

**Missing moments**  
Actor Janhvi Kapoor regrets deliberately maintaining distance from her mom when she was alive

LEISURE | P2

**Hungary blocks Ukraine aid**  
Hungary blocks €50bn in EU aid for Ukraine - just hours after an agreement was reached on starting membership talks

INTERNATIONAL | P10



**Sensex scales 71K**  
Amid a bull run, benchmark equity indices surged more than 1 per cent to hit their new all-time highs

BUSINESS | P11

**High-fives for Deepthi**  
Deepthi Sharma takes five wickets to put India on the threshold of a Test win against England

SPORTS | P12

## State extends food security scheme till '28

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** The Odisha government Friday announced that the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) will be extended by five more years till December 31, 2028.

The proposal in this regard was approved by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The beneficiaries of the SFSS were entitled to get 5 kg of rice free of cost and its tenure was till December 31, 2023.

An official statement issued by the CMO said that the state government will spend ₹1,250 crore from its own resources in five years at the rate of ₹250 crore per year. A total of 9,97,055 people from 3,14,923 families in the state are covered under the SFSS. They are getting 5 kg of rice per month for free.

"By extending the duration of the scheme for another 5 years, these beneficiaries will get this benefit from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028," the release said. It said that the CM has given strict instructions to ensure that no poor person is deprived of food security.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Security tightened, sir. No one intending to question the govt can enter the building

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	71483.75 ↑ 969.55
NIFTY	21456.70 ↑ 274.00
DOLLAR	83.03 ↓ ₹0.32
EURO	91.03 ↓ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹62,307 ↓ ₹147
SILVER	₹74,494 ↓ ₹582

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	26.9°C	26.0°C
Min Temp	15.3°C	14.5°C
Humidity	74%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

## FORECAST

Dry weather very likely

## DECISION TO HONOUR FORMER CAPTAIN'S RICH CONTRIBUTION TO CRICKET

# Dhoni's iconic No.7 jersey 'retires'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 15:** The BCCI has decided to 'retire' World Cup winning captain MS Dhoni's No.7 jersey to honour his rich contribution to Indian cricket.

The iconic India captain last played for the country in the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand. He announced his retirement August 15, 2020 and no other player has worn the No.7 shirt since then.

Even the great Sachin Tendulkar's No.10 has not been worn by any other player since his retirement in 2013 except pacer Shardul Tahkur, who had opted for No.10 on his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in 2017 but was trolled heavily on social media.

No one since then has played with a jersey with number 10 written on the back.

According to BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla, the Board took the decision Thursday.

"He is a legendary player. His contribution to Indian as well as world cricket is immense. To honour his contribution, the deci-

sion to retire number seven has been taken by the BCCI," Shukla told PTI.

Retiring jerseys of the greats is a phenomenon in another sports too. The Chicago Bulls retired the No. 23 jersey worn by basketball legend Michael Jordan following his retirement.

India wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik, whose international career coincided with Dhoni's, was among the first to demand for No.7 jersey to be retired after the WC winning captain's retirement in 2020. Both Karthik and Dhoni happened to play in that ill-fated World Cup semifinal against New Zealand. "Hope the BCCI retires the No.7 jersey in white ball cricket," Karthik had posted back then.

## SPOILT FOR CHOICE



Visitors check items at the 18th Toshali National Crafts Mela at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Friday. PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

## SHORT TAKES

### Two brick kiln workers die

**Dhenkanal:** Two labourers died due to suspected asphyxiation at a brick kiln in Dhenkanal district, police said Friday. The incident took place at Manapur Thursday night. The deceased belong to Pallahara of Angul district, police said. The labourers had left a diesel generator running inside the room where they were sleeping, Dhenkanal SP Gyana Ranjan Mohapatra said. "We have recovered two bodies this morning, while another person who was critically injured, has been admitted to hospital," he said.

### Plus II exams from Feb 16

**Bhubaneswar:** The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will conduct the annual Plus II final year examinations from February 16 to March 20. While the exams for Science stream will start February 16, those for Arts and Commerce streams will commence February 17, said CHSE sources. Notably, the council has released the examinations schedule for Arts, Science and Commerce streams including distance education (DE), correspondence course and vocation steams.

## NAVEEN SETS TONE FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS

# Counter misinformation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** Setting the tone for the 2024 general elections, ruling BJD president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday called upon the party rank and file to effectively counter the misinformation campaign by Opposition political parties as they do not have any issue to target the state government.

Patnaik said this while presiding over the BJD's 80-member state executive meeting at 'Sankha Bhavan', the regional party's state headquarters here. The meeting was held after a gap of three years.

"The transformation of Odisha has come as a big shock for Opposition parties and they do not have any issue to raise against the state government," Patnaik said.

He said, "They therefore take shelter of lies and launch misinformation campaign against the BJD government. We have to effectively counter them from the grassroots level."

Patnaik, who has been the



president of the party since its inception, also asked party leaders and workers to counter the Opposition parties' 'misinformation' campaign through social media. This apart, he urged the party members to take the message of development to each household.

He said people know that a thousand lies do not make a truth. "Truth will prevail, development will win and we will create a new Odisha and an empowered Odisha," the state's five-time CM said in his address to party men and women.

"Many people say BJD is a successful regional party. But for me, BJD is most successful

## Will not contest polls: Pandian

**Bhubaneswar:** Putting all speculations to rest, 5T Chairman VK Pandian said Friday that he will not contest the Lok Sabha or state Assembly elections in 2024. The former bureaucrat said that he would not contest from any constituency, but stand behind Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in all the 147 Assembly segments in Odisha. "I have no ambition for any post. I will also not contest from any constituency," he said in a statement issued by the BJD. Pandian said he has been blessed with two things - one is to serve Lord Jagannath and another has been working under CM Naveen Patnaik. "I am completely dedicated to the Chief Minister and also dedicate my future to Lord Jagannath and Patnaik," he added.

socio-economic movement in the country," Patnaik said.

A total of 32 proposals including one to defer the party's organisational election for a year were passed in the state executive meeting.

The meeting resolved that the party would continue to work towards fulfillment of Odisha's genuine demand for getting the Special Category State Status or the Special Focus State.

## PLOT TO KILL KHALISTANI LEADER

# Move Czech court: SC to Nikhil Gupta's kin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Dec 15:** The Supreme Court Friday asked the family of Nikhil Gupta - the Indian national accused by US federal prosecutors of plotting to assassinate Khalistani leader Gurbhagat Singh Pannun - to approach the court in Czech Republic where Gupta is presently detained.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti was considering a writ petition filed by a family member seeking urgent intervention of the top court against Gupta's "illegal arrest and ongoing extradition proceedings."

The bench remarked that the matter is "extremely sensitive" and the petitioner should first approach the court which is outside India.

"If there is violation of any law, you have to go to court over there," it said, adding that the top court will take up the plea for hearing January 4 next year.

In the meantime, it asked the petitioner to serve a copy of the petition to the central agency.

An indictment was brought in US District Court against Gupta of "planning and directing" a plot from India to allegedly kill Sikh separatist leader Pannun - a dual citizen of the US and Canada - in New York.

The petition filed before the Supreme Court stated that the influence of the US on the Czech authorities poses a rea-



sonable apprehension about Gupta's safety in Czech prison.

It said that the extradition proceedings initiated in Prague have been marred by procedural failures, highlighting the absence of an arrest warrant, lack of fair representation, and denial of basic rights, rendering the trial anything but fair.

The plea alleged that Gupta - who was detained at Prague Airport June 30 this year - was subjected to forced consumption of beef and pork during his detention in Czech custody and was denied consular access, the right to contact his family in India, and the freedom to seek legal representation.

"The petitioner seeks the appointment of legal counsel in both countries - Czech Republic and the US. He specifically requests the court to appoint an Indian advocate to represent him, underscoring the language barrier and the lack of adequate representation during the extradition trial in Prague," it added.

**PATANJALI®** **Divya®**

**Both Asthma and Arthritis rise rapidly in winter. Patanjali & Divya's research and evidence-based medicines are a complete solution to it.**

**Swasari Gold and Bronchom** - Using these medicines and yoga, we have treated patients with 90% infected lungs due to Corona or any other cause. Take 1 tablet of Swasari Gold daily on an empty stomach. Licking Swasari Gold powder with honey has special benefits. Sucking Bronchom after meals multiplies its benefits. Taking both these medicines with Swasari Kwath is immensely beneficial.

**Swasari Pravahi** - Very effective medicine for cough, cold, asthma, lung, bacterial and viral infections.

**RESEARCH & EVIDENCE based ayurvedic medicine for Arthritis, Cervical, Spondylitis, Slip Disc, Sciatica and other Vata Dosha-related diseases. Regenerates damaged cartilage, improves blood circulation, rejuvenates degenerated cells and regulates pain markers.**

**All our medicines are available at Patanjali Stores, leading medical, ayurvedic and other stores across India.**

The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Ganesh anticipates some exciting times for you. You are likely to meet some people today who will prove to be assets in the future. You apply yourself to perfection in work, and in your thinking. Towards that end, says Ganesh, you will have to remain practical.

**TAURUS**  
This day, you can't afford to take chances with your health, says Ganesh. If there is the least sign or symptom of illness, go consult a doctor straight away. As you are going to be unusually prone to injuries and infections, it is advisable that you stay at home. Over exertion is bound to weaken you and affect your physical condition.

**GEMINI**  
Analysing other people's minds and thoughts will be your favourite pastime today. You will find yourself thinking about your family life, security and financial issues. Your sensitivity and emotional nature will endear you to many, and they will bestow their love and affection upon you, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
The mundane will bring contentment to you today, and you will rather spend the day doing routine stuff. It looks set to be an ordinary day, but then you can always find thrill even in routine activities. Work will keep you on your toes through the day, but then as the day drags ahead, you may feel a tad bored.

**LEO**  
Decisions taken in haste will prove to be harmful. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of every decision that you take today, considering all the possible alternative thoroughly. You need to be extremely industrious on the work-front as well. You will feel very energetic and raring to go.

**VIRGO**  
Something you achieve in a most unexpected manner will make you very happy today. But your happiness may possibly be marred by getting agitated about the problems you are facing. You may expect new funds for new projects, says Ganesh. Your business will flourish today.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that you will be able to see a huge change in your personal and social status. Ganesh says that this may be due to medium like television or due to your innovative ideas in your work place. People will be praising you and your work today. You will be more interested in the fine arts.

**SCORPIO**  
Your energy levels are on an all time high today, as you plan to begin a new business venture. You are determined to give in your best and toil hard till you succeed in your plans. Well, and the day turns out to be fruitful and worthy when you garner compliments and positive feedback about your work from your peers, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

**CAPRICORN**  
You have become workaholic and others may have complaints against you for being so busy. But, you should not take to heart as you are finishing off assignments which have been hanging in there for a long time now. Once done with the work, you'll have ample of time for your lover. You'll make up for not taking time out for him/her during the first half of the day, feels Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
It is your lucky day today! Whatever you wish for, it will fall into your lap, be it name, fame, money or love. During the second half of the day, you will keep yourself occupied with your hobbies like reading, writing, playing active role in discussion groups or research, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
You will find yourself ecstatic now that certain important projects you have been slaving over are nearing completion. You will implement new strategies and will hope that everything goes according to plan. You will experience intimate moments with your partner. On the whole, it will be a peaceful and productive day, says Ganesh.



## BARKER SELLS HIS STAGE-WORN BLOODY SNEAKERS FOR \$4,000

Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker has sold a pair of his stage-worn Vans — which he rocked during the band's 2023 World Tour — for a staggering \$4,000, reports *People magazine*.

## DWAYNE JOHNSON TO PLAY MMA FIGHTER MARR KERR

Actor Dwayne Johnson is set to step into the shoes of mixed martial arts fighter Mark Kerr. The actor will portray the MMA and UFC champion in the upcoming film *The Smashing Machine* from filmmaker Benny Safdie, reports *People magazine*.



## Janhvi regrets missed moments

**Mumbai:** Actor Janhvi Kapoor recently disclosed her decision to keep a distance from her late mother, legendary actress Sridevi, during the filming of her debut movie, *Dhadak*. Janhvi's sentiments, shared in a heartfelt narrative, unveiled a profound regret for having denied Sridevi the chance to support her during this pivotal phase of her career. During her debut film's shoot in 2018, Janhvi Kapoor, driven by an acute consciousness regarding perceptions, deliberately maintained a distance from her iconic mother, as disclosed on a news portal. She expressed her apprehension about being viewed as securing her first film solely due to her lineage, stating, "I used to feel as if I had an unfair advantage because of being Sridevi's daughter."

The young actor admitted to actively discouraging Sridevi from visiting the sets or extending any form of assistance. Janhvi's decision stemmed from a desire to establish her own identity by contrasting her choices with her mother's, believing it would be unjust to leverage Sridevi's unparalleled expertise. She deeply regrets this decision, now acknowledging Sridevi's eagerness to offer maternal guidance and support. Reflecting on this, she remarked, "I am now very proud of being my parents' daughter. That's the truth."

On the other hand, Janhvi is gearing up for the most awaited projects *Devara*, and *Mr and Mrs Mahi*.

The famous auditorium has witnessed performances by *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones*, *David Bowie*, *Iron Maiden* and *Selena Gomez*

## Vir to perform at Apollo Theatre

**Mumbai:** Actor-comedian Vir Das, who recently won an International Emmy Award for his stand-up special *Vir Das: Landing*, is set to take the stage at the Apollo Theatre in London and will be entertaining a live audience of nearly 5,000 people as a part of his ongoing *Mind Fool* tour. The Apollo Theatre has witnessed performances by *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones*, *David Bowie*, *Iron Maiden* and *Selena Gomez*. The theatre has also been graced by comedy legend Louis C.K. Talking about the same, Vir Das said: "Stepping onto the Apollo Theatre stage is not just a personal triumph; it's a momentous occasion for Indian comedy. The energy of this historic venue, which has hosted musical legends and comedy icons alike, is both exhilarating and humbling." He further

mentioned: "As I stand before a live audience of almost 5,000 people, I am driven by a desire to connect, to bring joy, and to be a bridge between cultures. 'The Mind Fool' tour is my way of spreading laughter across borders, and I can't wait to share this experience with audiences around the world." His tour spans 33 countries and encompasses 37 cities across India, and promises to be a cultural celebration.



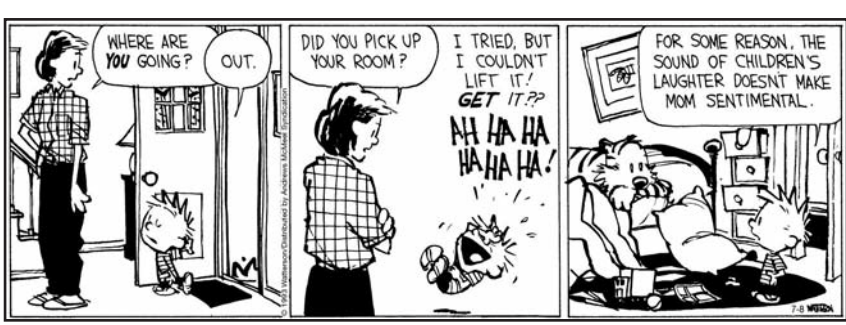
## Nehha not desperate to play lead in every show

**Mumbai:** Known for her work in *May I come in Madam*, *Devdas*, *Tum Se Achha Kaun Hai*, among others, actress Nehha Pendse shared she is currently in a space where she doesn't feel the need to be a lead required in each and every frame of the show. Nehha expressed: "As actors, it becomes very difficult for us to carve out time for ourselves, especially depending on the demands of our character." "I am content as long as I can manage to set aside two-four hours daily for myself amidst my work. *May I Come In Madam* allows me that flexibility, and I would gladly take on a show like this every year. However, it doesn't mean that I won't consider doing mainstream television shows again, but perhaps not at this moment," she said. The *Hasratein* actress further said, "I am currently in a space where I don't feel the need to be a lead required in each and every frame of the show." "It becomes a bit challenging because, as our profession demands, we must adhere to the time constraints. I'm in a happy space, and I believe 'Time is important but time is not limited' and I trust that everything has its right time, whether it's a show or a character," ended Nehha.

