport being built here. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia and Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (Retd) VK. Singh were also present with him, the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement. The chief minister and the two union ministers also saw the presentation related to the airport's construction and held a review meeting with the officials.

Adityanath said the holy Ayodhya of Lord Shri Ram, according to PM Modi's vision, is becoming the new Ayodhya of new India.



Cadets of United National Liberation Front (UNLF) during the signing of a peace agreement between Government of Manipur and UNLF, in Imphal



Fishing boats docked at Kasimedu fishing harbour following the heavy rainfall forecast owing to Cyclone Michaung in the Bay of Bengal, in Chennai



Artistes during a holy procession of the 18th International Tipitaka Chanting ceremony at Bodh Gaya, in Gaya district



A Lufthansa aircraft is parked at the snow-covered Munich airport, Germany day after a winter storm dumped snow across southern Germany and parts of Austria and Switzerland, affecting travel across the region



Members of a Naga tribe perform during the second day of Hornbill Festival, in Kohima, Nagaland



Firefighters during a fire mock drill organised by the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department at a high-rise building in Bengaluru



People chant slogans holding banners that reads 'From Gaza to Paris - Residence - Emergency Palestine' during a pro-Palestinian rally in Paris, France



Members of the Sambhava Trust Clinic with survivors of 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy during a candlelight vigil to pay homage to the victims of the tragedy on its 39th anniversary, in Bhopal

national

of the day quote

NCP's stand of not joining hands with the BJP was always very clear and even if any suggestion to the contrary came up, I did not approve of the idea

Irony comes to die in J&K. Here we celebrate Nagaland Statehood day in Raj Bhavan, Jammu while celebrating Union Territory Day when it comes to J&K. Talk about rubbing salt in to the wounds of the people here

People want development and a double-engine government (of the BJP) in Rajasthan

SHORT TAKES

PM to visit Maharashtra

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the statue of legendary Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji at the Rajkot fort in Sindhudurg during his visit to Maharashtra on December 4. He will also attend a programme marking the 'Navy Day 2023' celebrations at Sindhudurg and witness the 'Operational Demonstrations' by Indian Navy ships, submarines, aircraft and special forces from the Tarkarli beach, according to a statement. Navy Day is celebrated on December 4 every year.

ED raids 2 former Punjab ministers

New Delhi: "Incriminating" documents, mobile phones, and other electronic devices were seized by the ED after raids against two former Punjab forest ministers and Congress leaders Sadhu Singh Dharamsoot and Sangat Singh Gilljanj and others as part of an alleged forest scam-linked money laundering probe. The federal probe agency issued a statement Friday, saying its investigation pertains to charges of "bribery" in the state forest department against the issuance of a permit for tree felling and for transfer/posting in the department, among some other allegations.

Child abduction case: Couple held

Kollam (Kerala): A businessman, his wife, and their YouTuber daughter were arrested by the Kerala Police here Saturday for allegedly kidnapping a six-year-old girl earlier this week, demanding a ransom of Rs 10 lakh. The child was later abandoned on a public ground in Kollam after the incident gained widespread attention. Police said the accused Padmakumar, an engineering graduate, his homemaker wife Anitha Kumari, and their daughter Anupama Padman, who boasts a substantial following on YouTube, were taken into custody based on a combination of scientific, digital, and circumstantial evidence.

IED found in J&K

Rajouri/Jammu: Security forces Saturday recovered a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) in a forest area in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The IED, weighing five kg, was found during an ongoing search operation in the Topa Hilltop area of Darhal Saturday evening, the officials said. They said the explosive device was later safely destroyed. The timely recovery of the IED averted a possible terror attack in the border district, the officials said.



By abolishing the Railway Budget, the Modi government has got away from its accountability. Modiji is busy with PR stunts of flagging off white-painted trains just to garner applause

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS CHIEF

TIHAR JAIL TERMINATES 50 EMPLOYEES

The Tihar Jail administration has served termination notice to its 50 employees after a verification drive found a mismatch in their biometric identification records, officials said Saturday



Adhir writes to Birla on Mahua case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: Ahead of the Winter session of Parliament beginning on December 4, the Congress' Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Saturday wrote to Speaker Om Birla, saying the expulsion of TMC MP Mahua Moitra from Parliament is an "extremely serious punishment and has very wide ramifications".

In his four-page letter to the Speaker, Chowdhury demanded a relook at the rules and processes of parliamentary committees, asserting that there is no clear demarcation in the roles envisaged for the Privileges Committee and the Ethics Committee, especially on exercising penal powers.

"If the media reports on the recommendations of the Ethics Committee on choosing to recommend expelling Mahua Moitra from Parliament are right, it would, perhaps be the first such recommendation of the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha," Chowdhury said in his letter to the Speaker.

"Expulsion from Parliament, you will agree sir, is an extremely serious punishment and has very wide ramifications," he added. Chowdhury, who is also chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, said the views expressed by him are in his personal capacity.



The Congress leader also said there is no clear definition of "unethical conduct" and a "code of conduct" -- though envisaged under Rule 316B of the Rules of Procedure -- remains to be formulated. These issues, inclusive of the procedures being followed by the committee, may require deeper attention and the processes streamlined under the speaker's guidance, he said in the letter.

The report of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee recommending the expulsion of Moitra in the "cash-for-query" case will be tabled in the lower house on Monday. According to the agenda papers circulated by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Ethics Committee Chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar will lay on the table of the House the panel's first report.

The committee, at a meeting on November 9, adopted its report recommending Moitra's expulsion from the Lok Sabha over the "cash-for-query" allegation. Chowdhury said in his letter, "I am writing with the primary intention of placing before you my views, which are being made in my personal capacity, on the need for having a relook and appropriately reviewing and re-casting the rules and processes that relate to the functioning of parliamentary committees that are primarily concerned with the interests and rights of Members of Lok Sabha viz, Privileges Committee, Ethics Committee, etc."

"I have felt this to be necessary mainly in the light of the phenomenal coverage, scrutiny and analysis -- substantial amount of which was unwarranted -- that the working of the Ethics Committee of Parliament received in the matter of examining and reporting on the purported acts of misdemeanour on the part of a fellow Parliamentarian and colleague Mahua Moitra," he said.

Manipur family attacked in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: A man from Manipur, his wife and his sister were allegedly assaulted by a group of people from the same state in southeast Delhi's Sunlight Colony area, police said Saturday.

Police added that the victims earlier told them that they were Meiteis and suspected that they were beaten up by people from their "opponent group". According to a police official, the accused have been identified and it has been confirmed that the incident is not an outcome of any tribal or ethnic clash.

The incident took place because both the parties alleged that the other party "insulted" the females accompanying them, police said. A video of the incident has surfaced in which the people involved in clash are seen punching each other.

Police said two women, who were seen in the video, have been identified. The other accused are Vielsielou, Marizo, Alex and James. They had a party at Vielsielou's residence.

Police learned that the man, his wife and his sister were dropping a friend home on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. On the way, three strangers, including a woman, approached them and asked them to help book a ride for Murirka as their phone's batteries had run out," a police officer said.