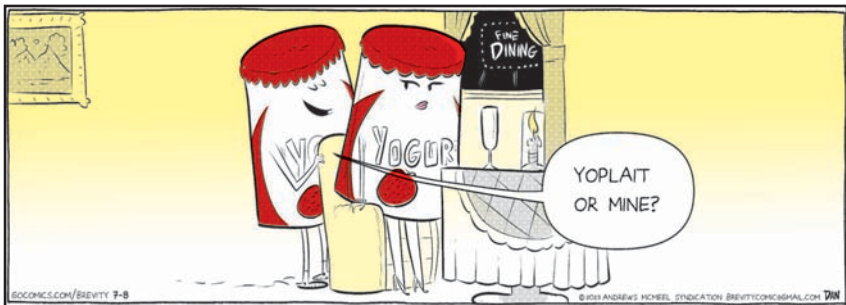
## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

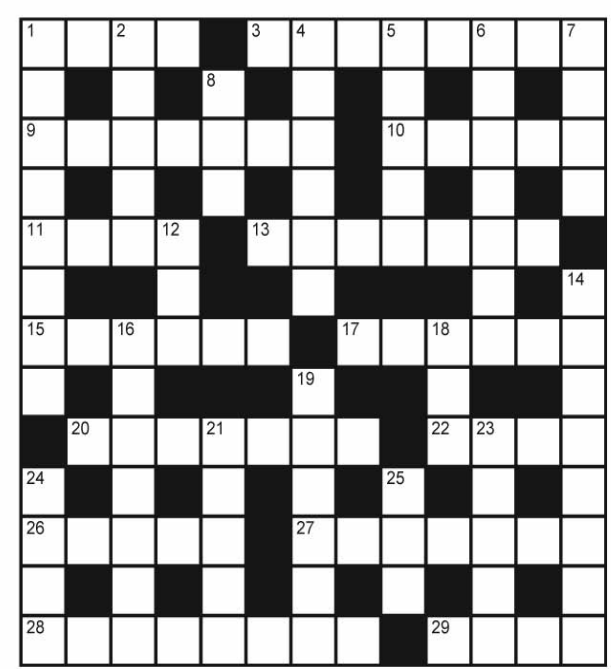


## BREVITY



## FUN post

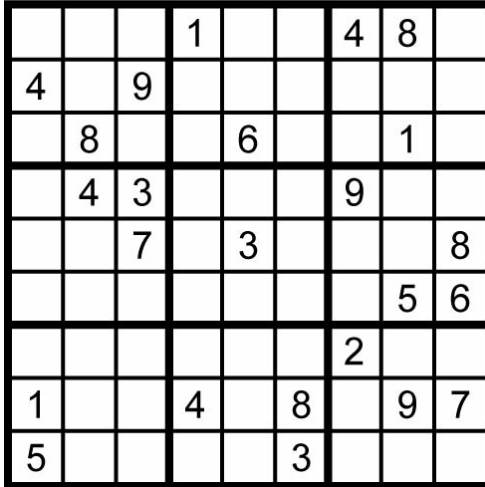
## CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Scarf material
  - 3 Coal mine
  - 9 Tooth problem
  - 10 Overly self-confident
  - 11 Mediocre (2-2)
  - 13 Protective glass cover (4,3)
  - 15 Hollow rocks
  - 17 Cheerless
  - 20 Marathoner's need
  - 22 Sweeping story
  - 26 Widgeons
  - 27 Jittery
  - 28 Tiny bit
  - 29 Swindles
  - Down**
  - 1 Capricorn, e.g. (4,4)
  - 2 Leans, like a ship
  - 4 Shellfish
  - 5 Type of anaesthetic
  - 6 Cry out
  - 7 Toy that does tricks
  - 8 Cyst
  - 12 Roulette bet
  - 14 Appeases
  - 16 Type of illusion
  - 18 Get the picture
  - 19 Yearly
  - 21 Piano piece
  - 23 African tribesman
  - 24 Dutch export
  - 25 Porker's pad

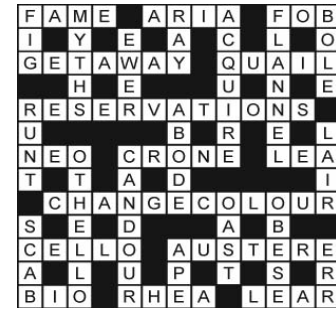
## SUDOKU

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.

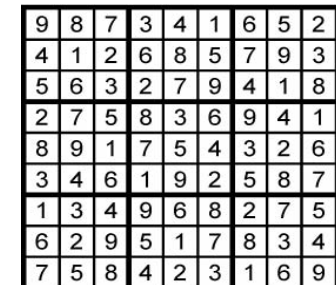


## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Students of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 during a march past to mark the 43rd sports meet of the institution in CDA area of the Silver City, Friday

# downtown

## Do not believe in misleading information or rumours about coins

For more details, give a missed call to 14440 or visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/coins> For feedback, write to [rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in](mailto:rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in)

Issued in public interest by  
**भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक**  
**RESERVE BANK OF INDIA**  
[www.rbi.org.in](http://www.rbi.org.in)

RBI Kehta Hai...  
Jaankaar Baniye,  
Satark Rahiye!

## Minister unveils vehicle tracking command centre

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** Commerce and Transport (C&T) Minister Tukuni Sahu inaugurated the command and control centre for vehicle location tracking device (VLTD) at Bhubaneswar-II RTO new building in Chandrasekharpur area here, Friday.

According to sources in the know of the development, the round-the-clock integrated centre will use global positioning system (GPS)-based vehicle tracking and GSM/GPRS channel for triggering emergency alerts. "Common emergency toll lines, motor vehicle wing, police control room and other related enforcement units will be looped into a real-time data sharing network, with the command control centre functioning as an interface for the stakeholder agencies," they said, adding that an application has also been developed for various stakeholders. The Centre has mandated fitment of VLTDs in public transport vehicles under Nirbhaya Scheme. The Central Motor Vehicle Rule 1989 has also been amended for the purpose. Sahu said the command and control centre will be instrumental in facilitating vehicle location tracking. "Fitment of VLTDs will help continuous monitoring of public transport vehicles not only to ensuring safety of passengers,



especially women, but also to assist law enforcing agencies. The control and command centre will facilitate the noble initiative," Sahu pointed out. C&T department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee said State Transport Authority (STA) has inked a pact with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for development and management of vehicle location tracking application. BSNL has developed, deployed, integrated and commissioned a vehicle location tracking software 'Mo Yatra Suraksha' for tracking as well as monitoring of vehicles under the project, Padhee said. Sources said the Centre has approved manufacturers of VLTDs and panic buttons in public transport vehicles. The state government has published the standard operating procedure (SOP) for empanelment of these manufacturers. As of now, six VLTD manufacturers have been registered in Odisha and 11 have successfully

## No immediate plan to tackle TTS stench

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has made it clear that it has no immediate remedies for the stench emanating from Gadakana Temporary Transit Station (TTS) even as residents in nearby localities as well as some areas on City outskirts continue gasping for breath. Accusing the civic body of acting at snail's pace, residents of nearby areas like Gadakana, Rangamatia, Bhotapada, VSS Nagar and East Coast Railway Stadium Square have stated that senior citizens and children are



the worst-hit due to the shoddy waste mismanagement of BMC. President of Dhirikuti Slum Association at Gadakana, Udaynath Barik, said in last month the civic body has instead expanded the area used

for dumping waste here. "Presently, around 50-60 dumpers are entering the site every day," he added. Elucidating further, he stated that the stink emanating from the dumping yard becomes severe during early morning hours and rainy seasons. The slum dwellers are now suffering from skin infections, itching and dengue, he added. In response, BMC Deputy Commissioner Manoranjan Sahu said, "The garbage volume has decreased significantly from its earlier shape of a hill, with the consistent efforts of BMC officials and sanitation workers." However, he could not say any-

thing specific about any immediate plan to resolve the issue. The slum dwellers criticised the BMC for assembling a large number of machines at the site for waste management if they are not of any help. Furthermore, they said due to an impending threat of eviction from BMC, it becomes difficult to raise concerns at times. Slum Development Authority president Rajendra Sahoo said, "The situation could only get better if the BMC authorities set up TTS for waste management in every ward. This will help reduce garbage heaps in one particular area and prevent any kind of sanitation issues."

## B Radhika appointed OPRB chairperson

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** The state government Friday appointed IPS officer B Radhika as chairperson of Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB), on her return from central deputation. Radhika, whose name was doing the rounds in administrative circles for DGP post, has also been given additional charge of director, SFSL. IGP Training Shyni S, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, has been given additional charge of IGP, Crimes Against Women & Children Wing (CAW&CW). IGP (Central Range) Ashish Kumar Singh has been given additional charge of chief executive officer (CEO) Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHC).

## ₹51.37cr paid to Bahanaga victims' kin: Min

**New Delhi, Dec 15:** The Centre has made a payment of ₹51.37 crore as ex-gratia and compensation amount to the next of kin and victims of the Balasore train tragedy, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Rajya Sabha, Friday. The Balasore train accident caused the deaths of 296 passengers and over 1,200 were injured. Vaishnaw's response came after two BJD MPs – Sulata Deo and Niranjana Bishi – asked if the ex-gratia compensation announced by the Railways for the victims has been paid. "Payment of ex-gratia has been made to the victims of the Balasore train tragedy. An amount of ₹51.37 crore has been paid as ex-gratia and compen-

## Oppn to intensify protest over security breach

**Parliament for the second day Friday as the opposition MPs kept pressing for a statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday's security breach in Lok Sabha by two intruders. Both the houses witnessed no business Friday due to the relentless protests by Opposition MPs. In Lok Sabha, the MPs trooped into the well with placards and raised slogans demanding the Home Minister's statement in the House. The Speaker adjourned the proceedings first till 2pm and then for the entire day. In Rajya Sabha, too, the Opposition MPs protested and demanded a statement by the Home Minister and discussion on Wednesday's security breach.**

Vaishnaw said in a written reply. The accident took place June 2 when the Coromandel Express crashed into a stationary freight train near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore and some of its derailed coaches fell onto the adjacent tracks and collided with the oncoming Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express. The independent inquiry report submitted by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) to the Railway Board said notwithstanding the lapses in signalling work, remedial actions could have been taken by signalling and telecommunication staff if 'repeated unusual behaviour' of switches connecting two parallel tracks were reported to them by the station manager of Bahanaga Bazar. The matter is also under probe with the CBI.

## New SC bench to take up Sarda Mines' plea

**New Delhi, Dec 15:** In an unprecedented move, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice SK Kaul, after reserving the order on a petition filed by Sarda Mines seeking execution of mining lease in its favour, has directed that the petition shall be heard afresh by a new bench. The bench cited difference in perception on the legal nuances of the case as a reason for referring the case to a new bench. The bench also comprising Justices CT Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia had reserved its order November 2 on the petition seeking direction to Odisha government to execute mining lease deed in its favour for the remaining 10 years out of the 30 years renewal that it was entitled to as per the Orissa HC's 1991 and 1998 orders. "We had reserved orders in this matter November 2, 2023. We had some discussion, but there is some difference in perception on the legal nuances of this case. One of us is demitting office shortly. We, thus, consider it appropriate to direct that the matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India to be assigned to a completely different Bench, which may have an opportunity to afresh apply its

mind to the case," the court said. Significantly, Justice SK Kaul is demitting the office December 25 after a tenure of over six years and 10 months. Since the Supreme Court will be on winter break from December 18 till January 2, Friday was the last working day of Justice Kaul. It is to be mentioned here that Sarda Mines Private Ltd (SMPL) has filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the apex court against an order of the Orissa High Court wherein the HC had held that the company had waived its right for grant of lease of 30 years which it had obtained earlier by executing a lease for 20 years and the provisions of Mines and Minerals Development Act, 2015 operated as a bar to seek any renewal beyond 20 years. The mining lease is sought in respect of over 947.046-hectare Thakurani B-Block Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar. The state government had January 13 last year asked SMPL to hand over possession of the mines, including stock of minerals, plant and machinery, building structures and others to the mining officer. According to the mining company, the state government towards the end of 20 years had started to circumvent its rights for the remaining period of 10 years on one or the other pretext.



**ARMS OF LAW:** Policemen deal with a member of Odisha Abhibhabaka Mahasangha, which staged a protest outside the official quarters of School and Mass Education secretary Aswathy S over fulfilment of seven-point charter of demands in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## PLUS II EXAMS FROM FEB 16

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will conduct the annual Plus II examinations from February 16 to March 20. According to CHSE, the exams for Science stream will start February 16 while those for Arts and Commerce streams will commence February 17. The council has released the examinations scheduled for Arts, Science and Commerce streams including distance education, correspondence course and vocation streams. The scheduled examination, both theory and practical components, will proceed as planned, regardless of any subsequently declared holidays on the specified dates. The exams will be conducted on all the scheduled days between 10am and 1pm. Science and Vocational stream students will appear for English language exam February 19 while Arts and Commerce students will write the papers February 21. Candidates have been advised to enter the examination centre 30 minutes before the commencement of the examination in a sitting and enter the examination room/hall 15 minutes before the examination to occupy the seats allotted to them, CHSE officials said. The examinations will be conducted under CCTV surveillance.

# Cash haul: I-T dept sends report to CBDT



FILE PHOTO

**Bhubaneswar/Ranchi, Dec 15:** Capping 10 days of searches, the Income Tax (I-T) department ended its raids being carried out against an Odisha-based distillery owned by a Congress MP's family and some linked entities and sent a final appraisal report of the entire operation to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in Delhi, Friday.

The last two I-T teams left the premises, one each in Odisha and Jharkhand, carrying with them a number of seized 'incriminating documents' and data cloned from electronic gadgets in the early morning hours.

The searches against the firm - Boudh Distillery Pvt. Ltd. (BDPL) - and its linked entities were launched last week December 6.

The taxman also covered the family house of Congress Rajya Sabha MP Dheeraj Sahu in Ranchi apart from a number of entities including distributors and some hawala operators during these 10-day-long

**The searches against the firm - Boudh Distillery Pvt Ltd (BDPL) - and its linked entities were launched last week December 6 and came to an end December 15**

searches, they said.

The searches came to a close in the early hours of December 15, the sources told PTI.

A final appraisal report of the entire operation has been sent as per procedure to the CBDT, the administrative body for the tax department, in Delhi by the field investigation unit, they said.

Neither the company nor Sahu has issued any official statement or response on the I-T action till now even as Opposition parties including the BJP blamed them for dealing in illicit cash funds.

As many as 30-34 premises in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal were searched by the department and about three kg of

gold jewellery was also seized during the operation.

I-T officials have claimed to have made the 'highest-ever' cash seizure of ₹351 crore during these raids, which were launched by the I-T department on charges of alleged tax evasion and 'out of book' transactions.

Some of the high-value cash seizures from the past include one from 2019 when the GST Intelligence raided a Kanpur-based businessman and seized cash to the tune of about ₹257 crore and another instance where cash amounting to ₹163 crore was unearthed by the I-T department during searches against a road construction firm at Tamil Nadu in July 2018.

The department, during this operation, deployed a ground scanning wheeled machine at Sahu's house in Ranchi, with a monitor on top, to scan for valuables beneath the surface even as it brought in three dozen currency counting machines, and took the help of various banks and their staffers for counting the huge cash.

The officials said the counting machines failed multiple times as they were being continuously used and even by the fact that many notes were soiled leading to blocking of the infrared sensors that read the thread on the currency to tally the bunch placed inside.

Many notes bunches were counted twice or thrice as the notes were not clean and the teller (staffer counting the currency) had to run the process again to obtain the correct figure, the sources said.



**GROWING STRONGER:** Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) chairman Lenin Mohanty, managing director Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav, general manager Lalatendu Sahoo and other officials during the launch of 10 new vehicles at the corporation's head office in Bhubaneswar, Friday

# Shakti Samman a testament to women's resilience: Naveen

30 women from the state received the CII IWN award for excellence in seven categories

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday said that the Shakti Samman is not just recognition of individual achievements, but it's a celebration of the strength and resilience of women in our society.

Speaking virtually on sidelines of the second edition of Shakti Samman, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Indian Women Network (IWN) here Friday, the CM said that the unwavering dedication and unparalleled contributions of all the awardees will enrich the society and inspire the young women of the state. "This success is a proof of the resilience of women in our society," he said.

At the CII IWN Shakti Samman, 30 women of the state were awarded in seven categories namely media and entertainment, enterprises, social entrepreneurship, sports, health and wellness, promising entrepreneurship, inspirational entrepreneur and honour entrepreneur.

Speaking on the occasion, Industry and MSME Minister



Pratap Keshari Deb said, "The women who have won the award have not only brought glory to themselves but have also taken the society forward, removed barriers and paved the way for progress. This achievement is a symbol of empowerment and will be an inspiration for all and will show the way for future generations to move forward. It will create a society of equality for all. He said institutions like CII IWN have an important role to play in bringing successful women forward."

Industry principal secretary Hemant Sharma said, "The government has introduced several

schemes for women. But there is a lack of necessary awareness about them. CII IWN can play an important role in creating awareness among women about these schemes. He called upon the Government and CII to work together towards women's empowerment."

Addressing the conference, CII Odisha president Shashi Shekhar Mohanty said, "Shakti Samman will inspire women to continue their remarkable work and build a bright future." He congratulated all the women who have been honoured with Shakti Samman and wished them a bright future.

# CM lays stone for 4 infra projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday laid the foundation stone for four infrastructure development projects worth Rs 159.29 crore in Ekamra constituency here.

The Chief Minister laid the stone for all these projects while participating in the programme organised at Lingipur under Ekamra Assembly constituency.



The projects are: Instream storage structures at Dhauli and Tikarpada at a cost of Rs 77.74 crore, two-lane road project on the right bank of Daya river near Lingipur, Itipur and Tikarpada gram panchayats at a cost of Rs 22.55 crore, piped water supply project at Basuaghai for six gram panchayats and a new 33/11 KV power substation worth Rs 17 crore at Itipur.

Patnaik hoped that the people of the constituency will be greatly benefited once the projects are implemented.

# BPUT research conclave at two City institutions

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT), Rourkela recently organized a research conclave at two places in the City, namely the Trident Academy of Creative Technology and the Biju Patnaik Institute of Information Technology and Management Studies (BIITM).

BIITM, which conducted the valedictory ceremony, saw participation of luminaries like Hirendra Nath Ghosh, director of NISER as the chief guest, Amiya Kumar Rath, vice chancellor of BPUT, and MR Nayak, principal of BIITM, Bhubaneswar.

The ceremony at BIITM featured some enlightening speeches by the dignitaries, culminating in distribution of participation certificates and felicitations for the guests and assessors: PK Mohanty, dean of management at TACT and RN Subudhi, of KSOM, KIIT.

The events ended with address of Subhendu Kumar Rath, deputy registrar of BPUT and the BPUT anthem was rendered at the end.

# STF rescues live pangolin; 1 held

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch Friday seized a live pangolin from possession of a wildlife criminal during a raid in the Pallahara area of Angul.

The accused criminal identified as Ajit Bagha, 26, is a resident of Tampar village under Pallahara police station.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of STF from Bhubaneswar reached Pallahara and carried out the raid with the help of forest department officials of Deogarh Forest Division near Ranja Chowk on National Highway-149.

The sleuths apprehended the accused Bagha who was waiting for a customer for the execution of a deal for the pangolin.

"During search, one live pangolin along with other incriminating materials was recovered from the possession of Bagha. The accused person could not produce any authority in support of possession of such live pangolin, for which he has been ap-



**Acting on a tip, a team of STF from Bhubaneswar reached Pallahara and carried out a raid with the help of Forest department officials of Deogarh Forest Division**

prehended," said STF sources.

A case (30/23) under various sections of IPC and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been registered against Bagha in this regard. He will be produced before the Court of SDJM, Pallahara.

Notably, pangolin is a protected animal under the law.

# Women entrepreneurs discuss startup policies

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** To exchange insights on entrepreneurship, growth and startup funding, industry experts, women entrepreneurs and policymakers participated in a conference at O-Hub auditorium here Friday.

The all-women exclusive event was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) IT and Startup Committee and the ICC National Women's

Entrepreneurship Council (INWEC) in association with Startup Odisha O-Hub.

"The enriching sessions underscored various aspects of entrepreneurship encompassing policies, funding, and benefits. A fireside chat with women entrepreneurs moderated by Sunita Mohanty set the tone followed by an inspirational session with industry experts like Omkar Rai, Abanis Nayak Devesh Sinha and Tanaya Patnaik," said an

INWEC member.

Nayak explained the importance of this initiative and the motive behind. "The procedure for women entrepreneurs to register under Startup Odisha can be an overwhelming procedure. This initiative would help them traverse the steps and understand the policies and benefits better," Nayak said.

Devesh Sinha, Startup Odisha mentor, spoke about woman entrepreneurs of Odisha taking charge and writing history, fol-

lowing the footsteps of leaders like Nykaa and Sugar Cosmetics. He also vouched for all kinds of support from Startup Odisha to make these entrepreneurs journey a success.

INWEC convener Tanaya Patnaik thanked Startup Odisha for taking up this association with Indian Chamber of Commerce to help the women entrepreneurs set the registration with O-Hub and hoped to have further collaboration on the same scale.

# CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Kanakalata Bugudai, wife of Birendra Bugudai, At-Laxminarayanpurpatana, PO- Moharudrapur, PS- Gopalpur, Tahasil-Bahanaga, Dist-Balasure (Odisha). The nominee name in the pension paper of my husband wrongly stated only Kanakalata Bugudai. So by virtue of affidavit changed as Kanakalata Bugudai. So from today onwards I will be known as Kanakalata Bugudai, wife of Birendra Bugudai in all government documents.



**TALENT FETED:** Dignitaries including Higher Education Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak felicitate Padma Bhusan Swapna Sundari with the Bharat Muni Samman during an event organised by Kalingayana Touryatrikam at Guru Kulu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Friday

# Two nabbed with 8.4 kg marijuana

**Bhubaneswar:** The twin city Commissionerate Police arrested two persons after recovering over 8 kg of marijuana from their possession here, Friday.

The accused were identified as Chumukilata Barik and Sonu Digal of Kandhamal. About the crackdown, Zone III ACP Pradeep Kumar Rout said Barik and Digal were on their way to deliver 8.4 kg marijuana to some prospective buyers in Kalinga Nagar area here when a police team, led by Bharatpur IIC Dinakrushna Mishra, nabbed them in Ghatikia area.

# Kebab & Curry food festival starts in City

**Bhubaneswar:** City-based Swosti Grand started a Kebab & Curry food festival here Friday to celebrate with the people the delicacies the festival is named after. "On the one hand, the term Kebab & Curry is pretty self-explanatory. It refers to having a primary focus on foods that come from the Middle East. However, that doesn't really tell the full story of our careful sourcing, high quality products, and how these things reflect in the finished flavor of our food," said Uttam Das, head chef of hotel. To make people understand the rich flavors, at the festival the chefs will spend time cooking, marinating and mixing aromatic spices with each dish to present some of the delicious combination kebabs and curries. "With each bite, you will find the flavours spread and engulf your taste buds delightfully," said Das. The menu will offer a vast range of mouthwatering dishes like Bhatti Ka Murgh Sizzler, Stuffed Tangdi Kabab, Chicken Shami Kabab, Chef Special Chicken Tikka, Mutton Galouti Kebab.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



**BEATING THE CHILL:** People warm themselves around a bonfire to beat the bone-chilling cold at Daringbadi in Kandhamal district, Friday

OP PHOTO

## Search operation intensified against Red rebels in Boudh

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** A day after an encounter took place between Maoists and security forces in Nalikumbha forest of Boudh district, the Odisha Police Friday intensified its search operation there, engaging over 300 jawans of a special squad, senior officers said.

The operation was launched in the forest, following the gun battle between Red rebels and security personnel Thursday, he said.

"An initial report says that police have recovered explosive materials and Maoist uniforms from the forest where the Red rebels took shelter," DGP SK Bansal said, adding that he was expecting a final report this evening.

12 companies of the Special Operation Group (SOG) with more than 300 jawans and the District Voluntary Force (DVF) were engaged in the search operation in the forest, another

12 companies of SOG with more than 300 jawans and the District Voluntary Force are engaged in the operation

police officer said.

The Nalikumbha forest was surrounded by police personnel from all sides to ensure that no Maoist can escape from there, he said.

Movement of jawans in the forest has been slow as they are taking safety measures against improvised explosive devices and landmines which might have been planted by Maoists, he said.

According to ADG (Operation) Dev Datta Singh, the encounter between the security personnel and Maoists continued till Thursday evening at Nalikumbha forest. However, there was no report of any injury.

## COLLEGE STUDENT STABBED TO DEATH

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Dec 15:** In a gruesome incident, a Plus III final year student of Rayagada Autonomous College was stabbed to death by three miscreants at Goutam Nagar in this district, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Pramod Kilaka, 21, a resident of Similiguda village. Pramod was the nephew of former President of Rayagada Zilla Parishad Gangadhar Puala.

According to sources, Pramod was returning home on a scooter after receiving his cousin from her school. Three bike-borne miscreants waylaid him at Goutam Nagar.

Later an argument broke out among them and all of a sudden the miscreants attacked Pramod with a knife. Pramod suffered fatal injuries on his chest and died on the spot. After committing the crime the miscreants fled from the spot.

On being informed, police reached the spot, seized the body and sent it to Rayagada DHH for post-mortem. They initiated a probe into the murder.

## Nua Odisha district fest starts in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** In continuation of the far-reaching impact witnessed during the preliminary stages of the Nua-O initiative, the next phase of the campaign, the Nua-O district festival, has been launched. The Nua-O district festival will continue till February 5, 2024 and will cover all 30 districts.

Commencing in Angul, the district fest kicked off with great enthusiasm captivating over 10,000 students with a series of events, including live music performances from state's stars. Awards were also presented to winners of the previous phase of the campaign. Towards the end, VK Pandian, Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, addressed the gathering via virtual conference where he highlighted the Chief Minister's vision for the youth and the transformation journey championed by Odisha.



The event was graced by Minister of Sports & Youth Services Tusharkanti Behera, officials of Sports department and the district administration. During his address, Shri VK Pandian emphasized the importance of overall personality development for youth in today's competitive landscape. While he reiterated the importance of education, he explained the importance of extracurricular activity in developing creativity, self-confidence, teamwork, and punctuality.

## 7 MURDERS IN 2 MONTHS

# Anarchy rules Berhampur

There is hardly any regard for rule of law or fear of police action as people are not hesitating to kill at the slightest provocations

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Dec 15:** With the brutal murder of at least seven persons in last two months in Berhampur police district, law and order situation is fast deteriorating in Ganjam. This has exposed the abject failure of the police department in checking crimes.

Simmering bitterness, past enmity, political rivalry, brutal torture and extra-marital affairs are some of the reasons behind these cold-blooded murders. The upsurge in serious crimes indicates that people hardly have any regard for rule of law as they are not hesitating to commit murders at the slightest provocations.

In the latest incident, one Ranka Sethy of Ambika Nagar in Bijipur was brutally murdered by unidentified miscreants who slit his throat with a sharp-edged weapon during his morning walk at Gandhinagar Square in Silk City, December 11.

A villager Jagannath Nayak of Khairapur village under Gangpur police limit was murdered in cold blood November 28. He was earning his livelihood by operating a fast food stall at Reu Sahi in Gopalpur. A minor boy



who he had employed in his stall took law into his hand and bludgeoned him to death over unpaid wages. Sources said, Nayak used to assault the boy when asked for money and threaten him of filing a theft case against him if he left the job. This led the juvenile to plan the murder of Jagannath.

In the third incident, a man Shankar Bisoyi was beaten to death by his wife with a wooden plank at Narayanpur village under Dengepadar panchayat and Sadar police limits, November 21.

Just two days before the incident, Tutu Nayak, a native of Gola Gobindpur village under Golanthara police limits was brutally killed by his lover, her father and two brothers at Chandpur village, November 18. The woman called Nayak to her home and killed him with the help of her father and two brothers. Later, the accused persons dumped the body in a well.

An eight-year-old boy S Rohit drowned in a pond in Bijipur village under Town police limit after he was shockingly pushed by his mother into the water body, October 26.

A youth Dunia Sahu of Narayanpur village under Sadar police limit was killed after some miscreants barged into his house and hacked him to death with swords, October 25. Police said Sahu was killed over simmering anger against him among the accused persons.

Child welfare committee member Soudamini Rath was brutally hacked to death by her driver at her Bijipur, Nilakantha Nagar residence, October 11. Gosaninuaogaon police said her driver killed her when she spotted him stealing gold ornaments and money from her house in her absence.

Among these seven murders, police have made arrests in six cases while the accused in the latest murder of Ranka Sethy is yet to be nabbed. Meanwhile, police have launched a manhunt to nab his killers.

Meanwhile, Ganesh Patra, a 25-year-old man from Adheigaon, Ganjam district, was arrested November 21, a month after he used a venomous snake as a murder weapon to kill his wife and their two-year-old daughter October 6. The incident had sent shockwaves in the state.

## JEWELLERY WORTH ₹52 LAKH LOOTED; MAN STABBED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Dec 15:** Three youths attacked an employee of a jewellery shop here and looted gold worth ₹52 lakh from him early Friday morning.

Pradeep Soni, who works for a small-time jeweller in Railway Colony, returned from Kolkata Friday as the owner of the jewellery shop Sambhu Kumar Sahu had asked him to go there. Pradeep was returning with 887 gram of gold worth ₹52 lakh.

He alighted from the train and got his scooter from the parking space at Rourkela Station Gate-2. While Pradeep was on his way home along with a friend to Basanti Colony, three youths accosted him near the Kali temple at Malgodown Road.

They stabbed him several times on his stomach, shoulder and other body parts and then fled with the bag. Soon, police were informed and Pradeep was shifted to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH). No arrest had been made in this connection when the reports came in.

Speaking about the incident, Zone III DSP Anil Pradhan said, "We are looking into the case and we have got some leads."

Meanwhile, Pradeep's condition is stated to be stable. His friend sustained minor injuries after the fall from the scooter. This is the third major case of gold loot in four years and so far no progress has been made in the previous cases. In one of the cases a person had died during the loot.

# BeMC to renovate 48 water bodies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, Dec 15:** Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) in Ganjam district has decided to renovate all its 48 water bodies in two phases, a civic body official said Friday.

In the first phase, the water bodies will be rejuvenated with desilting and construction of embankments under the 'Mo Pokhari' (my pond) scheme of the state government.

Beautification and illumination around these water bodies will be done under the Atal Mission for

Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 of the Central government, he said.

The rejuvenation work will be carried out by women self-help groups (WSHG) in the city, he said, adding that the civic body handed over work orders to 80 such groups.

While handing over the work orders at a function, BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dalei and Berhampur MLA Bikram Kumar Panda urged the members of these groups to do their best to complete work on time.

Members of these SHGs have been imparted training to carry

out such assignments, the official said. The BeMC has prepared detailed project reports (DPR) of 42, out of 48 water bodies, in the city and submitted those to the government for approval.

The government has given its nod for renovation of 31 water bodies, involving ₹39.42 crore in the first phase, said Lalit Das, executive engineer, BeMC.

The highest amount of ₹73.28 lakh will be spent in 'Bedha Bandh' for rejuvenation work, followed by Mandia Bandh (₹46.00 lakh), Ankuli Bada Bandh (₹29.50-lakh).

## 'Unurum' Int'l Festival kicks off at FM varsity

BALASORE: The much-anticipated 'Unurum' International Festival was inaugurated Friday at Fakir Mohan University, Nuapadhi here.