While waiting for the ride to be confirmed, one of the accused allegedly started abusing and insulting the man and assaulted his wife and his sister, the official said. The man said the accused had allegedly passed lewd remarks on his sister and wife on which he objected, according to police. The accused turned violent and called a few more people to the spot, who attacked him, his wife and his sister; they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast district) Rajesh Deo said a case of hurt, rioting and outraging the modesty of women has been registered at the Sunlight Colony police station. Further investigations are on.

Dhami invites PM to inaugurate Global Investment Conference

Dehradun scheduled on December 8 and 9.

The Chief Minister also expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for providing all the necessary resources, guidance and cooperation during the evacuation of the workers trapped in the under-construction Silkyara Tunnel.

The Chief Minister discussed various issues related to the state with the Prime Minister and thanked him for including the Jammu Dam Project in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.

Along with this, he requested the approval of Rs 2,460 crore as financial assistance for capital expenditure of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project and Rs 3,000 crore as special financial assistance for upgradation of the Jolly Grant Airport in the

ED files chargesheet against Sanjay Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Enforcement Directorate Saturday filed a chargesheet against AAP MP Sanjay Singh in connection with the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case, officials said.

The prosecution complaint has been filed before a local court under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). This is a supplementary chargesheet in this case as the agency had filed about five such complaints earlier.

Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), was arrested in this case by the ED in October. The anti-money laundering agency had alleged that an accused businessman Dinesh Arora gave Rs 2 crore in cash at the Rajya Sabha MP's residence in two tranches.

Singh has rebutted the claim. The AAP MP was arrested by the ED in connection with its money laundering probe linked to the 2021-22 Delhi Excise policy case and was the second high-profile leader after Manish Sisodia, a former deputy chief minister, to be held in this case.

The AAP that rules Delhi has called the arrests and the case a "political witch-hunt". An investigation by the ED has revealed that Arora has given Rs 2 crore cash at Singh's house on two occasions -- Rs 1 crore each time -- the agency alleged in its remand application. The period when the cash was allegedly given was between August 2021 and April 2022.

DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE

ED files chargesheet against Sanjay Singh



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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Aditya mission starts studying solar winds



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 2: The Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment payload onboard India's Aditya-L1 satellite has commenced its operations and is performing normally, ISRO said Saturday.

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57) on September 2 had successfully launched the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space-based observatory to study the Sun from a halo orbit around first Sun-earth Lagrangian point (L1), which is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth.

In a statement, ISRO said Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) comprises two cutting-edge instruments 'the Solar Wind Ion Spectrometer (SWIS) and SupraThermal and Energetic Particle Spectrometer (STEPS). The STEPS instrument was operational on September 10, 2023. The SWIS instrument was activated on November 2, 2023, and

has exhibited optimal performance. "SWIS, utilising two sensor units with a remarkable 360° field of view each, operates in planes perpendicular to one another," the statement read. According to ISRO, the instrument has successfully measured solar wind ions, primarily protons and alpha particles.

A sample energy histogram acquired from one of the sensors over two days in November 2023 illustrates variations in proton and alpha particle (doubly ionized helium, He2+) counts, the agency said.

"These variations were recorded with nominal integration time, providing a comprehensive snapshot of solar wind behaviour," ISRO said. The directional capabilities of SWIS enable precise measurements of solar wind protons and alphas, contributing significantly to addressing longstanding questions about solar wind properties, underlying processes, and their impact on Earth, the space agency explained.

"The change in the proton and alpha particle number ratio, as observed by SWIS, holds the potential to provide indirect information about the arrival of Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) at the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point L1," ISRO said. Enhanced alpha-to-proton ratio is often regarded as one of the sensitive markers of the passage of interplanetary coronal mass ejections (ICMEs) at the L1 and hence considered crucial for space weather studies.



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 2: Days after the successful rescue of the 41 trapped workers from Uttarakhand's Silkyara Tunnel, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and invited him to inaugurate the Global Investment Conference in



AGENCIES

state. The Chief Minister also requested Modi to establish an All India Ayurveda Institute in the Rishikul Ayurvedic College campus, Haridwar and to include Uttarakhand in the Kiwi Feasibility Study being run in collaboration with New Zealand. He also discussed several other issues with Modi.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, GAISILET
At/PPS: Gaisilet, Dist-Bargarh (Odisha), PIN:768037
E-mail ID: ori-gaisilet@nic.in
No.3227/Dt.01.12.2023
"e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.BDO/Gaisilet/01/2023-24

No.i-510:Bid documents consisting of specification, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

- Nature of Work : Civil Works
- No. of Works : 1
- Estimated Cost : as per NIT
- Period of Completion : As per NIT
- Date and time of availability of the documents in the portal : From 04.12.2023 11.00 AM to 18.12.2023 5.00 PM
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt.18.12.2023 upto 5.00 PM
- Bid received online shall be opened on : Dt.20.12.2023 at 11 AM
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Block Development Officer, Gaisilet

Further the details can be seen from the procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Gaisilet
OIPR-19191/11/0001/2324

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS ELECTRICAL DIVISION, SAMBALPUR
No.O-1693:
E-mail - eerwlectricaldivn.sambalpur@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. EE /RWELECT/SBP/18/2023-24

- Name of the work : 1. SHIFTING OF LINE AND SUB-STATION FOR WIDENING OF ROAD FROM BURDA TO BADTIKA 6% DEPOSIT WORK UNDER RWES BOLANGIR
- Estimated Cost : 1. Rs. 17,56,078.00/-
- Availability of bid document in the website : 11.30 Hours of 04.12.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 11.12.2023
- Date of Opening of Tenders: 11.30 Hours on dt. 12.12.2023

Further details and any corrigendum/Addendum/cancellation of tender can be seen from the Website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.
Executive Engineer
R.W Electrical Division, Sambalpur
OIPR-25186/11/0010/2324

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SUNDARGARH
No.9850/Dt.30.11.2023
COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bid Reference No.SNGM-20/2023-24
Bid Identification No.

No.C-1991:On behalf of the Sundargarh Municipality, on-line e-tender Percentage Rate Bids are invited by the Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality from the intending and eligible class/category of bidders in conformity with the Detailed Tender Call Notice for execution of the works mentioned in the DTCN. The Tenderer/ Bidder should be either a manufacturer or authorized dealer or Electrical Contractor having valid HT Electrical License issued by ELBO can participate in the work.

Only the Bid Reference No. SNGM-20/2023-24/Dt.30.11.2023) should be submitted on-line in the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in by eligible class of contractors as mentioned in TCN. The affidavit to be submitted/furnished by the intending bidders should feature Name of the Work and/or its SI. No. It is, therefore, urged that all the intending bidders should go through the tender call notice and DTCN thoroughly and submit their bids accordingly. In case of any mis-match or inconsistency or contradict among different clauses/ conditions/instructions/ information mentioned in this tender call notice or in the DTCN, then necessary clarification shall be issued by Sundargarh Municipality on specific request without compromising the transparency. Clarifications required, if any, on any matter related to this tender notice, shall be furnished by Sundargarh Municipality (during office hours only) till the stipulated last date and time of submission of on-line tender.