'Unurum' is a Mundari word meaning 'identity'. Each community carries its own identity with its folk art, folk culture and folk literature. 'Unurum' emphasises on continuation of the traditional way of life which is disappearing day by day due to globalisation. The festival has been named 'Unurum' to introduce people to the life and culture of the tribal people in a unique way. The university has been celebrating this festival since 2022. The three-day event started with unveiling of the statue of eminent litterateur and poet Brajanath Rath. Vice-Chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy inaugurated the festival in the presence of PG Council Chairman Sabyasachi Pattnaik, Registrar Kukumina Das, Head of Department of Languages and Literature Debashish Patra. Eminent dancers Priyadarshini Kar (UK), Chandini Kasturi (Sri Lanka), and Diana Mohapatra (Delhi) were present along with the chief speaker Choudhury Satyarata Nanda in the ceremony. Odissi, Sri Lankan classical dance, Jhumura, tribal dance, Bengali dance, Mundari, Nepali, Bihu, Bangladeshi folk dance, Sambalpur and Chau performances will be the major attractions of Unurum festival this year.



## POLICE RETURN STOLEN GOLD ITEMS TO OWNERS

**Berhampur:** Police Friday returned stolen gold and silver ornaments worth over ₹85 lakh to their owners during a programme here. Over 1.3kg of gold ornaments and 400 grams of silver ornaments, stolen by thieves from different areas of Berhampur town in October, were handed over to their owners by Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M. The ornaments were stolen from various areas of the town such as Golanthara, Berhampur Sadar, Baidyanathpur, Bada Bazar and Nimakhandi, police said. Main accused Sania Gouda (47) and three others were arrested for stealing the ornaments, police said. "We took around two months to investigate the cases and identify the rightful owners," the SP said. "I had almost given up hope to get back the gold ornaments. I thank police for returning those," said Ch Sweta, one of the women who got back her ornaments.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Ramesh Chandra Parida, S/o. Kailash Chandra Parida, resident of Jemadepur Sasan, P.O. Haripur, Jemadepur, P.S. Sukinda, District: Jajpur, Odisha, has lost (1) Original Mutation Khata No. 191/5 in the name of Kailash Chandra Parida and (2) Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 822 Dtd. 03.10.2008 executed by Ananta Prasad Mishra in favour of Kailash Chandra Parida, pertaining to Plot No. 382/1114 (Gharabari) area Ac. 0.150 decimals under Khata No. 191/52 of Mouza: Jemadepur Sasan in Sukinda Tahasil under District: Jajpur recorded in his name. Ramesh Chandra Parida of the above address has applied for a housing loan to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Cuttack by offering mortgage of the said property title documents. All concerned therefore having any claim over the property purchased under the said documents, i.e. Original Mutation Khata No. 191/5 and Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 822 Dtd. 03.10.2008 are required to file their claim with the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said document is free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as a mortgagor and the Company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 (fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

Cuttack Dt. 15.12.2023 Sd./- (U.K. Mishra), Advocate, Phone: 9437314816 LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Link Road, Cuttack

## CSIR-TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY UNIT

14, Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi-110067 Telephone: 011-47011293; email: tkdlsupport@csir.res.in

### Advertisement No. TKDL/03/2023

CSIR-TKDL Unit is a unit under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research which is an autonomous body of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (Min. of Science & Technology), Govt of India. CSIR-TKDL Unit invites applications from eligible candidates for engagement as project staff in the stream of Information Technology, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Sanskrit, Yoga, Patents and others for its Projects entitled, "Digitization of Indian Systems of Medicine - Ayurveda and Unani and Yoga" (MLP0004), "Digitization of Indian Systems of Medicine - Siddha and Sowa Rigpa" (MLP0005), "Filing of Third Party Observations and Pre-grant Oppositions based on TKDL Evidences" (MLP0008) and "Communication of India's Scientifically Validated Traditional Knowledge" (MLP0017). The location of the project activities will be Delhi, Jammu, Srinagar, Hyderabad, Chennai, Leh or Palampur. The engagement in the said project is purely on temporary and contractual basis. The detailed advertisement is available on CSIR website: www.csir.res.in. Last Date for receipt of applications: 25 December, 2023. Under Secretary CSIR-TKDL Unit

**Indian Institute of Mass Communication (New Delhi)**  
Advt. No. 02/2023  
2 vacant posts of Section Officer in Level - 7 of the Pay Matrix are proposed to be filled up in the Indian Institute of Mass Communication on Deputation Basis. The details in this regard may please be seen in the IIMC's website <http://iimc.nic.in/>. The last date for receipt of application is 15 January 2024.  
cbc 22103/11/0003/2324

**AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE**  
Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.  
Date and Venue:  
Wednesday, 20th December, 2023: 6:30 pm onwards.  
at Hotel Lao Palace, Banspani Road, Joda, Keonjhar.  
For registration, please contact: Debashish Panda, Mobile: 96686 34493.  
Registration is compulsory.  
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.  
No walk-ins will be allowed.

**GENERAL NOTICE**  
I, the undersigned bring it to the notice of public that the property covered by Plot No. 186 appertaining to Mutation Khata No. 196/1388 & Plot No. 187, 188/808 & 189/809 appertaining to Mutation Khata No. 196/10, both are in Mouza - Koroda, originally has been acquired by means of purchase by me vide two Nos. of Regd. Sale Deeds bearing R.S.D. No. 389 Dtd. 27.01.90 & R.S.D. No. 197 Dtd. 09.01.91, both are at SRO - Balasore. After purchase, I have mutated the same in my name and obtained Mutation R.O.R. under Khata No. 196/1388 & Khata No. 196/10, both are in Mouza - Koroda. But unfortunately both the Original Regd. Sale Deeds referred to above along with both the Mutation R.O.R.s have been misplaced somewhere while coming from my residence to Kuruda Market. In this connection I have lodged F.I.R. in Sadar P.S., Balasore and the same is registered as G.D. No. II Dtd. 07.05.23. Further I have obtained the certified copy of the said R.S.D. No. 389 Dtd. 27.01.90 & R.S.D. No. 197 Dtd. 09.01.91, both are at SRO - Balasore on 18.04.22 and obtained Certified Copy of Mutation R.O.R.s under Khata No. 196/1388 & Khata No. 196/10, both are in Mouza - Koroda on 18.11.23 & 13.11.23 and utilising the same as original Regd. Sale Deeds & Mutation R.O.R.s and I declare that I have not availed any loan from any Bank or financial institution against mortgage security by deposit of the above original R.S.D.s & Mutation R.O.R.s in respect of the said property. Presently I propose to sale the above land to one Sri Nityananda Mandal of Rajendra Pali, Bhadrak and objection if any from any quarter is invited to be placed before the above purchasers and the undersigned within thirty days from the date of the publication of this notice.  
Sd./- Nityananda Mandal  
Signature & Address  
(Sri Pratap Chandra Nayak, S/o. Padmolochan Nayak  
At/P.O.: Kuruda, P.S.: Sadar, Dist.: Balasore)

**Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.**  
MARKETING DIVISION  
NOTIFICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF APPRENTICES UNDER THE APPRENTICES ACT 1961  
Indian Oil, Marketing Division, invites applications for Engagement of 2091 apprentices Technician, Graduate & Trade Apprentices (Technical and Non - Technical) at its Locations in States of India (Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, UT of Daman & Diu, UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Sikkim, UT of Andaman & Nicobar Island, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur & Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, UT of Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, UT of J&K, UT of Ladakh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand).  
Full text of the Advertisement including eligibility criteria of age, qualification and details of stipend, relaxations, concessions, reservations, etc. has been hosted in our corporate website [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) or at <https://iocl.com/apprenticeships>  
How to apply: Interested candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may apply through the above mentioned website from 16.12.2023@10:00 hrs onwards. Closing date for online submission of Application is 05.01.2024 @17:00 hrs.  
Any subsequent notification/amendment in the matter shall be notified in our corporate website [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) only.  
Note: The Corporation shall have no obligation to give regular employment to Apprentices. The Apprentices shall have no right to claim regular employment from the Corporation on the basis of this Apprenticeship at any point of time. This Apprenticeship shall not create any liability on IndianOil for providing any job to the Apprentice.  
Advertisement No. IOCL/MKTG/APPR/2023-24

When you no longer have this generosity in your movements, you receive much less and this is one of the reasons why physical progress stops.

THE MOTHER



## Proactive Approach

Babus in Odisha are leaving nothing to chance to find new options for investments. The low-hanging fruits seem to be the many shuttered industries that litter the state.

With the announcement that Welspun Group would take over a long-closed textile facility, there is now hope that one of the other gigantic projects that has been shuttered for many years will also be hacked by the bureaucrats. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb's approval for Welspun Living to acquire 350 acres of government-owned land for an integrated textile and logistics facility is a strategic move that aligns with the state's vision of inclusive development. This initiative alone is expected to generate employment for over 20,000 individuals.

Further, the stated intention to revive a long-closed paper mill demonstrates Chief Minister Patnaik's proactive approach. By tasking the Industry Department to identify suitable investors for this facility, the government is signaling its intent to breathe new life into dormant assets, fostering a circular economy and creating opportunities for the local workforce.

Principal Secretary of Industries Hemant Sharma and several senior babus in the Industry Department are reportedly prowling the corridors of various industry associations. It has been of great assistance to them that noted industrialist Subhrakant Panda, who heads the premier industry body FICCI, hails from the state. Hopefully, their combined proactive efforts will transform the challenges into opportunities for a brighter economic future for the state.

### Who'll head the 16th Finance Commission?

Whispers are gaining momentum, suggesting that Ratan P. Watal, former Union Finance Secretary (Expenditure) and a retired IAS officer, is being considered for the position of Chairman of the Finance Commission. The 15th Finance Commission, led by N.K. Singh successfully concluded its term last month.

According to well-placed sources, Watal is emerging as the preferred choice within power circles to succeed N.K. Singh in this crucial role. Certainly, his credentials are second to none. The retired 1978 batch IAS officer from the Telangana cadre has a wealth of experience and currently serves on the board of directors at TB Alliance, a global not-for-profit organization headquartered in New York. Significantly, he has retained a trusted position within the Modi establishment, continuing to contribute his expertise to key issues.

During his tenure as Union Finance Secretary, he assumed the pivotal role of Principal Advisor for the social sector at Niti Aayog until October 2021. He also played a role in revitalizing the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. If he does get the coveted position at the helm of the Finance Commission, his demonstrated stewardship and continued influence will be pivotal in ensuring an effective fiscal policy.



### BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

### MHA push for accountability may need balancing

The recent decision by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to revoke the Foreign Contribution Act (FCRA) license of the Church of North India (CNI) has added another layer of complexity to the issue of treatment of minorities in recent times. This move, part of a broader crackdown on NGOs violating FCRA regulations, is not an isolated incident, as numerous NGOs, including well-known entities like Oxfam India, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and Care India, among others, have faced similar actions in the past year.

Sources have informed DKB that Home Ministry babus have been hyperactive, reviewing and taking action against organizations found in violation. They state that CNI cannot receive or utilize foreign contributions until the license is renewed.

The move implies an intensified commitment to enforcing FCRA regulations, aimed at preventing the misuse or diversion of foreign funds. However, in the backdrop of the ongoing troubles in Manipur, known for its communal diversity and historical tensions, which led to killings and burnings of several churches of the Christian community, the move may be viewed as a sign of the Centre's continued mistrust of the minority community in the state.

While the hyperactive Home Ministry officials rightly believe that accountability is crucial, perhaps a careful assessment of such actions and finding a balance could lead to more nuanced decision-making.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

### WISDOM CORNER

- Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. **MAHATMA GANDHI**
- The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**
- Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. **NELSON MANDELA**

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1631:** More than 3,000 people were killed by a major eruption of Mount Vesuvius.
- 1773:** In what is known as the Boston Tea Party, American colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians threw 342 chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company into Boston Harbor to protest a tax on tea.
- 1838:** Voortrekkers killed 3,000 Zulu at the Battle of Blood River in South Africa.
- 1944:** In World War II, German forces attempted to push through Allied lines in the Ardennes, beginning the Battle of the Bulge.

### LOL

#### Try to catch the rabbit

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the FBI, and the CIA are all trying to prove that they are the best at apprehending criminals. The President decides to give them a test. He releases a rabbit into a forest and each of them has to catch it. The CIA goes in. They place animal informants throughout the forest. They question all plant and mineral witnesses. After three months of extensive



investigations they conclude that rabbits do not exist. The FBI goes in. After two weeks with no leads they burn the forest, killing everything in it, including the rabbit, and they make no apologies. The rabbit had it coming. The LAPD goes in. They come out two hours later with a badly beaten bear. The bear is yelling: 'Okay! Okay! I'm a rabbit! I'm a rabbit!'



Gernot Wagner

### THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY HAS REASON TO CHEER, WITH 22 GOVERNMENTS PLEDGING TO TRIPLE GLOBAL NUCLEAR-ENERGY CAPACITY BY 2050

“#Actionism.” That word greeted arriving passengers at Dubai International Airport, the port of entry for the vast majority of the 100,000 or so climate negotiators, activists, industry lobbyists, and others attending this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference and the events around it. It flickered from ads in the oddly underused metro connecting the airport directly to the official COP28 venue, and it was displayed on the occasional billboard along the two main “roads” spanning the length of the city, each with at least a dozen lanes. Apparently, the neologism is meant to convey not just action, but “vigorous action to bring about change.”

This attempt to rebrand an everyday word encapsulates COP28, surely one of the most surreal climate summits to date. Between Dubai's ostentatious fossil-fueled wealth, misguided car-centric city planning, and the fact that COP28 itself was led by a fossil-fuel CEO, it has been much easier than in prior years to be cynical about the whole exercise.

But cynicism will not help us address climate change, and while it was tough to spot amid all the greenwashing, there was some real progress on the ground. Two weeks before the conference, the United Arab Emirates opened the world's largest single-site solar plant, with two gigawatts of panels spanning 20 square kilometers and powering almost 200,000 energy-hogging UAE homes for \$1.32 per kilowatt-hour — one of the lowest prices for electricity anywhere delivered at this scale.

Nor is this the only development to applaud. The renewables lobby is celebrating a pledge, supported by 118 governments, to triple global renewable-energy capacity and double the annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030. The nuclear industry also has reason to cheer, with 22 governments pledging to triple global nuclear-energy

### FOCUS CLIMATE SUMMIT

# OUTCOME OF COP28



Between Dubai's ostentatious fossil-fueled wealth, misguided car-centric city planning, and the fact that COP28 itself was led by a fossil-fuel CEO, it has been much easier than in prior years to be cynical about the whole exercise

capacity by 2050. Both commitments are good news for the climate. The world needs both renewables and nuclear in order to cut fossil-fuel use quickly. Building low-carbon capacity fast is what matters, more so than whether the COP28 agreement includes the words “phase out” or “phase down.”

Precisely because the world needs to cut fossil-fuel use together, it is more difficult to evaluate another pledge made this month to reduce methane (CH4). While carbon dioxide (CO2) is the biggest overall climate culprit, CH4 will be responsible for as much as 45% of the planetary warming this decade — even though it doesn't remain in the atmosphere for nearly as long as CO2.

So it was much more than just well-timed symbolism when the US Environmental Protection Agency announced on December 2, the first Saturday of COP28, that it had finalized a long-awaited rule to cut CH4 emissions from the oil and gas sector by around 80% over 15 years. That news came with a \$1 billion commitment to help smaller countries address the same problem, leading several to join the Global Methane Pledge (launched at COP26 in Glasgow and strengthened at

COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh) to cut total CH4 emissions 30% by 2030. And all this comes on the heels of an EU law that sets tight CH4 leakage standards. In classic EU regulatory fashion, that provision should reach well beyond European borders.

December 2 also brought a major industry announcement. Around 50 of the world's largest oil and gas firms — including ExxonMobil, Shell, Saudi Aramco, and ADNOC (the company led by Sultan al-Jaber, the COP28 president) — pledged to all but eliminate their own CH4 emissions.

Climate campaigners are understandably questioning the industry's motives, and emphasizing that such pledges could detract from the need to cut both CH4 and CO2 emissions from fossil-fuel use, not merely from its production. They can cite comments like one by Occidental Petroleum CEO Vicki Hollub, who told S&P Global's CERWeek conference earlier this year that Occidental's purchase of direct-air-capture technology “gives our industry a license to continue to operate for the 60, 70, 80 years that I think it's going to be very much needed.” The statement put “moral hazard” on display better than any climate campaigner

ever could.

None of that diminishes the real, positive effects that would come from slashing CH4 emissions this decade (or from scaling up carbon-removal technologies, for that matter). But the question of how useful the COP process has been raises an even broader, almost philosophical one: How should we think about CO2, CH4, or any other emissions reductions that are ostensibly “costless” (or even profitable) from a narrow technical perspective, but that have yet to happen?

After all, oil and gas companies here are committing to stop wasting gas, one of their two main products — and an increasingly important and lucrative one at that. Ideally, it would not take the performative circus of COP to achieve these kinds of agreements. Yet, as the CH4 pledge shows, apparently it does.

The problem is that coordinating pledges across industry players, civil society, and governments to measure, report, verify, and ultimately enforce action via a unified set of standards takes time and effort. It is for good reason that the acronym-laden COP process has turned “MRV” into a verb. The task now will be to MRV(E) — measure, report, verify, and enforce — the pledges on renewables, nuclear, and CH4 coming out of COP28, while also keeping the larger picture in mind.

There are clear hurdles to overcome, even — or perhaps especially — with seemingly costless emissions reductions that industries themselves have an interest in adopting. The key task for international gatherings, as for low-carbon technologies themselves, is to focus on getting costs down, and fast. Judged by that benchmark, COP28 may yet prove to be at least as important a stepping stone in the global clean-energy race as any of the previous UN climate summits.

The writer is a climate economist at Columbia Business School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE, 2023.

### SPECTRUM GEO-POLITICS

## Indo-US ties need more engagement



DK Giri

### INDIA IS MOVING ON FROM NON-ALIGNMENT TO MULTI-ALIGNMENT AND LEANING TOWARDS THE WEST FOR ITS GROWTH AND SECURITY

A senior official, the Press Secretary of Pentagon, Pat Ryder, said in a news conference on December 13 that the US has made great progress in its defence ties with India and is looking forward to making further progress in military-to-military engagement in 2024.

At the same time, Indian media reports that US President Joe Biden has declined the invitation to be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade next month. Also, India has voted for a resolution that calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, whereas the US has voted against. It is also noteworthy that India also voted for two amendments, one moved by Austria and the other by USA. The Amendment Resolution proposed by USA made specific mention of “Heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place on Israel on 7 October 2023 and the taking up hostages”.

Unarguably, in international politics, countries conduct their foreign policies in pursuance of their national interests, re-

flecting the values and norms they espouse and stand for, as well as the rules they adhere to. But the moot question is how the national interest is defined and realised in short and long term. In the formative years of independent India, the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru conceptualised the country's foreign policy while other ministers were busy uniting and stabilising the nascent independent country.

On reflection, experts, scholars and observers argue that the policy of Non-alignment, the hallmark of Nehru's foreign policy proved costly for the country besides it not being maintainable as a strategy.

India is moving on from Non-alignment to multi-alignment. It is leaning towards the US and the West for its growth and security. Is this right approach now or in the long-term interest of India?

To take a few illustrations in order to examine the above assumption, let us look at the war in Ukraine. India abstained on several resolutions moved in

the United Nations on naming Russia as an aggressor, which implied New Delhi's stance has been pro-Russian. New Delhi has a tradition of expressing solidarity with countries suffering from intervention, neo-colonial exploitation, and undue interference and intervention.

Is that good for India's reputation of embracing a value-based approach in international politics, particularly in comparison to China, which is out to grab other countries territory and is posing a systemic threat to world politics?

On Ukrainian war, India would excel as a neutral party if the Prime Minister could broker a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia in consultation with the United States and Europe.

On the war in Gaza, India did display a pragmatic as well as normative approach by expressing solidarity with Israel as it faced a terrorist attack from Hamas. In the latest UN resolution, India has taken a balanced position of calling for a ceasefire as well as calling out

Hamas for terror attacks.

On the other hand, the refusal of the invitation from Modi by Joe Biden could also be attributed to the irritation arising out of the “assumed Indian agency hand” in the attempted assassination of the controversial Sikh, an American citizen, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

Be that as it may, there is a case for India's greater engagement with the United States that takes a rounded approach, not just sectoral like the increased collaboration in defence. A bilateral relationship is based on shared understanding, deepening trust and often being on the same side on important international issues. Such an approach militates against India's multi-alignment policy which is of course desirable in a globalised world. Is it not necessary to differentiate between issue-based alignment and strategic partnership?

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism. INFIA

### Rise in vegetable prices

Sir, Generally, during the winter season, prices of vegetables fall steeply, and people generally prepare pickles, jam, and carrot halwa in plenty. But this time around, the wholesale price-based inflation touches a new high, and homemakers feel the pinch in their pockets, and the monthly budget goes awry all the time. The increase was driven largely by a sharp jump in food prices, especially those of onions and other vegetables. The positive rate of inflation in November 2023 is primarily because of an increase in the prices of food articles, minerals, machinery and equipment, computers, electronics, and optical products. Meanwhile, India's retail inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), in November 2023 also increased to 5.55 per cent amid a low base and rising food prices, according to the latest inflation data released recently. The warlike situation is causing the government to switch policies frequently. Even as the fallout of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the unprecedented tightening of monetary policy reverberate across the world, the recent developments in West Asia have only added to the litany of challenges for the global economy.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

### A wake-up call

Sir, The unprecedented security breach in Parliament has left the entire nation in a state of shock and disbelief. Can entering a highly protected building be that simple? The infraction cannot be seen as a singular event but as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities that exist even in the most guarded locations of the country. It is all the more disturbing that the incident took place on a day marked by solemn tributes to the victims of the 2001 Parliament attack, adding a layer of grim irony to the sacred institution. The Parliament security breach is a wake-up call to the nation, and it highlights the need for constant vigilance, robust security frameworks, and swift action to prevent any compromises to the nation's security. As investigations continue, it is crucial to learn from this incident and beef up our defences against any such future threats. Meanwhile, on a lighter note, perhaps the intruders must have wrongly understood the meaning of “jumping into politics” as they descended into the LS chamber from the public gallery. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

PLEAS FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF SENA MLAS

# SC extends time, asks Maha Speaker to decide by Jan 10

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 15:** The Supreme Court Friday extended the deadline for Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to decide the cross-petitions filed by the rival factions of the Shiv Sena seeking disqualification of each other's MLAs from December 31 to January 10 next year.

The top court, which granted 10 more days to the Speaker, had earlier asked him to decide the disqualification pleas by December 31, saying the sanctity of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution (disqualification law) should be maintained.

"The speaker has indicated that the proceedings will be closed December 20 and the Speaker has sought a reasonable extension of time for declaration of the order. Bearing in mind the time limit, which was set out by this court in its previous order dated October 30, was until December 31. We grant extension of time for pronouncement of orders till January 10," a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said.

At the start of the brief hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Speaker, sought extension of the deadline by three more weeks, saying around 2.71 lakh pages of documents have been filed before him and he has to examine them before passing orders.

He said no further extension will be sought in the matter as the Speaker is all set to reserve his orders December 20 and needs time for delivering the same.

"The speaker has said that 20 December the judgement would be reserved and no further time would be taken. Hearings took place even during the Assembly session. There are 2.71 lakh pages... I am seeking an extension of time by three weeks for pronouncing the order. We won't ask for more," the law officer said.

The prayer for extension was objected to by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek



Singhvi, who appeared for the Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray faction.

The solicitor general persisted with the request and said this is a quasi judicial function and the Speaker needs time.

The top court, while fixing the previous deadline, had said procedural wranglings should not be permitted to delay a decision on the disqualification petitions.

The top court had also asked the Speaker to decide the NCP's petition seeking disqualification of nine MLAs of the Ajit Pawar group by January 31, 2024.

"We are concerned that the sanctity of the 10th Schedule must be maintained. Otherwise, we are throwing these provisions to the wind," the court had said.

The 10th Schedule of the Constitution is designed to prevent defection of elected and nominated members of Parliament and state legislatures from political parties on whose ticket they win, and contains stringent provisions against it under which they can be disqualified.

The delay in deciding the disqualification petitions against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Shiv Sena MLAs loyal to him had come under strict scrutiny by the apex court which came down hard on the Assembly Speaker at previous hearings, saying the proceedings cannot be reduced to a charade and that he

cannot 'defeat' its orders.

The top court was hearing two petitions filed by the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena and the Sharad Pawar bloc of the NCP seeking a direction to the Speaker to expeditiously decide disqualification proceedings against some MLAs.

Earlier September 18, the bench had directed the Speaker to spell out the time table for adjudication of the disqualification petitions against Shinde and Shiv Sena MLAs owing allegiance to him. They had split the Shiv Sena and tied up with the BJP to form a new government in June 2022.

The court had asked the solicitor general to apprise the bench of the time schedule to be fixed by the Speaker for deciding the pleas for disqualification of 56 MLAs, including lawmakers belonging to the Shinde faction.

The Thackeray faction had moved the apex court in July seeking a direction to the Speaker to expeditiously adjudicate the disqualification petitions in a time-bound manner.

The plea by Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MLA Sunil Prabhu, who as the chief whip of the undivided Shiv Sena had filed the disqualification petitions against Shinde and other MLAs in 2022, alleged the Speaker is deliberately delaying the adjudication despite an apex court verdict asking him to decide them within a 'reasonable' time.

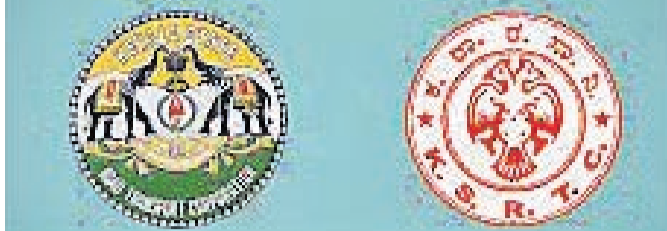
# Madras HC dismissed Kerala SRTC claims, says KSRTC on logo war

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Dec 15:** The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Friday said there is no legal prohibition for use of 'KSRTC' by it in the wake of the Madras High Court dismissing Kerala State Road Transport Corporation's claim for exclusive use of the abbreviation.

In a statement, Karnataka SRTC said they had applied for grant of Trade Mark Certificate for use of 'KSRTC' abbreviation. The Corporation was granted Trade Mark Certificates by the Trade Mark Registry of Government of India in 2013 with user date from November 1, 1973.

Copyright was also obtained from the Registrar of Copyrights, Government of India for use of 'KSRTC' logo and 'Gandabherunda art' (logo of the state government), Karnataka SRTC said. Thereafter, Kerala SRTC had challenged this before Intellectual Property Appellate



**Copyright was obtained from the Registrar of Copyrights, Govt of India for use of 'KSRTC' logo and 'Gandabherunda art' (logo of the state gov't), Karnataka SRTC said**

Board (IPAB) in Chennai, said the Karnataka SRTC.

The Karnataka SRTC said its contention was that Kerala SRTC knew that they (Karnataka) were using the mark for the past 42 years and had accepted it and hence were not entitled to apply for a declaration that the registration

of the later trade mark is invalid. The Kerala RTC too had obtained registration of the marks in 2019 claiming prior use, the Karnataka SRTC said, adding that the matters which were pending before the IPAB were transferred to the High Court of Madras in Chennai after abolition of IPAB by the Central government.

The High Court of Madras December 12 dismissed the applications filed by Kerala RTC and ruled in favour of KSRTC (Karnataka), the statement said. As the Kerala RTC's case was dismissed, the Karnataka RTC has no legal hurdle to use the abbreviation 'KSRTC' in future also, the statement added.

# TECHIE WAKES UP AT STRANGER'S HOME, COMPLAINS GANGRAPE

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Dec 15:** In a bizarre incident, a Bangalore-based software engineer woke up at a stranger's home following a visit to a pub in the city after which she filed a police complaint alleging gang rape, sources said Friday.

According to police sources, the incident occurred Tuesday when the victim visited the pub in the city's Koramangala area.

All she remembers is getting unconscious and waking up at a stranger's place the next morning, the sources added.



The victim claims she was taken to the Deve Gowda Layout near Adugodi.

The police said that once she was awake, she managed to knock on the door of the nearest house, seeking help.

The residents of the house dialed the police helpline and Adugodi police rushed to the spot and rescued the victim.

Later, she was taken to the Koramangala police station, where she filed her complaint.

The police have started a probe into the incident.

# Foundation stone for Ayodhya mosque likely to be laid next yr



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Dec 15:** The foundation stone of the Masjid Mohammad bin Abdullah in Ayodhya is likely to be laid next year, and saints, pirs and clerics will be invited for the ceremony, people associated with the project said Friday.

The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) has been tasked with the construction of this mosque. Haji Arfat Shaikh, chairman of the Ayodhya mosque development committee, said when the mosque is ready in the next five to six years,

top clerics of all countries will be invited, including Imam-e-Haram, who leads the namaz at the Mecca masjid.

Shaikh, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former ex-ministry commission chairman of Maharashtra, said the mosque will be 'more beautiful' than the iconic Taj Mahal. "We will invite saints and pirs from across the country for laying the foundation stone which is likely to happen early next year," Shaikh said.

Named after the Prophet, Masjid Mohammad Bin Abdullah will be built in place of the Babri Masjid but at a different spot in Dharnipur,

25km from Ayodhya. The plot was given by the Uttar Pradesh government to the Muslims in accordance with the Supreme Court order in the Ayodhya Ram temple dispute. "We are hoping to lay the foundation stone for the mosque next year and we will invite clerics from across the country for the ceremony," Zulfar Ahmad Faruqi, president and chief trustee, IICF said.

"Once the mosque is ready, we will invite dignitaries from across the world," Faruqi, also the chairman of Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, said. Besides the mosque, the mosque development committee has envisaged colleges dedicated to different subjects like dentistry, law, architecture and international relations there. Additionally, two hospitals will come up, including for cancer treatment, Shaikh said, adding that a vegetarian community centre will also be built to cater to the people of all faiths.

# Rhea moves HC against CBI lookout circular

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Dec 15:** Rhea Chakraborty has moved the Bombay High Court challenging the lookout circular issued against her by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with its probe into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Rajput was found dead in his apartment in suburban Bandra June 14, 2020, and his father had, in July that year, lodged a complaint with Bihar police accusing Chakraborty, the actor's then girlfriend, and her kin of abetting his suicide. In her plea, Chakraborty sought for the circular to be quashed, and in a separate application sought temporary suspension of the circular as she has to travel abroad for a professional event. Friday, her counsel Abhinav Chandrachud submitted to a division bench led by Justice A S Gadkari that it has been almost three years since the FIR was lodged by the CBI and the lookout circular issued but till date there has been no other progress.

# SIT probe into Sena (UBT) leader partying with Dawood aide claims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nagpur, Dec 15:** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Friday announced probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into a dance party where gangster Dawood Ibrahim's aide and 1993 Mumbai blasts convict Salim Kutta and a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader were allegedly present together.

Sudhakar Badgujar, the leader in question, denied the allegations while speaking at a news conference in Nashik.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Nitesh Rane raised the issue in the Assembly here through a point of information, displaying a photo where Badgujar, the Nashik city unit chief of the Sena (UBT), and Salim Kutta are seen dancing.

"I also have a video of this party. This Salim Kutta is out on parole and was partying with a leader of Uddhav Thackeray's



party. Action should be taken against him," said Rane. Minister Dadaji Bhuse, who belongs to the rival Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, demanded action against Badgujar saying that it was an anti-national act, while BJP MLA Ashish Shelar said there should be a thorough probe and Badgujar should be arrested.

Badgujar told reporters that the video that Rane claimed to have could be a morphed one. "I never had any links with Salim Kutta. The allegations have been levelled with political motives. I did not have any links with him, nor do I have any at present. If we met in public life at some point, I do not remember it," he said.

"Guardian minister (for Nashik) Bhuse did not obtain correct information before levelling allegations against me. In 2016, a rally was taken out for the demand of separate Vidarbha state, and Shiv Sena workers protested against it. As a result, cases were filed against party workers. A case was also filed against me and I was in jail for 14 days," Badgujar said. "The (1993) bomb blasts convicts were also in the (same) jail but we were unaware of it.... Salim Kutta must have been a prisoner there," he added.