- Total No. of works for which Tenders invited: 01 Nos.
- Place of Execution: Different locations of Sundargarh Municipality.
- Estimated Cost of Individual Work: Rs. 5,43,578.00/-
- Eligible Class of Contractors: Registered Contractors from ELBO of H.T & L.T as indicated against each work mentioned in the tender call notice.
- Intending bidders have to participate through "On-Line" bidding only. The website for online bidding is https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
- The bid documents will be available in the above website from 11 A.M on 04.12.2023 to 5 P.M on 13.12.2023 for online bidding.
- Bids received online will be opened at 11 A.M on 14.12.2023.
- The bidder must possess valid and compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
- The DTCN for 01 Nos. of works shall be available in the e-procurement portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in for on-line bidding.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Sundargarh Municipality
OIPR-13130/11/0030/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-914:
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RENGALI LEFT BANK CANAL DIVISION,
At/PO-Kamakhyanager, Dist-Dhenkanal, Odisha, Pin-759018
Ph:06769-270771,Email Id:eerlbcdivn@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No.RLBCD-P_-05/2023-24

1	Category of Work	"Civil Construction Works"
2	Total No. of Works	13 (Thirteen) Nos.
3	Estimated Cost	Varies from Rs.23.06 Lakhs to Rs.5.24 Lakhs
4	Period of Completion	60 days, 45 days and 30 days
5	Class of Contractor	"C" & "B" and "D" & "C" or equivalent grade/class
6	Cost of Bid document/ Mode of Payment	Rs.6000/- to Rs.4,000/- (Non-refundable)/ Online through Electronic Payment Mode (Internet Banking/NEFT/RTGS of Designated Banks and their Aggregator Banks)
7	EMD/ Bid Security Amount/Mode of Payment	Varies from Rs.23,060/- to Rs.5,240/-/Online through Electronic Payment Mode (Internet Banking/NEFT/RTGS of Designated Banks and their Aggregator Banks)
8	Other details:	
(i)	Procurement Officer	Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanager
(ii)	Availability of Bid documents for Online Bidding	05.12.2023 from 10.00 Hours to 19.12.2023 upto 17.00 Hours.
(iii)	Date, time & venue of Bid Opening (Online)	On 20.12.2023 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanager (through online)
(iv)	Date, Time & Venue of transparent lottery for finalization of bids, if required	On 27.12.2023 at 11.00 Hours in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanager.

* Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha website https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
R.L.B. Canal Division, Kamakhyanager
OIPR-32298/11/0009/2324

international



We have a new phase of war, and that is a fact. Winter as a whole is a new phase of war
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

NO IMMUNITY FOR TRUMP

Donald Trump has no absolute immunity from civil or criminal consequences for his attempts to stay in power following the 2020 election, two federal courts ruled Friday — a pair of decisions that set the stage for a legal battle over presidential power probably headed to the US Supreme Court



of the day quote

Israel wants a buffer zone between Gaza and Israel from the north to the south to prevent any Hamas or other militants from infiltrating or attacking Israel
OPHIR FALK | FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TO ISRAELI PM

Moldova is being readied as the next victim in the hybrid war that the West unleashed against Russia
SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

India is home to the world's largest youth population, which is very unique. So we are not just observing the future unfolding, we're actually actively shaping it
RUCHIRA KAMBOJ | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

5 US senators seek travel ban from China

Washington, Dec 2: Five Republican senators led by Marco Rubio Friday asked President Joe Biden's administration to ban travel between the United States and China after a spike in Chinese respiratory illness cases. "We should immediately restrict travel between the United States and (China) until we know more about the dangers posed by this new illness," said the letter signed by Rubio, the top Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, along with Senators JD Vance, Rick Scott, Tommy Tuberville and Mike Braun. The rise in cases became a



global issue last week when the World Health Organization asked China for more information, citing a report on clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children by the Program for

No sign of new infectious diseases: China

China's surge in respiratory illness is caused by known pathogens and there is no sign of new infectious diseases, a health official said Saturday as the country faces its first full winter since lifting strict Covid-19 restrictions. The spike in illness in the country where Covid emerged in late 2019 attracted the spotlight when the World Health Organization sought information last week, citing a report on clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children. Chinese authorities will open more paediatric outpatient clinics, seek to ensure more elderly people and children receive flu vaccines and encourage people to wear masks and wash their hands, Mi Feng, an official with China's National Health Commission, told a press conference. Doctors in China and experts abroad have not expressed alarm about China's outbreaks, given that many other countries saw similar increases in respiratory diseases after easing pandemic measures, which China did at the end of last year.

Monitoring Emerging Diseases. A Biden administration official said the United States was closely monitoring the uptick in respiratory illnesses in China, but added, "We are seeing seasonal trends. Nothing is appearing out of the ordinary... At this time, there is no indication that there is a link between the

people who are seeking care in US emergency departments and the outbreak of respiratory illness in China."

The spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, Liu Pengyu, said in response to the Rubio letter, "The relevant claims are purely ill-intentioned fabrications. China firmly opposes them."

Maria Van Kerkhove, acting director of the WHO's department of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention, said earlier this week the increase appeared to be driven by a rise in the number of children contracting pathogens that they had avoided during two years of Covid-19 restrictions.

COUNTERING CHINA

US forges high-tech pact with Oz, UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mountain View, Dec 2: From underwater drones to electronic warfare, the US is expanding its high-tech military cooperation with Australia and the United Kingdom as part of a broader effort to counter China's rapidly growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with defense chiefs from Australia and the United Kingdom at the US military's defense technology hub in Silicon Valley Friday to forge a new agreement to increase technology cooperation and information sharing.

The goal, according to a joint statement, is to be able to better address global security challenges, ensure each can defend against rapidly evolving threats and to "contribute to stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond."

Austin met with Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles and Grant Shapps, the British secretary of state for defense, at the Defense Innovation Unit headquarters.

Speaking at a news conference after the meeting, Austin said the effort will, for example, rapidly accelerate the sophistication of the drone systems, and prove that "we are stronger together."

The new technology agreement is the next step in a widening military cooperation with Australia that was first announced in 2021.

The three nations have laid out plans for the so-called AUKUS partnership to help equip Australia with a fleet of eight nuclear-powered submarines. AUKUS is an acronym for Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Under the deal, Australia will buy three Virginia-class submarines from the United States and build five of a new AUKUS-class submarine in cooperation with Britain. The subs, powered by US nuclear technology, would not carry nuclear weapons and would be built in Adelaide, Australia with the first one finished around 2040.

Putin orders army to expand troops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Dec 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin Friday ordered the country's military to increase the number of troops by nearly 170,000 to a total of 1.32 million, as Moscow's military action in Ukraine continues into its 22nd month.

Putin's decree was released by the Kremlin Friday and took force immediately. It brings the overall number of Russian military personnel to about 2,200,000, including 1,320,000 troops.

It is the second such expansion of the army since 2018. The previous boost by 137,000 troops, ordered by Putin in Aug. 2022, put the military's numbers at about 2 million personnel and about 1,150,000 troops.



The Defense Ministry said the order doesn't imply any "significant expansion of conscription," saying in a statement that the increase would happen gradually by recruiting more volunteers. The ministry cited what it called "the special military operation" in Ukraine and the expansion of NATO as the reasons for beefing up the army.

NATO's "joint armed forces are being built up near Russia's borders and additional air defense systems and strike weapons are being deployed. The potential of NATO's tactical nuclear forces is being increased," the statement read.