# HC: Karnataka bank is a private entity, not 'State'

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Dec 15:** Private-sector Karnataka bank is not 'State' as per the Constitution and it cannot be termed as an institution or company carrying on any statutory or public duty, the High Court of Karnataka has held.



Rejecting a writ petition against the bank, a single judge bench of Justice KV Aravind in a recent order said, "Though the respondent bank is engaged in public finance and regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it cannot be termed as an Institution or Company carrying on any statutory or public duty. A writ of mandamus cannot be issued to the authorities not contemplated under Article 12 of the

Constitution."

The petition was filed by Rajesh Kumar Shetty against T Subbaya Shetty and the Karnataka Bank seeking a direction to allow him to withdraw the fixed deposits of ₹1,24,27,826 from his account. The genesis of the dispute was a suit filed by Subbaya Shetty in a lower court seeking a declaration that he was the sole executor of the wills of Geetha T Punja and P Thimappa Punja. In November 2022, the lower court had passed a temporary injunction prohibiting any person from withdrawing the money standing in the accounts of Geetha Punja and Thimappa Punja until the suit was disposed of.

When the stay was vacated, Rajesh Kumar Shetty filed representations for release of the money in the accounts for personal necessities. The bank replied that since there was a claim suit pending in the court, it was unable to allow him to withdraw the money.

# IISc finds way to encapsulate liquid droplets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Dec 15:** Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a technique to encapsulate liquid droplets used for various applications, including single crystal growth and cell culture.

Bengaluru-based IISc in a press release, said, "The technique exploits the capillary effect - the rise of a liquid through a narrow space - to coat droplets in a composite shell containing oil-loving and hydrophobic particles."

It offers the ability to tune the

shell thickness over a wide range, allowing the encapsulation of droplets of different sizes. The study was published in 'Nature Communications'.

Droplets are important in a variety of fields. "In microreactors, droplets can be used to create different reaction environments or mix different chemicals. In drug delivery systems, droplets can be used to deliver drugs or other agents to specific tissues or organs. In crystallisation studies, droplets can be used to control the growth of crystals.

"And in cell culture platforms,

droplets can be used to grow cells in a controlled environment, which can help to improve cell viability and proliferation," explains lead researcher Rutvik Lathia, PhD student at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc. However, there are several challenges in using such droplets, the release said.

They are vulnerable to contamination from the ambient environment, the ease and success of a particular process depends a lot on the surface they're dropped on, and they can vanish into thin air pretty fast.

While encapsulating droplets with liquids or solids that don't mix with the droplets (like water droplets inside an oil shell) is a plausible solution to avoid these issues, making a shell that is hardy, continuous and has an adjustable thickness at a super tiny scale has proven elusive so far.

To address these challenges, Prosenjit Sen, Associate Professor at CeNSE, and his team have developed a new capillary force-assisted cloaking method to trap droplets within colloidal particles and liquid-infused surfaces. First, they carefully coated

droplets with small hydrophobic and oil-loving beads, turning them into what they call Liquid Marbles (LM).

When these LM are kept on oil-infused surfaces, capillary forces kick in, allowing the oil to rise up into tiny pores created between individual beads. These beads play a crucial role in promoting and stabilising the formation of a liquid film around the droplet, effectively encapsulating it. The researchers were also able to use wax instead of oil to create a solid shell by adjusting the temperature.

# AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:

Wednesday, 20th December, 2023; 6:30 pm onwards, at Hotel Radhika Regency, Bira Road, Rourkela - 769 001, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.

Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. No walk-ins will be allowed.



An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

Visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how> to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website ([www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html](http://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html)). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMC's, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMC's they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on [scores.gov.in](http://scores.gov.in). SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMC's or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on [smartodr.in/login](http://smartodr.in/login).

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.



Indian Air Force personnel perform a drill during the 'Military Tattoo' show to celebrate 'Vijay Diwas' at the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata



Volunteers sort metal pots being brought from the Ayodhya Ram Temple as an invitation to devotees ahead of the inauguration of the temple during 'Akshat Kalash Yatra', in Jammu



People ride in boats as waters of Grand Canal turned green after a protest by 'Extinction Rebellion' climate activists in Venice, Italy



A heron sits on partially submerged seats as the river Thames overtops its banks following prolonged rainfall and high tides, in west London, Britain



Children dressed in Santa Claus hats run from the start line of the traditional Christmas run along the streets of Vilnius, Lithuania



Security personnel at the Parliament House complex during the Winter Session in New Delhi



Rescue officials conduct an operation after an oil spill in the Bay of Bengal off the Ennore Creek area in the aftermath of cyclone Michaung, in Chennai



# national

of the day quote

Instead of taking the necessary decision of providing livelihood to the unemployed and other poor hard-working people, the newly formed BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has started suppressing those, who owing to shortage of employment opportunities, are self-employed by selling fish, eggs, meat etc. How is it appropriate? Reconsideration of this controversial decision is necessary

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

Since the days when foreign governments worked to sanction India's space outreach in the early 90s, the country has emerged as a confident and respected global space technology power under the visionary, firm and decisive leadership of PM Modi

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

Digi Yatra facility will be available at 25 more airports in 2024

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER



**Suspension of MPs is no deterrent to those who breached security. It is intended to silence the Opposition**  
P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

## OVER 5CR CASES PENDING

Over 5 crore cases are pending in various courts of the country, including 80,000 in the Supreme Court, the Lok Sabha was informed Friday



## PARLIAMENT SECURITY BREACH

# 'Mastermind' sent to police custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 15: A Delhi court Friday sent Lalit Jha, arrested in the Parliament security breach case, to 7-day custody of the Delhi Police that claimed he was the "mastermind" of the shocking incident.

Special Judge Hardeep Kaur remanded Jha in Delhi police's custody on an application moved by the prosecution, which said he was required to be questioned to unearth the entire conspiracy.

During the brief hearing, the prosecutor told the court that Jha was arrested on Thursday night, after which he was subjected to "detailed interrogation". "He disclosed how he is the mastermind of the entire conspiracy... He is required to unearth the entire conspiracy and the modus operandi," the public prosecutor told the court while seeking his remand for 15 days.

Police also said he needed to be questioned about a phone he was using and has not been



Lalit Jha, the key accused in the recent Parliament security breach, being produced at the Patiala House Court, in New Delhi, Friday

traced yet. Jha, accompanied by a man, turned himself in at the Kartavya Path police station in the national capital last evening where he was arrested before being handed over to the Special Cell, the specialised counter-terror unit of the city police. Police claimed Jha has ad-

mitted that the accused met many times to hatch a conspiracy to breach Parliament security. "Jha disclosed that they wanted to create anarchy in the country so that they can compel the government to meet their demands. He took the phones (of other accused) to hide them and to destroy evidence as part of the larger conspiracy. He disclosed that he threw his phone away on way from Jaipur to Delhi," police told the court.

Police said Jha's custodial interrogation was required for "in depth investigation to unearth the larger conspiracy behind the attack, involvement of other persons and to find the actual motive behind the attack".

Besides, he was also required to be interrogated to ascertain whether the accused had association with any enemy country or terrorist organisation, police said.

"We need him to confront the accused with each other, to locate the mobile phones, to take him to locate the hotel where stayed for 4 days, and to know the fi-

nanial transaction and funding behind the attack," police told the court.

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack on Wednesday, two men -- Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D -- jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, set off yellow smoke from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by MPs.

Around the same time, two others, including a woman, raised slogans and released yellow smoke from canisters outside the Parliament premises. They were promptly subdued by security personnel.

According to police, the security breach was well-coordinated, meticulously planned and carried out by six people, all of whom are now in police custody. While Sagar, Manoranjan, Amol and Neelam were nabbed from spot, their accomplice Vishal, in whose house they stayed before reaching Parliament, was detained from Gurugram.

## UP judge alleges sexual harassment, CJI steps in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 15: A woman judicial officer posted in Uttar Pradesh's Banda district has written a letter to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud accusing a district judge of sexual harassment and seeking his permission to end her life in a "dignified way", prompting the CJI to call for a report from the Allahabad High Court administration on the status of inquiry.

The woman judicial officer, in her two-page letter, sought the CJI's permission to end her life following the abuse and harassment she had faced in her career during her posting in Barabanki. "I have no will to live anymore. I have been rendered to a walking corpse in the last

year and a half. There is no purpose in carrying this soulless and lifeless body around anymore. There is no purpose left in my life. Kindly permit me to end my life in a dignified way," the letter, which went viral on social media, said.

According to apex court sources, the Supreme Court's secretary general, under orders from the CJI, has asked the registrar general of the Allahabad high court about the status of the proceedings before the internal complaints committee (ICC) that is dealing with the complaint of the judicial officer.

The woman judge had earlier filed a petition before the top court which came up for hearing before a bench of justices Hrishikesh Roy and Sandeep Mehta.

## SC REFUSES TO STAY SHAHI MOSQUE SURVEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to stay the Allahabad High Court's decision allowing a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah adjoining the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura on an oral plea by the Muslim side and asked them to challenge the order by way of an appeal. The high court had Thursday allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah and agreed to the appointment of an advocate commissioner to oversee the survey of the mosque premises. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti deferred until January 9 the hearing on a plea filed by the Committee of Management Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah challenging the May 26 order of the high court transferring to itself all matters related to the dispute pending before a Mathura court.

## Bhajan Lal takes oath as Raj CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Dec 15: First-time MLA Bhajan Lal Sharma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's top leadership Friday, 12 days after the party ousted the Congress in the assembly polls.

Sharma, a BJP state general secretary, took charge on the day he turned 57. Along with him, Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa were sworn in as deputy chief ministers by Governor Kalraj Mishra. All three took the oath in Hindi. Ashok Gehlot attended the ceremony held in front of the iconic Albert Hall here -- the lone Congress leader in a show of strength by the BJP.

A large gathering of BJP MLAs and workers from across the state witnessed the event, which followed the swearing-in ceremonies in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the two other states where the BJP won the November assembly polls.

Later, Sharma assumed charge at his office in the secretariat, amid the chanting of Vedic hymns. Former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, Union ministers Jagendra Singh Shekhawat and Arjun Meghwal, Rajasthan BJP president C P Joshi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by new Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma during the latter's swearing-in ceremony in Jaipur

and others state leaders came to the Chief Minister Office for this.

As Sharma sat on the CM's chair, Raje placed a hand on his head to bless him. Before Sharma was picked by the party leadership for the top post, surprising many, she was considered to be a frontrunner in the race. However, the main show of support for the low-profile leader was at the open-air swearing-in ceremony earlier.

PM Modi led the list of invitees. Others included party president J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari. Also at the event were chief minis-

ters from BJP-run states -- Madhya Pradesh's Mohan Yadav, Uttarakhanda's Pushkar Singh Dhami, Gujarat's Bhupendra Patel, Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde and Goa's Pramod Sawant. Uttar Pradesh was represented by Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Seers and mahants from different places were at the ceremony as well. As Sharma, Diya Kumari and Bairwa took the oath, BJP supporters raised slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi-Modi'. Outgoing CM Gehlot sat next to Union Minister Shekhawat, their rivalry seemingly forgotten as they chatted with each other, and with Raje.

## Top court defers hearing on Mahua's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday deferred the hearing on a plea of Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra challenging her expulsion from the Lok Sabha till January 3 next year. Moitra challenged her expulsion in the top court after the Lok Sabha adopted the report of its ethics committee that held her guilty of accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman. As soon as the matter was taken up for hearing, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who was appearing for Moitra, that the bench had not gone through the case files and it would like to hear it upon reopening of the court after winter break, which ends on January 3.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA**  
e-mail: [rw\\_mayurbhan@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rw_mayurbhan@yahoo.co.in)  
e-Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 21/RWD/BPD/2023-24

No.O-1813:1.Name of the Work: Building=6 Nos./Road=5nos. 2. Total No. of Works: 11 Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: Approx Estimated Cost Rs.5.77 lakhs to Rs.28.09 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: 'D' & 'C' / 'C' & 'B'. 5. EMD: EMD @ 1% of Estimated Cost Put to Tender. 6. Period of Completion: As per Annexure 7. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender in the office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Baripada
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Baripada of 2023-24	21 (Online)/RWD-BPD	At 11.00 A.M.	upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.28.12.23 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.29.12.23 at 05.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
OIPR-25057/11/0032/2324  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Baripada

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JAGATSIKHPUR**  
1st Corrigendum to Tender Call Notice No.13 of 2023-24  
No.O-1814:In Partial modification to this office Tender Call Notice No.13 of 2023-24, the tender invited in this notice the Sl.No.03,12,13 & 27 from the table are dropped.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Rural Works Division, Jagatsikhpur  
OIPR-25056/11/0029/2324

**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION**  
e-mail: [bhadrakrmbdivision@gmail.com](mailto:bhadrakrmbdivision@gmail.com)  
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.SE (R&B) BDK-27/ 2023-24 No.7542/Dt.14.12.23

- Nature of work - Road Work
- Number of works - 9 (Nine) No of Road Work
- Amount put to Tender - Rs.41,97,227/-, Rs.28,09,579/-, Rs.42,37,049/-, Rs.30,67,119/-, Rs.13,61,200/-, 38,48,729/-, Rs.42,30,863/-, Rs.41,81,188/-, Rs.21,17,855/-
- Class of Contractor - 'B', B & C, C & D
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal - 22.12.2023 at 11.00 AM
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal - Dt.29.12.2023 upto 5.00 PM
- Date of opening of bid - Dt.30.12.2023 at 11.30 AM
- Name & Address of the Office Inviting Bid - Superintending Engineer, Bhadrak (R&B) Division
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Bhadrak (R&B) Division, Bhadrak  
OIPR-34079/11/0027/2324

**ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅନୁବନ୍ଧିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବିଜେପୁର**  
**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BIJEPUR**  
AT/PO/PS: Bijepur, Dist- Bargarh (Odisha), PIN: 768032  
Email ID: [bjepurnac2018-od.gov.in](mailto:bjepurnac2018-od.gov.in), [bjepurnac2018@gmail.com](mailto:bjepurnac2018@gmail.com), Website: [www.bjepurnac.in](http://www.bjepurnac.in)  
Letter No. 1561/NACB Date: 11.12.2023

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
No.C-2104: Sealed bid in conformity with detailed tender call notice are invited for "Providing Manpower Sanitation Services (Driver-09 Nos., Sanitation Supervisor-03 Nos. & Workers- 03 Nos.) in Ward No.1 to 11 of Bijepur NAC" percentage rate contract from intending registered firms (Agency/NGOs/Private companies working within the jurisdiction of Odisha, having eligibility criteria as stipulated in DTCN. For execution of the under mentioned work apply through e-Tender of bid document shall start from dt. 14.12.2023 at 10.00 AM & closing on dt.26.12.2023 at 5.00 PM and bid documents will be opened on 27.12.2023 at 11.00 AM in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to remain present during opening of tender. Further, the details can be seen from the procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
OIPR-13123/11/0020/2324 Sd./- Executive Officer, Bijepur NAC

**BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
e-Mail: [ee3@bmc.gov.in](mailto:ee3@bmc.gov.in)  
e-Procurement Notice  
No. 5866 XI-PW-DIV-III-04/23 Dt.04.12.2023

No. C-2093: On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Executive Engineer-III, BMC invites Percentage Rate Bids for the work mentioned below through e-Procurement in conformity with the terms and conditions of the Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in the DTCN. Each bid should be submitted online through the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) by eligible bidders.

1. No. of Works	: 1 (Two) Nos.
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.20,66,953.00
3. Class of Contractor	: "C" to "B" Class
4. Period of Completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of 14.12.2023 to 05.00 P.M. of 28.12.2023
6. Last date/time of submission of bids in the portal	: 05.00 P.M. of 28.12.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid from portal	: 11.30 A.M. of 29.12.2023

Tender details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> & BMC Website: <https://www.bmc.gov.in>.  
Sd./- Executive Engineer  
BMC Division-III  
OIPR-13002/11/0232/2324

## UP BJP MLA gets 25 years in jail for rape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonbhadra (UP), Dec 15: A court here Friday sentenced BJP MLA Ramdular Gond to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment for the rape of a girl nine years ago, setting the stage for his disqualification from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

According to the Representation of the People Act, a lawmaker sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time.

Ahsan Ullah Khan, the additional district and session judge of the MP-MLA court in Sonbhadra, also imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Gond which would be used in the rape survivor's rehabilitation. The rape survivor is now married and the mother of an eight-year-old girl.

Special Public Prosecutor Satyaprakash Tripathi said the court held the MLA from Duddhi assembly seat -- reserved for Scheduled Tribes -- guilty on December 12. The incident took place in 2014 and a case was registered against Gond under IPC sections 376 (rape) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) as well as under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on the complaint of the rape survivor's brother.

Gond was not an MLA at that time while his wife was a gram pradhan, Tripathi added.

## MANIPUR VIOLENCE

# Submit report on steps taken to secure places of worship: SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 15: The Supreme Court Friday directed the Manipur government to apprise the apex court-appointed committee of the steps taken to secure places of public worship in the state where ethnic clashes have claimed more than 170 lives since May.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which was considering the issue of restoration of places of worship, was informed that the state government had earlier filed an affidavit in the apex court and religious shrines have been identified and secured.

"The Government of Manipur shall within a period of two weeks furnish to the court-appointed committee a comprehensive list following the exercise of identification of all religious structures in the state which has been carried out," said the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

It clarified the identification of such places shall cover all religious denominations, irrespective of the nature of the religious structures which have been damaged or destroyed during the strife.

"The government of Manipur shall apprise the committee of the steps which have been taken to secure the place of public worship," it said. The bench said based on their identification, the court-appointed committee will prepare a comprehensive proposal for the way forward including with regard to restoration of places of public worship which may be damaged or destroyed during the violence.

"We clarify that committee will be at liberty to take a comprehensive view of the matter including dealing with supervening developments including in regard to the illegal encroachment/occupation of places of public worship," it said.

The bench said the committee will be at liberty to present its next report before the court so a suitable order can be passed.

"State of Manipur as well as the Director General of Police shall coordinate with the committee so that interim suggestions of the committee can be implemented without further delay," the bench said.

On the upcoming Christmas celebrations, the court said a large number of people belonging to various communities would currently be in relief camps across Manipur.

It noted that Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre and the state, have assured the court that necessary steps will be taken to ensure that those in the relief camps are in a position to observe all ceremonies related to the festival.

# international

## of the day quote

Proceeding purposefully and carefully to responsibly manage our economic relationship is the Biden administration approach on China

JANET YELLEN | TREASURY SECRETARY, US

We strongly oppose and deplore the individual countries slandering Hong Kong's national security law and interfering in the judicial system of Hong Kong

MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

I want them (Israel) to be focused on how to save civilian lives. Not stop going after Hamas, but be more careful

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

## SHORT TAKES

### US reaches H-1B cap for FY24

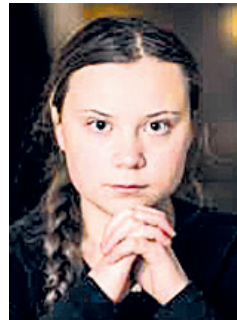
Washington: The US has received a sufficient number of petitions needed to reach a cap for the much-sought-after H-1B foreign work visas for the fiscal year 2024, a federal agency has announced. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in a statement Thursday said it has received a sufficient number of petitions needed to reach the congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap and the 20,000 H-1B visa US advanced degree exemption, known as the master's cap, for fiscal year 2024. The US federal government's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

### Maersk halts cargo ships via Red Sea

Helsinki: Danish shipping company AP Moller-Maersk will pause all container shipments through the Red Sea until further notice, a spokesperson for the company said. "Following the near-miss incident involving Maersk Gibraltar yesterday and yet another attack on a container vessel today, we have instructed all Maersk vessels in the area bound to pass through the Bab al-Mandab Strait to pause their journey until further notice," the company said. Yemen's rebel-group Houthis have claimed the responsibility for the attack.

### Sri Lanka back to square one

Colombo: Disgraced former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was reelected as the leader of the ruling party Friday, claimed the Rajapaksa clan was being "unfairly" accused of causing the unprecedented economic crisis that hit the island nation last year. Rajapaksa, 78, was reelected as the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party leader at its second convention held here. He vowed that the battered party would stage a strong comeback in the next elections in 2024. Asserting that the party had been subject to ridicule to discourage its rank and file from when it announced plans to hold the convention, Rajapaksa said, "We will be back stronger. Let those who slander and ridicule us continue their ways." "We are being unfairly accused of causing the economic crisis. We made sure (of) continued growth despite fighting the war with the LTTE," said Rajapaksa, who was the island nation's president from 2005-15.



This text (COP28 climate deal) is toothless and it is nowhere even close to being sufficient to keep us within the 1.5 degree limit. It is a stab in the back for those most vulnerable

GRETA THUNBERG | CLIMATE ACTIVIST

## COLD WAVE FREEZES CHINA

A cold wave extended its grip over China Friday with temperatures plummeting to below freezing, near to minus 40 degrees Celsius across most of the country, causing authorities to limit traffic flows on highways in several provinces after vehicles collided on icy patches



## EU ACCESSION

# Orban blow to Ukraine

Hungary's leader, a Russian ally, decided not to veto Ukraine's accession talks, but blocked the aid package

REUTERS

Brussels, Dec 15: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban vetoed a major European Union aid package for Ukraine Friday and warned he could still halt Kyiv's accession to the bloc after membership talks won EU approval.

At a summit in Brussels Thursday, the European Union's 26 other national leaders took the historic step of agreeing to start accession negotiations with a country at war, by-passing Orban's grievances by getting him to leave the room.

But, hours later, they could not overcome resistance from Orban, who maintains close ties to Russia, to a revamp of the bloc's budget to channel 50 billion euros (\$55 billion) to Ukraine and provide more cash for other EU priorities such as managing migration. The Kremlin praised Orban's

stance, which spokesman Dmitry Peskov said impressed Moscow, while criticising the EU, saying the decision to open membership talks was a politicised one that could destabilise the bloc.

Orban, who has a history of banking on clashes with other EU leaders for electoral benefit at home, told state radio that he blocked the aid package to Ukraine - part of a broader multi-year budget plan - to make sure Hungary gets the funds it wants from the EU budget.

"It is a great opportunity for Hungary to make it clear that it must get what it is entitled to. Not half of it, or one-fourth," he said.

The breakthrough on a membership path - which also showed the limits of Orban's power to bend EU decisions his way - came at a critical time for Ukraine with its counter-of-



Hungary's perspective is clear: Ukraine is not ready for us to begin negotiations on its EU membership. It's a completely illogical, irrational and improper decision

VIKTOR ORBAN | PM, HUNGARY

EUROPEAN UNION AGREES TO OPEN MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS WITH UKRAINE, MOLDOVA  
EU FAIL TO AGREE ON €50BN AID PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE, ON RENEGOTIATION OF EU BUDGET

fensive against Russian invasion forces having failed to make major gains and with U.S. President Joe Biden so far unable to get a \$60 billion package for Kyiv through Congress.

Although the process between opening negotiations and Ukraine finally becoming a member could take many years, Zelenskyy welcomed the agreement as "a victory for Ukraine. A victory for all of Europe." "History is made by those who don't get tired of fighting for freedom," Zelenskyy said.

'BAD DECISION?' But Orban warned Hungary

The start of accession talks was a momentous moment and stunning reversal for a country at war that had struggled to find the backing for its EU membership aspirations

# Prince Harry victim of phone hacking by scribes: UK court

Harry, the estranged younger son of King Charles III, wins phone hacking lawsuit against British tabloid publisher, awarded 1.4 million pounds

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, Dec 15: A UK judge ruled Friday that Prince Harry was a victim of phone hacking by journalists working for Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN), and awarded him £140,600 (\$179,600) in damages.

The high court judge ruled in favour of the Duke of Sussex in 15 of the 33 sample articles that he submitted as evidence in his lawsuit against MGN, which publishes The Mirror, Sunday Mirror, and Sunday People.

Justice Timothy Fancourt said he had concluded that the newspapers carried out "extensive" phone hacking of celebrities between 2006 and 2011, even when a public inquiry into the conduct of the British press was ongoing.

"I consider that his phone was only hacked to a modest extent, and that this was probably carefully



I've been told that slaying dragons will get you burned. But in light of today's victory and the importance of doing what is needed for a free and honest press it's a worthwhile price to pay. The mission continues

PRINCE HARRY

controlled by certain people at each newspaper," Fancourt said.

Prince Harry said in a statement read outside court by his lawyer that the ruling was "vindicating and affirming".

In a statement a spokesperson for MGN said: "Where historical wrongdoing took place, we apologise unreservedly, have taken full responsibility and paid appropriate compensation."

Harry, the younger son of King

Charles III, became the first British royal in over a century to take to the witness stand when he gave evidence in the trial. The last time a royal had given evidence in court was in the 1890s, when the future king Edward VII took the stand in a slander trial.

Harry, 39, accused the publisher of "industrial scale" phone hacking during emotional testimony in which he relived upsetting episodes of his life.

He argued he had been the victim of relentless and distressing media intrusion virtually his entire life.

The prince and several other claimants alleged the titles engaged in "illegal information gathering", including intercepting phone voice mails, to write dozens of stories about him.

The Duke of Sussex, as he is also known, has launched legal action against several tabloid media groups, alongside barages of attacks aimed at his family and the monarchy.

Harry has long had a turbulent relationship with the press and holds the media responsible for the death of his mother, Princess Diana, in a 1997 Paris car crash while being pursued by paparazzi.

## TIDBITS

### France finds British boy missing since 2017

LONDON: A teenager from Britain who was found in southern France after disappearing six years ago is expected to return to his family in northern England in the next few days, after he apparently fled a spiritualist mountain community. Alex Batty disappeared at the age of 11 during a holiday with his mother and grandfather to Malaga, Spain, in 2017 and both are still wanted in connection with his disappearance. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) told a press conference Friday they were working with the French authorities to bring Batty back to Britain, and to his grandmother, who British media have reported was his legal guardian. A French newspaper reported a delivery driver spotted the teenager wandering along a highway in the region around the southern city of Toulouse, after having fled a spiritualist mountain community in the Pyrenees mountains. GMP Assistant Chief Constable Chris Sykes told a press conference said Batty had spoken to his grandmother via video call Thursday evening. "She has a whole host of emotions and feelings as you could imagine," Sykes said.



### Biggest solar flare in yrs knocks out radios



CAPE CANAVERAL: A NASA telescope has captured the biggest solar flare in years, which temporarily knocked out radio communication on Earth. The sun spit out the huge flare Thursday, resulting in two hours of radio interference in parts of the US and other sunlit parts of the world. Scientists said it was the biggest flare since 2017. Multiple pilots reported communication disruptions, with the impact felt across the country, said the government's Space Weather Prediction Centre. Scientists are now monitoring this sunspot region and analysing for a possible outburst of plasma from the sun, also known as a coronal mass ejection, directed at Earth. The eruption occurred in the far northwest section of the sun, according to the Centre. The sun is nearing the peak of its 11-year or so solar cycle. Maximum sunspot activity is predicted for 2025.

# Why Indian Ocean could be China's Achilles' heel

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Dec 15: Every day, nearly 60 fully loaded very large crude-oil carriers sail between the Persian Gulf and Chinese ports, carrying about half of the oil that powers the world's second-largest economy.

As the vessels enter the South China Sea, they ply waters increasingly controlled by China's growing military, from the missile batteries and airfields at its bases on disputed islands to its stealthy Type 055 destroyers.

But when crossing the Indian Ocean, joined by others headed to China from Africa and Brazil, these tankers lack protection in a naval theatre dominated by the US.

A dozen military attaches and scholars say that vulnerability is now being scrutinised as Western military and academic strategists discreetly game scenarios about how a conflict with China over Taiwan, or elsewhere in East Asia, could evolve or escalate.

Four envoys and eight analysts familiar with discussions in Western and Asian capitals, some speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive topic, said this enduring

weakness gives China's adversaries a ladder of escalatory options, especially in a drawn-out conflict, like Russia's war on Ukraine.

These scenarios range from harassment and interdiction operations against Chinese shipping that could divert Chinese naval vessels to the region, up to a blockade and beyond.

In a full-scale war, the tankers - capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil - would be prizes to be sunk or captured, reflecting naval actions of last century in which combatants targeted their enemies' economic resources, three analysts said.

These options could be used to dissuade China from launching action, or later to raise costs on an invasion of Taiwan.

Less clear is how this vulnerability shifts Beijing's calculations toward Taiwan, the people said.

Chinese strategists are aware of the problem but ultimately any decision to launch military action would be taken by President Xi Jinping, according to People's Liberation Army (PLA) documents and retired officers.

Xi has instructed the PLA to be ready to invade Taiwan by



In a major war, Chinese oil tankers in the Indian Ocean would find themselves very vulnerable. Chinese naval vessels would effectively be trapped in the Indian Ocean and ... they would have little or no air support, because there are no bases or facilities of its own that (China) could rely on

DAVID BREWSTER | A SECURITY SCHOLAR, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2027, US Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns said in February. China has been increasing military manoeuvres ahead of the island's elections in January.

Since taking power in 2013, Xi and other Communist Party leaders have stressed the importance of a modernised military that can project power globally and secure China's vital trade routes.

But amid fears of conflict, some of the analysts said China would struggle to protect these lifelines even as its energy de-

mands increase, making a protracted war over Taiwan difficult to sustain.

China imported 515.65 million tons of crude oil in the 11 months through November, or 11.27 million barrels per day, official data show, an annual increase of 12.1%.

The Pentagon estimates about 62% of China's oil and 17% of its natural gas imports transit the Malacca Strait and South China Sea, key Indian Ocean gateways.

China is moving to diversify supplies, with three pipelines from Russia, Myanmar and

Kazakhstan accounting for roughly 10% of its crude-oil imports in 2022, according to customs data and state media.

Western sanctions on Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine have also led China to stockpile more cheap oil from Russia, its top supplier.

Food is a more complex picture. China's soybean imports - used for animal feed - are shipped in part via the Indian Ocean but other commodities such as potash, needed for fertiliser, arrive via other routes.

BASE SURROUNDED China has an extensive network of military satellites but just one dedicated military base, and no air cover from land or sea, for Indian Ocean naval deployments.

In its October annual report on China's military, the Pentagon lists 11 potential Chinese bases on the ocean's fringes, including Pakistan, Tanzania and Sri Lanka. Those locations reflect Chinese diplomatic and commercial outreach under Xi's Belt and Road Initiative.

But these have not emerged as hard military assets, with neither a permanent PLA presence nor publicly known guarantees of access in a conflict, the attaches

## Jailed Russia Oppn leader still missing

REUTERS

Moscow, Dec 15: Allies of jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Friday that it was still unclear where he was after prison authorities said he was no longer in the penal colony where he had been serving his sentence.

Navalny, a former lawyer who rose to prominence by lampooning President Vladimir Putin's elite and alleging vast corruption, was sentenced in August to an additional 19 years in prison on top of 11-1/2 years he was already serving.



Allies, who had been preparing for his expected transfer to a "special regime" colony, the harshest grade in Russia's prison system, said Navalny has not been seen by his lawyers since December 6.

The Kremlin, which said it did not track the movements of individual prisoners, told Miller and his colleagues to mind their own business.

When asked Friday if the Kremlin had any information about what was happening to Navalny, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "No. I repeat again: we do not have the capacity, or right, or desire, to track the fates of those prisoners who are serving sentences by order of a court."

## Iran lifts visa rules for 33 countries including India

DUBAI: Iran said it was lifting visa requirements for 33 countries, including Gulf states like Saudi Arabia with which Tehran had frosty relations for years until a recent rapprochement, the Iranian Students News Agency said Thursday. "The ministry of tourism believes that an open-door policy will showcase Iran's determination to engage with different countries of the world," the semi-official ISNA reported. The decision will increase to 45 the number of countries or territories whose citizens can visit Iran without needing to obtain a visa, it said. ISNA gave a full list of the countries, which included Lebanon, Tunisia, India, several Central Asian, African and "Muslim" nations. Only one Western-allied European nation was on the list, Croatia, a small member of the European Union and NATO. The move is another step towards thawing relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in particular after years of tension between the two oil-producing Gulf rivals. Riyadh and Tehran have aligned themselves with warring parties in Syria, Iraq and Yemen in the past decade.