Boosting Russian troops is an appropriate response to "the aggressive activities of the NATO bloc," the ministry said.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR RESUMES

Dance of death in Gaza

The death count from the conflict is likely to rise sporadically as thousands are feared dead under the rubble

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khan Younis, Dec 2: The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the death toll has surpassed 15,200 and that 70 per cent of those killed were women and children.

The figure was announced Saturday by ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra, who did not provide further details. The previous toll given by the ministry was more than 13,300 dead. Al-Qidra did not explain the

Israeli offensive shifts to crowded southern Gaza, driving up death toll despite evacuation orders

sharp jump. However, the ministry had only been able to provide sporadic updates since November 11, amid problems with connectivity and major war-related disruptions in hospital operations. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants.

More than 40,000 people have been wounded, al-Qidra said.

Israel says it is targeting Hamas operatives and blames civilian casualties on the militants, accusing them of operat-



ing in residential neighbourhoods. It says 77 of its soldiers have been killed in the ground offensive in northern Gaza. It claims to have killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence. The war began after the October 7 attack by Hamas and other militants, who killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in southern Israel and took around 240 people captive.

Israel intensified a renewed offensive that followed a weeklong truce with Hamas, giving rise to renewed concerns about civilian casualties, even as the United States urged ally Israel to do everything possible to protect civilians.

SOUTH UNDER ATTACK

Many of Israel's attacks Saturday were focused on the Khan Younis area in southern Gaza, where the military said it had struck more than 50 Hamas targets with airstrikes, tank fire and its navy. The military dropped leaflets the day before warning residents to leave but, as of late Friday, there had been no reports of large numbers of people leaving, according to UN.

Israel's military said it also carried out strikes in the north, and hit more than 400 targets in all across the Gaza Strip. The renewed hostilities have also heightened concerns for 136 hostages who, according to the Israeli military, are still

The return of fighting will wipe out even the minimal relief provided by the truce and prove catastrophic for Palestinian civilians

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

held captive by Hamas and other militants after 105 were freed during the truce.

For families of remaining hostages, the truce's collapse was a blow to hopes their loved ones could be the next out after days of seeing others freed. The Israeli army said Friday it had confirmed the deaths of four more hostages, bringing the total known dead to seven.

During the truce, Israel freed 240 Palestinians from its prisons. Most of those released from both sides were women and children.

Some 2 million people — almost Gaza's entire population — are crammed into the territory's south, where Israel urged people to relocate at the war's start and has since vowed to extend its ground assault. Unable to go into north Gaza or neighbouring Egypt, their only escape is to move around within the 220-square-kilometre area.

SHORT TAKES

PTI gets new chief

Karachi: One of ousted Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan's lawyers was elected Saturday as chairman of his party, allowing it to take part in a national vote scheduled for February as the former cricketer is in jail and barred from taking part. Barrister Gohar Ali Khan had been nominated by Khan himself to be the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The Election Commission of Pakistan had directed PTI to hold the party poll for a new chairman if it wanted to participate in the election February 8 and retain its bat election symbol.

3 Khalistanis jailed

Auckland: Three Khalistan extremists have been sentenced for the attempted murder of popular Auckland-based radio host Harnek Singh, who has been vocal against the ideology of Khalistan, The Australia Today reported. Sarveet Sidhu, aged 27, pleaded guilty to attempted murder, while Sukhpreet Singh, aged 44, was found guilty of being an accessory. The third individual, a 48-year-old Auckland resident with interim name suppression, planned the attack, harbouring resentment against Harnek Singh for his vocal opposition to the separatist movement, The Australia Today reported, citing NZ Herald.

Navalny in soup

Moscow: Imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been handed new charges by Russian prosecutors. The 47-year-old is already serving more than 30 years in prison after being found guilty of crimes including extremism — charges that his supporters characterise as politically motivated. In comments passed to his associates, Navalny said he had been charged under article 214 of Russia's penal code, which covers crimes of vandalism. "I don't even know whether to describe my latest news as sad, funny or absurd," he wrote in comments on social media Friday via his team. "I have no idea what Article 214 is, and there's nowhere to look. You'll know before I do."

No Sudan mission

New York: The United Nations Security Council voted Friday to end its political mission of a few hundred people dedicated to ending the civil war in Sudan. Russia abstained from the unanimous vote to end UNITAMS, the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan. The US and UK ambassadors expressed dismay over the decision to pull out from Sudan but said the move was inevitable, given the Sudanese government's desire to end the mission's presence.



Lava erupts from Southeast crater on Mount Etna seen from Nicolosi near Catania

117 nations vow to triple RE, to push out fossil fuels

INDIA, CHINA HAVE REFRAINED FROM SIGNING THE PLEDGE TO TRIPLE WORLD'S RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY BY 2030

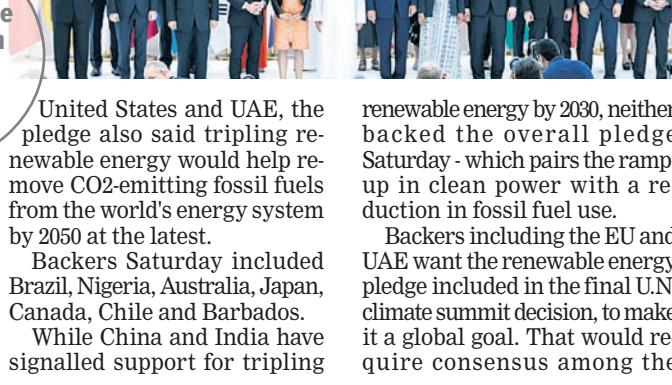
REUTERS

مضاعفة إنتاج الطاقة النووية ثلاث مرات بحلول عام 2050

الإمارات العربية المتحدة، ديسمبر 2023

TRIPLING NUCLEAR ENERGY BY 2050

United Arab Emirates, December 2023



Dubai, Dec 2: Some 117 governments pledged to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030 at the UN's COP28 climate summit Saturday, as a route to cut the share of fossil fuels in the world's energy production.

The pledge was among a slew of COP28 announcements Saturday aimed at decarbonizing the energy sector — source of around three-quarters of global greenhouse gas emissions — that included expanding nuclear power, cutting methane emissions, and chocking off private finance for coal power. Led by the European Union,

United States and UAE, the pledge also said tripling renewable energy would help remove CO2-emitting fossil fuels from the world's energy system by 2050 at the latest. Backers Saturday included Brazil, Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Canada, Chile and Barbados. While China and India have signalled support for tripling

renewable energy by 2030, neither backed the overall pledge Saturday — which pairs the ramp-up in clean power with a reduction in fossil fuel use. Backers including the EU and UAE want the renewable energy pledge included in the final U.N. climate summit decision, to make it a global goal. That would require consensus among the

nearly 200 countries present. The pledge, a draft of which was first reported by Reuters last month, also called for "the phase down of unabated coal power" and an end to the financing of new coal-fired power plants. It also included a target to double the global rate of energy efficiency by 2030.

"It is only half the solution. The pledge can't greenwash countries that are simultaneously expanding fossil fuel production," said Tina Stege, Climate Envoy for the Marshall Islands. While deployment of renewables like solar and wind has been surging globally for years, rising costs, labour constraints and supply chain issues have forced project delays and cancellations in recent months, costing developers like Orsted and BP billions of dollars in writedowns.

Interference with sat will be declaration of war: NK

North Korea gives stern warning that it would destroy US spy satellites if it tries any attack

REUTERS

Seoul, Dec 2: North Korea said Saturday it would consider any interference with its satellite operations a declaration of war and would mobilise its war deterrence if any attack against its strategic assets were imminent. Pyongyang would respond to any US interference in space by eliminating the viability of US spy satellites, state media KCNA reported, citing a statement from North Korea's defence ministry spokesperson.

"In case the US tries to violate the legitimate territory of a sovereign state by weaponizing the latest technologies illegally and unjustly, the DPRK will consider taking responsive action measures for self-defence to undermine or destroy the viability of the US spy satellites," the statement said.

DPRK are the initials of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea says it successfully launched its first military

SOUTH JOINS SPY SATELLITE RACE

South Korea launched its first military spy satellite into space Friday, a little over a week after North Korea claimed to put its own spy satellite into orbit for the first time as tensions rise between the rivals. Launched from California's Vandenberg Space Force Base using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, it was the first of five spy satellites South Korea plans to send into space by 2025 under a contract with SpaceX. South Korea had no military reconnaissance satellites of its own in space and has partially resorted to the United States' spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea.

spy satellite November 21, transmitting photos of military installations in the US mainland, Japan and the US territory of Guam.

A US Space Command spokesman, asked if Washington had the capability to interrupt the North Korean satellite's reconnaissance operations, said the US could deny an adversary's space capabilities using a variety of means, according to US broadcaster RFA.



business

of the day quote

Current year, with two conflicts going on around the world, recession setting in the developed economies, we may see that the growth may slow down, but nevertheless, we are confident of growth in the export numbers even in the current year

PIYUSH GOYAL
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

In terms of domestic traffic, we have reached number 3. But in terms of international (traffic), we are ranked at 18. In spite of being the third-largest domestic market, the penetration of (international) air travel remains lowest among the top 20 domestic markets

KAPI KAUL | CHIEF, CAPA

India, being the diabetes capital of the world, has the highest number of prevalent kidney disease patients. To fund the expansion project, Nephrocure India plans to invest Rs 70 crore in ramping up the initial 22 centres by March 2026

PRATIM SENGUPTA
FOUNDER, NEPHROCURE INDIA

SHORT TAKES

1.2L new firms

New Delhi: More than 1.2 lakh new companies were incorporated in the country in the first nine months of the current financial year, higher than the registrations during the year-ago period, according to the latest official data. According to data from the corporate affairs ministry, which is implementing the companies law, 37,482 Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) were incorporated during April-November in 2023-24. "1,22,317 Companies got incorporated from 1st Apr to 30th Nov 23 as against 1,15,233 incorporations last year for the same period. 37,482 LLP got incorporated from 1st Apr to 30th Nov 23 as against 23,531 Incorporations last year for the same period. @FinMinIndia," the ministry said in a post on social media platform X.

Airtel block deal

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel promoter firm Bharti Telecom Friday bought an additional 1.35 per cent stake in the country's second-largest telecom services provider for Rs 8,301 crore through an open market transaction. Bharti Telecom, which is co-owned by Sunil Bharti Mittal family and Singapore-based Singtel, had a 38.35 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel as of September 30. With this transaction, Bharti Telecom's direct stake in Bharti Airtel will reach 39.7 per cent from the 38.35 per cent stake it held before the current transaction.



We will be growing at somewhat close to 7 per cent for the year, and that would easily make us the world's fastest-growing

SANJEEV SANJAL | MEMBER OF ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PM

INDIA INC'S CREDIT METRICS TO IMPROVE

India Inc's credit metrics are likely to show slight sequential improvement in the third quarter of the current fiscal, with interest coverage increasing to 4.5-5 times, rating agency Icria said Friday. This would benefit from improved earnings of corporate India on the back of continuing, albeit moderating, tailwinds from commodity prices and seasonally strong demand during the recently concluded festive season, it said



Nomura ups growth hope

The Japanese brokerage raises India's GDP estimate to 6.7%, expects sharp moderation to 5.6% in FY25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 2: Japanese brokerage Nomura Friday sharply revised its FY24 real GDP growth estimate for India to 6.7 per cent from 5.9 per cent, a day after official data for the second quarter expansion surprised on the upside.

Economists at the brokerage, however, maintained that they still expect a slowdown in growth to 5.6 per cent in FY25.

In a note, the economists cited a likely slowdown in public capex ahead of the election, continued sluggishness in rural demand and private capex, waning terms of trade tailwind, and a likely global growth slowdown for its call on the sharp moderation in FY25.



They said the September quarter growth at 7.6 per cent was led by a stronger pickup in fixed investment and government consumption (on the demand side) and stronger manufacturing and construction output growth (on the supply side).

"Overall, the government appears to be in the driver's seat - both for consumption and investment - while private consumption and private capex remain weak," the note said.

Lower commodity prices have also boosted firm profits, implying a major growth tailwind due to terms of trade, it said.

The Reserve Bank is likely to upwardly raise its FY24 GDP growth estimate to up to 6.7 per cent from the present 6.5 per cent, the brokerage said.

OTT firms set to oppose broadcasting bill

STREAMING GIANTS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE CONTENT COMMITTEES, MADE UNDER BROADCAST BILL, WILL LEAD TO EXCESSIVE PRE-SCREENING CHECKS

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 2: Netflix, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Viacom18 and other streaming companies plan to collectively lobby the Indian government to delay or revamp a broadcast bill they fear will be onerous for the sector, sources familiar with the matter said.

India last month introduced the new draft law to regulate the broadcasting sector that will also apply to streaming giants. It proposes the formation of individual content evaluation committees with members from various social groups who will review and sign off on shows before they are released.

Though all films in Indian cinemas are reviewed and certified by a government-appointed board, streamed content is not.



In a closed-door meeting this week, top executives of several streaming companies including Netflix and Viacom18 which runs the JioCinema platform, discussed a plan to approach the government to delay and consider overhauling the bill, said the sources, who declined to be named as the talks were private.

The bill is open for public consultation until December 10. Netflix and others raised con-

cern the content committees would lead to excessive pre-screening checks, raising implementation problems as a high number of content that goes online will need to be reviewed first, said one of the sources.

The first source said streaming executives during this week's meeting flagged risks the law could impact the industry's growth.

Platforms like Netflix, Amazon, Disney and JioCinema have become hugely popular in India, which is set to grow into a \$7 billion market for the sector by 2027, according to Media Partners Asia.

India's government says the new law and formation of content committees will help in "robust self-regulation". The government can define the committee's size and quorum and only "duly certified" shows shall be broadcast, the bill says. "There are worries about extensive government oversight on streaming platforms," a second source said.

Top Bollywood stars feature in Indian streaming shows, some of which have faced criticism from lawmakers and the public for scenes deemed vulgar or offensive.

CONSTRUCTION BOOM

Housing space levels up

The housing sector demand has pushed the country's economic growth to 7.6%, making it one of the world's fastest-growing major economies

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 2: If India needed any more proof that it was in the midst of a huge housing boom, it got in this week's GDP data, heightening expectations that the industry will continue to power the economy for years to come.

The construction sector grew 13.3% in July-September from a year earlier, up from 7.9% in the previous quarter and its best performance in five quarters, the data released Thursday showed.

That helped India expand at a forecast-beating 7.6%, making it one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. In contrast, Western economies have been squeezed by high interest rates and energy prices, while China has been hobbled by a debt crisis in its property sector.

The long-awaited boom - which has created millions of jobs - comes after about six years of debt and pandemic-induced downturn before the construction sector began improving last year and hitting its stride this year. It has been driven by rising incomes for many Indians, a severe housing shortage in big cities and strong population growth.

The world's most populous nation had an urban housing shortage of around 19 million units last year - and that is expected to double by 2030, according to government estimates. Builders are bullish long-term with many saying the boom could last two to three years and some even more optimistic.

"The housing market could continue to perform well for another three to four years," Sanjeev Jain, managing director at Parsvnath Developers, a leading real estate company, noting that India is in the initial stages



The robust growth in construction has significantly contributed to the economic growth - and is likely to play the same role in next couple of quarters

SUNIL SINHA | ECONOMIST, INDIA RATINGS AND RESEARCH

of a housing growth cycle.

Home sales in India's seven largest cities, including Mumbai, New Delhi and Bangalore, rocketed 36% in the July-September quarter from a year earlier to more than 112,000 units, despite an 8%-18% increase in prices, according to real estate consultancy Anarock.

There was also a 24% increase in new residential projects being launched, data from the consultancy showed.

"The home sales are driven by first-time buyers, and nearly 80% of the houses have been bought by end users," said Prashant Thakur, head of research at Anarock, adding that there was also strong demand from existing home owners to move to more spacious apartments.

Underpinning demand has been salary hikes for workers in big cities. Average hikes for sectors such as e-commerce, healthcare, retail and logistics have remained above 10% for a

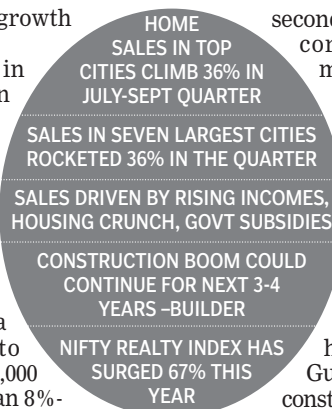
second straight year, according to EY estimates.

Housing demand has also picked up significantly in smaller cities in the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat, according to construction companies who say demand has been spurred by increases in incomes and the migration of workers from rural areas.

The government is also trying to boost the availability of affordable housing by providing subsidies, which is encouraging construction in India's smaller towns and cities.

Shares in property companies have naturally surged. The Nifty realty index is up some 67% for the year to date compared with a 12% gain for the blue-chip Nifty 50 index.

Notable gainers include Prestige Estates Projects which has jumped some 120%, DLF which has climbed 67% and Godrej Properties which is up 52%.



Govt bans 'dark patterns' on e-commerce platforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: In order to protect consumers' interest, the government has banned use of "dark patterns" on e-commerce platforms which intend to deceive customers or manipulate their choices.

A gazette notification in this regard as "Guidelines for prevention and regulation of dark patterns" was issued November 30 by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) which is applicable to all platforms offering goods and services in India, and even advertisers and sellers.

Resorting to dark patterns will amount to misleading advertisement or unfair trade practice or violation of consumer rights. The penalty will be imposed as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, it added.

The notified guidelines will ensure clarity in the minds of all stakeholders - buyers, sellers, marketplaces and regulators - as to what is not acceptable as unfair trading practices, the latter being liable under the Consumer Protection Act, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told PTI.

According to the notification, dark patterns have been defined as any practice or deceptive design pattern using user interface or user experience interactions on any platform that is designed to mislead or trick users to do something they originally did not intend or want to do, by subverting or impairing the consumer autonomy, decision making or choice.

For instance, "basket sneaking" is a dark pattern that includes additional items such as products, services, payments to charity or donation at the time of checkout from a platform, without the consent of the user, such that the total amount



In the emerging digital commerce, dark patterns are increasingly being used by the platforms to mislead the consumers by manipulating their buying choices and behavior

ROHIT KUMAR SINGH
CONSUMER AFFAIRS SECRETARY

payable by the user is more than the amount payable for the product or service chosen by the user.

Another dark pattern called "forced action" means forcing a user into taking an action that would require the user to buy any additional goods or subscribe or sign up for an unrelated service or share personal information in order to buy or subscribe to the product or service originally intended by the user.

Likewise, CCPA has specified 13 dark patterns to provide only as a guidance for the industry. Initially, CCPA had identified 10 dark patterns but after the public consultation another three were included.

Gold prices soar to lifetime high

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Dec 2: Gold prices rose to a lifetime high in India amid the peak wedding season and rising international rates of the precious metal.

Chennai led the charge with the price soaring to Rs 64,530 per 10 gm for 24 carat gold in morning trade.

The price of the precious metal in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Kolkata was hovering at Rs 63,760 per 10 gm, which was Rs 810 higher than the previous day.

Gold prices in the international market have also shot up to a seven-month high as spot prices gained 1.6 per cent to \$2,069.10 per ounce Friday.

India imports a large quantity of gold and rising global prices have a direct impact on the domestic market.

Gold prices have been rising in the global market as the dollar has continued to depreciate against a basket of major currencies and is currently close to a three-month low which makes gold cheaper to buy in other foreign currencies.

There are also growing expectations that the Federal Reserve is likely to cut rates in the coming months.

Expectations of low interest rates makes financial instruments less attractive for investors compared to gold which is considered a safe investment.

The demand for gold in the domestic market remains firm amid the marriage season as the precious metal is gifted to brides and grooms in large quantities.

Oct-Nov sugar output dips 11%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: India's sugar production was down by 10.65 per cent at 4.32 million tonne during October-November, the first two months of the ongoing 2023-24 season, cooperative body NFCSFL said Friday.

Sugar season runs from October to September. The production stood at 4.83 million tonne in the year-ago period.

India is one of the largest sugar producing countries in the world.

According to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSFL), the country's overall sugar production was down on account of lesser output in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Sugar production in Maharashtra, the country's second largest producer of the sweetener, was lower at 1.35 million tonne in October-November of this season as against 2.02 million tonne in the year-ago period.

Sugar recovery was 8.45 per cent in the first two months of the current season. As per the NFCSFL data, sugar output was lower as the total quantity of sugarcane crushed in October-November was less.

More capital but weak revenue rise to keep states' debt up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 2: States' debt will remain elevated at 31-32 per cent of their gross domestic product amid higher capital outlays and moderate revenue growth this fiscal, with overall borrowings likely to rise by 9 per cent to over Rs 87 lakh crore, a report said.

Indebtedness of a state is measured as the ratio of its debt to gross state domestic product (GSDP). Before Covid, the debt-GSDP ratio was at 28-29. But the aggregate gross fiscal deficit (GFD) as a ratio of GSDP is expected to remain at 2.5, well below the mandated level of 3 under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, according to a Crisil Ratings report.

With lower-than-expected revenue growth, states are forced to

STATES' DEBT TO REMAIN AT 31-32% OF THEIR GDP

OVERALL BORROWINGS MAY RISE BY 9% TO OVER ₹87L-CR

The report is based on the numbers available from the top 18 states accounting for 90% of the aggregate GSDP



Revenue deficit will inch up to 0.5% of GSDP this fiscal from 0.3% last fiscal. This coupled with the 18-20% on-year increase in capital outlays or 2.3% of GSDP on key infra segments such as water supply and sanitation, urban development, roads and irrigation, will necessitate higher borrowings this fiscal too

ANUJ SETHI | SENIOR DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

borrow more to expand capital outlays, besides meeting high committed revenue expenditure related to salaries, pensions and interest costs. This, along with modest single-digit revenue growth, will keep the debt level high at 31-32 per cent of their

gross domestic output.

The report is based on the numbers available from the top 18 states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha,

Punjab, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand and Goa), accounting for 90 per cent of the aggregate GSDP.

After a small revenue surplus in fiscal 2022, the states have slipped into deficit in fiscal 2023, as overall revenue grew at a

modest 8 per cent while revenue expenditure rose faster at 11 per cent on-year.

This fiscal, overall revenue is expected to rise only 6-8 per cent, supported by goods and services tax collections, devolutions from the Centre, and taxes and duties on liquor.

On the other hand, revenue expenditure is set to increase 8-10 per cent, driven by higher committed expenditure, and increasing social welfare and public health related expenses which combined come in around 65 per cent of the total revenue expenditure of the states.

However, the 50-year interest-free loans worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore from the Centre to the states will help meet part of the capital outlay and catalyse investments. This loan is not included in the borrowing limit of 3 per cent of GSDP for states

this fiscal.

According to Aditya Jhaver, a director with the agency, overall balance sheet borrowings of the states and off-budget debt funding like guarantees to the power sector and irrigation entities, are likely to go up by Rs 7.5 lakh crore this fiscal and cross Rs 87 lakh crore, keeping states' indebtedness high at 31-32 per cent, similar to fiscal 2023.

Already, borrowings through state development loans, which comprise 65 per cent of their overall borrowings, rose 28 per cent on-year between April and November 2023.

Any slowdown in economic activity can hurt GSDP growth and pose downside risks. On the other hand, better-than-expected tax buoyancy or support from the Centre in the form of higher grants may provide further liquidity buffer to states.

INDIA AIM TO TICK BOXES

INDIA EYE NEXT-LEVEL T20I PERFORMANCE FROM SHREYAS, CHAHAR, WHILE SUNDAR MAY GET A LOOK-IN WHEN THEY FACE AUSTRALIA IN THE SERIES FINALE

MATCHDAY
India vs Australia
5th T20 International
Time: 7 pm
Telecast: Sports 18 Network
Stream: Jio Cinema

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 2: The ever-milling modern-day sport does not allow extended celebrations and India, in the immediate aftermath of their T20I series triumph, will have to hit game-mode and treat the fifth match against Australia here Sunday as a workshop to fit two key pieces in their grooves ahead of an exacting assignment.

Shreyas Iyer and Deepak Chahar will have significant roles to play in the T20Is against South Africa, beginning December 10. In that context, the Indian think-tank will be eager to see them firing in their last competitive outing before facing the Proteas at Durban.

Iyer might have been in grand touch during the recent 50-over World Cup, but the Raipur T20I Friday was the Mumbai's first international match in the shortest format in over a year after playing against New Zealand at Napier last November.

The rust was visible while making a 7-ball eight without a single boundary. So, Iyer will be looking to rack in some runs and he will be longing for an outing at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, where he cracked a hundred against Netherlands not so long ago in the one-day showpiece.

In fact, Chahar, who is regaining his range after a long injury lay-off, too finds himself in a similar scenario as Iyer. The fourth T20I against the Aussies was his first outing for India in this version after the match against South Africa at Indore in October last year.

The 31-year-old pacer, who charted his comeback through domestic events like the Rajasthan Premier League in September, did make an impression taking the wickets of Tim David and Matthew Short but gave away 44 runs in his quota of four overs.

The nature of the Chinnaswamy deck might not be precisely of his liking, but

Chahar has several variations up his sleeve to counter the docility of the track here.

A power outing here against Australia can leave him in a good frame of mind, and he also does not have to worry about the outcome of the series as Suryakumar Yadav's side already has it in its pocket through a 3-1 lead.

The management might also want to have a look at off-spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar ahead of the SA sojourn. Sundar has been quite unfortunate to have countered injuries at several crucial junctures in his career.

But the 24-year-old Tamil Nadu player has managed a return to India colours during the T20I against New Zealand at Ahmedabad February 1 earlier this year, though he did not bat or bowl in that match.

Since then, Sundar played five more T20Is — two against Ireland at Malahide and three matches at the Hangzhou Asian Games — underlining his improved fitness levels.

While that can be termed as satisfactory, Sundar picked up only two wickets from those matches and all of them came against Bangladesh in the Asiad semifinals.

Hence, the management will be keen to give Sundar a go against the Australians and he might be accommodated in place of left-arm spinner Axar Patel, who was not included in India's T20I squad to face South Africa. The confidence that he can eke out from a good effort against Australia does not have any real replacement.

Other than that, India have ticked several boxes over the course of the last four matches. Suryakumar, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rinku Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ishan Kishan, who may come back in place of Jitesh Sharma, were among runs, while leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi has taken seven wickets to top the bowling chart and they would like to keep the momentum going.

Axar opens up on state of mind after missing WC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Before the T20 World Cup, I don't think India has a lot of T20 games scheduled, maybe 9-10 matches. So, we have to plan from now and prepare as there is the WC in June and then there is IPL in between, so the planning is going on

AXAR PATEL

Raipur, Dec 2: India spinner Axar Patel has admitted that he was upset after missing out on the ODI World Cup at home due to an injury and it took him about a week to get over the disappointment and focus on recovery.

The 29-year-old was part of the Indian team in the run-up to the World Cup but a left quadriceps injury during the Asia Cup forced him out, with Ravichandran Ashwin replacing him in the 15-member squad.

"Obviously, you are bound to be (disappointed). The World Cup was in India, but that injury happened. For the first few days, I was thinking about it, not being able to play due to injury," Axar told reporters during the post-match press conference.

"But, the team was doing well, so after 5-10 days, I was back to training and was doing my rehab. But, yes, when you are out due to injury and those 5-10 days you are not able to do anything, you do feel a bit bad. After that, I returned to routine life. I was upset, but it happened due to an injury; it's not in anyone's hands. It's part and parcel of the game."

Axar made an impressive return to international cricket, claiming five wickets in the series so far with his three-wicket

haul setting up the 20-run win for India in the fourth T20I here Friday night.

"If you are away from international cricket for some time due to injury and then come back, you try to prove yourself and you also have to look after your body, so I also took one match (at a time)," he said.

"When you come from injury you try to keep that part of the body safe. You are not able to give your full effort. It stays in the back of my mind. It doesn't happen in that way because the trainer already tells you that nothing will happen but while sprinting, you feel what if something happens again to the quadriceps.

"But the first couple of matches, I was back to routine. Now I don't feel anything like that and the work that I put in the last one-and-a-half months, I am reaping the reward now, so I am happy overall."

AFI set to be India's first paperless NSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, Dec 2: Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is set to become the country's first National Sports Federation (NSF) to go paperless in its dealings with its state units. Each state unit president or secretary was handed a laptop by the AFI on the first day of its Annual General Body meeting here Monday.

"This time we printed the booklets and the necessary papers for the AGM and distributed to you all. But in the next AGM we will do everything electronically, we will not use any paper," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told the member units Saturday.

"All official work will be done electronically. But please use the laptops for official purposes only. Nobody other than secretary or president himself can use it," he added.

The AFI has also decided to stop holding opening and closing ceremonies in national events. "We should spend the money spent on opening and closing ceremonies in giving more facilities for the athletes during the competition," AFI Planning Commission Chairman Lalit Bhanot said.

"These ceremonies are also unnecessary distractions to the athletes," Sumariwalla also informed that the AFI now has nearly one lakh athletes with Unique Identification numbers.



ADILLE SUMARIWALLA

CR7 walks off to 'Messi, Messi' chants

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Dec 2: Cristiano Ronaldo walked off the field with the gleeful chants of "Messi, Messi, Messi!" ringing in his ears from delighted Al-Hilal fans who had just watched their Saudi Pro League team beat the Portugal superstar's Al-Nassr 3-0 in the Riyadh Derby Friday.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner may have finished on the losing team — Aleksandar Mitrovic scored twice after fellow Serbian Sergej Milinkovic-Savic opened Al-Hilal — but Ronaldo still remains the focus of attention in Saudi Arabian football despite the taunts of opposition fans referencing his great rival of nearly two decades.

As thousands of cars headed east out of downtown Riyadh to watch the top two league teams and bitter local rivals face off at the King Fahd International Stadium — the last to be played at the arena for three years as it is to be renovated to host games at the 2027 Asian Cup and anticipated 2034 World Cup — one Al-Nassr fan leaned out and shouted: "Are you here to see Cristiano?"

When Ronaldo warmed up, there were cheers from the several thousand away fans, many of whom had No.7 on their backs,



and jeers from the masses of home supporters. But even in those hostile sections, parents pointed out the 38-year-old football great to sons and daughters.

Saudi football has not been the same since the former Real Madrid and Manchester United forward completed a move last December. Even fans of Al-Hilal, the most successful club in Saudi Arabia and Asia, with 18 and

four championships respectively, acknowledge what he has done at Al-Nassr which has nine domestic titles.

Ronaldo tried everything Friday. In the second half with Al-Nassr trailing by a solitary goal, he shot a fierce volley high into the net but it was marginally ruled out for offside. Soon after he rolled around the floor of the Al-Hilal penalty area claiming that he had been el-

Ronaldo's day was further soured with news from the US that he has been hit with class-action lawsuit seeking at least USD 1 billion in damages for his role in promoting cryptocurrency-related "non-fungible tokens," or NFTs, issued by the beleaguered cryptocurrency exchange 'Binance'

bowed. When Mitrovic scored his first and Al-Hilal's second late in the game, Ronaldo insisted that he had been fouled in the buildup. Al-Hilal have their own superstar but a less influential one right now in Neymar, who suffered a serious injury while on international duty with Brazil in October.

On social media, Neymar posted good luck messages to his teammates, such as Mitrovic, midfielder Ruben Neves and defender Kalidou Koulibaly who all arrived in the summer as highly rated Premier League players.

The derby defeat Friday left Al-Nassr seven points behind leader Al-Hilal after 15 rounds. Ronaldo may have his work cut out to help his team win title No.10 but, given his form so far this season, he may still have the last laugh with the Messi chants fading away.

India eves lose to Belgium in Junior Hockey World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Santiago (Chile), Dec 2: Annu's brace went in vain as India lost 2-3 to Belgium in a closely-contested Pool C match to slump to their second consecutive defeat in the FIH Junior World Cup here Saturday.

Annu (47th, 51st minutes) struck twice in a span of four minutes from a penalty corner and a penalty stroke to draw level after Belgium raced to a 2-0 lead through goals from Noa Schreurs (5th) and France de Mot (42nd).

But it was not to be India's day as Astrid Bonami scored the winner from a penalty stroke in the 52nd minute. It was another heartbreaking loss for the Indians after they squandered a two-goal advantage to go down 3-4 to last edition's runners-up Germany Thursday night.

The Indians, however, started their campaign on a resounding note, registering a 12-0 win over Canada. India are currently placed second in Pool C with three points from three games. Belgium are atop the pool with an all-win record from three matches. Germany were scheduled to play Canada in the last match of the pool later in the day

WPL auction: 165 players to go under hammer Dec 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 2: As many as 165 players will go under the hammer during the player auction for the second edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) scheduled to be held here December 9. The second edition of the WPL could take place in February-March next year.

"Out of 165 players, 104 are Indians and 61 are overseas cricketers of which 15 are from associate nations. The total capped players are 56, uncapped players are 109," BCCI said in a release Saturday. "A maximum of 30 slots are available with the five teams, with 9 spots for overseas players."

West Indian all-rounder Deandra Dottin, who was initially bought for ₹60 lakh by



Gujarat Giants before being controversially excluded on medical grounds, and Australian fast bowler Kim Garth chose to be in the top bracket with the highest reserve price of ₹50 lakh.

Interestingly, it was the 27-year-old Garth who had replaced Dottin in the Gujarat Giants squad, who later released the

Aussie in the off season. Aussie all-rounders Annabel Sutherland and Georgia Wareham, English wicket-keeper Amy Jones and veteran South African pacer Shabnim Ismail are the only four players to be slotted with a base price of ₹40 lakh.

The five franchises — Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SALARY CAPS REMAINING

Gujarat Giants have ₹5.95 crore, to fill in 10 slots

Delhi Capitals will enter the auction with a purse of ₹2.25 crore to fill up to 3 vacancies

Mumbai Indians have ₹2.1 crore in their kitty to fill 5 slots

Royal Challengers Bangalore will look to pick 7 players with a purse of ₹3.35 crore

UP Warriorz will have ₹4 crore to fill 5 spots

Gujarat Giants, UP Warriorz and Royal Challengers Bangalore — have 30 slots available with nine reserved for overseas players. A total of 60 players, including 21 foreigners, were retained by the five teams.

Vaishali becomes GM, joins Praggu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Dec 2: Indian chess ace R Vaishali joined younger sibling R Pragganandhaa to become the world's first-ever brother-sister Grandmasters duo and only the third woman from the country to earn the GM title, at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain. Vaishali achieved the feat after crossing 2500 ELO rating points Friday. She is the country's 84th GM.

The 22-year-old Chennai-based Vaishali crossed the 2500 mark at the tournament in Spain where she defeated Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes in the second round. She obtained her third GM norm at the Qatar Masters tournament in October and needed to increase her ELO rating.

They also became the first-

WORLD'S 1ST BROTHER-SISTER GRANDMASTERS DUO



ever brother-sister duo to make the Candidates, the qualifying event for the World Championship match. The Candidates will be held in Toronto in April.

Her younger brother Pragganandhaa had got the GM title in 2018, when he was just

12. Koneru Humpy and D Harika are the two other women GMs from India. Humpy was the world's youngest female player ever, when she became a GM in 2002, at the age of 15. Chess legend Viswanathan Anand congratulated Vaishali on social networking platform 'X'.