# business

## of the day quote

With Oman, there is a very good progress and both sides are very eager to conclude this deal and therefore we feel that it will be completed very soon

SUNIL BARTHWAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

In light of an increased interest cost environment stemming from heightened inflation levels, the robust domestic economic fundamentals, and the escalating aspirational attributes of residential real estate, are driving heightened demand among homebuyers in prominent residential markets within the country

SHISHIR BAJAJ | CHAIRMAN & MD, KNIGHT FRANK

Last couple of months have been challenging for us as an organization and the successful completion of the QIP is a significant moment in our journey

AMIT JAIN | GLOBAL CEO, STERLING AND WILSON RENEWABLE ENERGY

## SHORT TAKES

### ESIC adds 17.28L

**New Delhi:** The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added 17.28 lakh new members in October, according to provisional payroll data released Friday. Around 23,468 new establishments have been registered and brought under the social security umbrella of the ESIC in October 2023, ensuring more coverage, the Labour Ministry said in a statement while releasing the payroll data. Around 17.28 lakh new employees have been added in October 2023, the ministry said. More jobs have been generated for the youth as out of the total 17.28 lakh employees added, 8.25 lakh employees up to the age group of 25 years constitute new registrations, which is 47.76 per cent of the total employees. Net enrollment of female members was 3.31 lakh in October, according to the data.

### India challenges WTO panel ruling

**New Delhi:** India has appealed against a ruling of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) trade dispute settlement panel in a case filed by the European Union against New Delhi's import duties on nine information and technology products. India's move came after both regions were not able to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution (MAS). "India and the EU have negotiated to arrive at a MAS for the past seven months, but the EU has now filed for adoption of panel report on December 7 and therefore, India has appealed against it on December 8 in the WTO," Additional Secretary in the commerce ministry Peeyush Kumar told reporters here.

### NCLAT relief to Zee-Sony merger

**Mumbai:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) December 15 refused to grant a stay on the merger of media giants Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) and Sony. The tribunal has however issued notice in the plea and listed the case for hearing on January 8. Axis Finance and IDBI bank had challenged the merger in the NCLAT. During the course of the hearing, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) N Venkatraman, who appeared for IDBI Bank, argued that the ZEEL stood guarantee for loans they had given to an Essel entity and they would not be able to recover the loan from ZEEL if the merger progresses. He thus urged the NCLAT to stay the progress of the merger.



Skilled labourers in India can register themselves at NSDC... After which we will come to know where they are going, for which work and with whom they will be working

VED MANI TIWARI | CEO, NSDC

## INDIA'S FIRST ULTRA-FAST EV CHARGER

German luxury car manufacturer Audi inaugurated an ultra-fast charging station, conceptualised and developed in collaboration with ChargeZone, in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) here. Claiming to be India's first ultra-fast charging station, it has a total capacity of 450 KW, which delivers 360 KW of power to an electric vehicle, Audi India said



# GLOBAL COAL USE RISING UNABATED

REUTERS

**Paris, Dec 15:** Global coal use is expected to reach a record high in 2023 as demand in emerging and developing economies remains strong, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a report Friday.

Demand for coal is seen rising 1.4% in 2023, surpassing 8.5 billion metric tonne for the first time as usage in India is expected to grow 8% and that in China is seen up 5% due to rising electricity demand and weak hydropower output, the IEA said.

In the European Union and United States, however, coal use is set to drop by around 20% each in 2023, the report said.

Coal use is not expected to decline until 2026, when the major expansion of renewable capacity in the next three years should help lower usage by 2.3% compared to 2023 levels, even with the absence or stronger clean energy policies.

However, global consumption is forecast to remain well over 8 billion metric tonne in 2026, the report said. To reach goals set by the Paris Agreement, the use of



unabated coal would need to fall significantly faster, it added.

China is expected to account for more than half of the global renewable expansion over the next three years, causing coal demand in the country to fall in

■ Demand for coal is seen rising 1.4% in 2023, surpassing 8.5 billion metric tonne for the first time

■ Coal usage in India is expected to grow 8% and that in China is seen up 5% due to rising electricity demand

employment, weather conditions, and structural shifts in the Chinese economy, the report said.

This year, China, India and southeast Asia are expected to account for three-quarters of global coal consumption, up from a quarter in 1990, with consumption in southeast Asia expected to eclipse the US and EU in 2023, the report said.

Through 2026, India and southeast Asia are the only regions where coal consumption is expected to grow significantly, the report said.

## Forex kitty jumps to \$606.8 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Dec 15:** India's forex reserves jumped \$2.816 billion to \$606.859 billion in the week ended December 8, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had risen \$6.107 billion to \$604.042 billion. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion.

The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

## Central Bank ED visits Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** Vivek Wahi, Executive Director, Central Bank of India visited Bhubaneswar from December 12 to 14.

During his visit, a mega credit camp & customer meet was organised at the conference hall, O-HUB, Patia, in which the bank distributed sanction letters to various categories of customers of Bhubaneswar Region, aggregating to an amount of ₹100 crore.

Later in the evening, a town hall meeting was organised where Wahi interacted with all staff members of Bhubaneswar Region and advised them to cater to the growing demands of the customers by providing best services.



He also emphasized upon increasing digital banking transactions to bring the Gen-Y customers to the bank's fold. The programme was held in presence of Ajay Kumar Singh, Zonal Head Kolkata and Anadi Biswas, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region along with other senior bank officials.

## UNSTOPPABLE BULLS

# Indices fire on all cylinders

Sensex breaches 71k-mark; Nifty surges to fresh record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Dec 15:** Benchmark equity indices surged more than 1 per cent to hit their new all-time highs Friday, with the Sensex breaching the 71,000 mark, as domestic macroeconomic data and easing concerns over the US economic growth bolstered market sentiment.

Besides, heavy buying in IT, tech and metal counters amid sustained buying by foreign investors helped the domestic equities, traders said.

Rising for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 969.55 points or 1.37 per cent to settle at its record closing high of 71,483.75. During the day, it surged 1,091.56 points or 1.54 per cent to 71,605.76, its all-time intra-day high level.

As many as 1,969 stocks advanced, while 1,801 declined and 118 remained unchanged.

The Nifty climbed 273.95 points or 1.29 per cent to settle at its new closing high of 21,456.65. During the day, it zoomed 309.6 points or 1.46 per cent to hit its record intra-day peak of 21,492.30.

"The Nifty's upward momentum persists with the bulls maintaining control in the market. Achieving a new all-time high,



the index has marked its seventh consecutive weekly gain," said Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst, LKP Securities.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,658.15 points or 2.37 per cent, while the Nifty climbed 487.25 points or 2.32 per cent.

A series of positive news -- September quarter GDP growth rate of 7.6 per cent, manufacturing PMI rising to 56, Brent crude declining to USD 76 per barrel and FPIs turning buyers -- have helped markets reach record peaks, analysts said.

The US Federal Reserve keeping its key interest rate unchanged and signalling rate cuts next year, along with continuous foreign fund inflows into the equity markets, have also fuelled

## US Fed fuels longest weekly winning streak in Indian shares in six years

the rally in stocks.

HCL Technologies was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 5.58 per cent, followed by Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys, State Bank of India, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, NTPC and Wipro.

In contrast, Nestle, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and ITC were among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE small-cap gauge climbed 0.58 per cent and the midcap index dipped 0.07 per cent.

Among the indices, IT jumped 4.41 per cent, teck rallied 3.64

# Trade deficit narrows in November

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

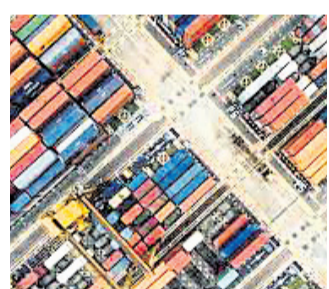
**New Delhi, Dec 15:** India's merchandise exports slipped by 2.83 per cent to \$33.90 billion in November while the trade deficit narrowed to \$20.58 billion, according to government data.

Imports also fell by 4.33 per cent to \$54.48 billion in November, the data released by the commerce ministry Friday showed.

Cumulatively, the country's merchandise exports in April-November FY2023-24 contracted by 6.51 per cent to \$278.8 billion.

Imports were also down by 8.67 per cent to \$445.15 billion in the eight-month period due to a fall in oil imports. Oil imports dipped to \$113.65 billion as against \$139.29 billion in April-November 2022-23.

The trade deficit -- difference between imports and exports -- during the eight-month period



■ EXPORTS DIP 2.83% TO \$33.9BN

■ IMPORTS FELL 4.33% TO \$54.4BN

was \$166.35 billion against \$189.21 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Briefing reporters here, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that given the global situation, India's export numbers are good.

All key export sectors have recorded negative growth during

the April-November period of this fiscal and that include petroleum products, gems and jewellery, chemicals, garments, and engineering goods.

Sectors which registered positive growth include electronics, iron ore, and pharma. The other import segments whose inbound shipments are contracted include coal, coke, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; and fertiliser.

However, gold imports increased by 21 per cent to \$32.93 billion. Electronic goods' imports have risen to \$57.83 billion during April-November 2023-24 against \$51.89 billion in the same period last year.

The gold imports in November rose by 6.24 per cent to \$3.44 billion. Oil imports during the month, however, dipped by 8.47 per cent to \$14.93 billion.

Barthwal said the global trade

GDP growth of many countries are not so high, interest rate regime is not softening, global conflicts are aggravating, irrespective of these issues, we are doing well

SUNIL BARTHWAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

is suffering but, "we are holding the fort". Exports in October had grew by 6.21 per cent.

According to the data, the estimated value of services export for November is \$28.69 billion, as compared to \$26.93 billion in November 2022.

During the eight-month period, these exports stood at \$220.66 billion as compared to \$208.30 billion in April-November 2022.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has forecast that global trade will grow only by 0.8 per cent in 2023.

## AJANTA FOOTCARE UNVEILS 1ST FLAGSHIP STORE IN CITY

**BHUBANESWAR:** Ajanta Footcare, the exclusive retail chain of Ajanta Shoes, a 67-year-old footwear brand having a strong presence in multi-brand outlets pan India, launched its first flagship store in Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar December 15. To mark this momentous occasion, the store was inaugurated by Odia actor Elna Samantray in the presence of Soumi Banik, the MD, Ajanta Shoes. Spread across 800 sq/ft, the store at Ashok Nagar is an embodiment of style and comfort under one roof. The store displayed an array of shoes, sandals, slippers, keeping in mind style preferences and value proposition for all. The brand is also planning to expand its network in Odisha through its hugely successful franchise model, which requires entrepreneurs to have 500 sq/ft space. Speaking on this occasion, Banik said, "We are excited to announce our entry in Bhubaneswar with this flagship store which happens to be our 151st store in India. Ajanta Footcare having a legacy of 67 years in the business, believes in the power of innovation and trust. We always stride out to offer comfortable and stylish products to our large consumer base, keeping in mind an affordable price range and yet not compromise on the quality. We are on a sustainable path and continue to innovate and create climate neutral footwear. With this venture in Bhubaneswar, we are also glad to share that we are on an expansion spree and planning our entry in cities like Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Angul and Berhampur in the next couple of years. As a brand, our focus is also to go deeper in North Eastern markets in Assam in Barpetta Road and Dibrugarh soon. We welcome all our patrons to come and visit this newest store in the city and choose your favourite footwear from our wide product catalogue."



# India welcomes return of Venezuelan oil to market: Minister

INDIA LAST IMPORTED VENEZUELAN CRUDE IN 2020 AS US SANCTIONS HALTED SUPPLY FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN NATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 15:** India, the world's third largest oil consuming and importing nation, welcomes the return of Venezuelan oil to the market after sanctions on the Latin American nation were eased, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said.

Without saying if India has resumed purchases from Venezuela, he said some refiners in the country have the capability to process heavy crude oil produced in the Latin American nation.

The US Treasury Department in October partially lifted sanctions on Venezuela's oil and gas sector. The partially lifted sanctions are through a new six-month license authorising transactions in the country's oil and gas sector. The license is to be renewed only if Venezuela can meet commitments leading to fair voting in the next year's presidential election.

"We always buy from Venezuela. We have always bought stuff from Venezuela.



It's when Venezuela came under sanctions that they were not able to supply," Puri said.

He said many refineries, including Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) Paradeep refinery in Odisha is capable of processing the heavy Venezuelan oil into fuels such as petrol and diesel. "We will buy," he said.

Tapping the Latin American

India consumes more than 5 million barrels of crude oil every day and the demand is only going up. So if Venezuelan oil comes into the market, we welcome it. So do all the others

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | PETROLEUM MINISTER

nation will help India further diversify its import basket which currently is heavily dependent on the Middle East and Russia.

IOC, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) and Reliance Industries have reportedly secured 4 million barrels of Venezuelan oil for delivery in February.

Venezuela produces around 8,50,000 barrels per day of crude

and is targeting to soon reach 1 million bpd. India on the other hand imports 85 per cent of its oil needs.

The minister also said some Indian money is locked up in Venezuela, referring to ONGC Videsh Ltd's about \$413 million unpaid dividends from an oilfield in Venezuela.

India is hoping to get the stuck money back after the sanction easing. ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), holds a 40 per cent stake in the San Cristobal oilfield in eastern Venezuela's Orinoco Heavy Oil belt.

The project is operated jointly by OVL and Petróleos de Venezuela SA - the national oil

company of Venezuela.

In November 2016, OVL and PdVSA signed two definitive agreements for the redevelopment of the project. The pacts provided a mechanism to liquidate the outstanding dividends of \$537.63 million due to OVL.

OVL agreed to provide loans of up to \$60 million for implementing the remediation plan of the project. Under the loan arrangement, it provided a loan of \$17.11 million and received part of the outstanding dividend amounting to \$124.81 million as of March 31, 2023, the source said, adding that due to sanctions, these agreements had come to a standstill and balance dividend of \$412.82 million was pending.

SHORT TAKES

INDIAN EVES EYE MAIDEN TEST VICTORY ON HOME SOIL AGAINST ENGLAND

Odisha FC begin with emphatic win

POST NEWS NETWORK



Jubilant Odisha FC players after a goal against Sports Odisha

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 15:** Odisha FC commenced their 2023-24 IWL campaign in spectacular fashion trouncing local rivals Sports Odisha 4-0 in a game played at the Capital Football Arena here Friday. The goals for Odisha FC were scored by Manisa Panna (1/39) and Pooja Vastrakar (1/39) kept the England batters in check. Renuka cleaned up Sophia Dunkley (11) while Vastrakar dismissed England skipper Heather Knight (11).

India's progress in their second innings was not smooth either as off-spinner Charlie Dean (4/68) and left-arm spinner Ecclestone (2/76) joined forces to trouble the Indian batters. At stumps Kaur (44 batting) kept the England bowlers in check. She has so far put on an unbeaten seventh wicket stand of 53 runs with Vastrakar (17 batting).

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**India 428** (Deepti Sharma 67) and **186 for 6** (Harmanpreet Kaur 44 batting, Charlie Dean 4/68); **England 136** (Nat Sciver-Brunt 59, Deepti Sharma 5/7).

the last was a spectacular one as Malati unleashed a fierce shot from an acute angle not giving the opposition goalie any chance to block or save it. Upfront Win, who scored a brace, constantly harried the Sports Odisha defenders with her speedy runs and constant change in position.

Odisha FC will next take on defending champions Gokulam Kerala FC here Sunday.

Deepti spell sinks England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



DEADLY SPELL: Spinner Deepti Sharma celebrates with teammates after dismissing an England batter, Friday

**Navi Mumbai, Dec 15:** Deepti Sharma's stunning all-round show (67, 5/7), provided the Indian women's team a perfect launching pad to record their maiden home victory in the traditional format over England here Friday. Replying to India's first innings score of 428 the visitors were bowled out for 136, conceding a lead of 292 runs. India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur did not enforce the follow and decided to bat again. At stumps on the second day India were 186 for six, an overall lead of 478 runs.

India, resuming at the overnight score of 410 for seven were bowled out for 428. However, Deepti then destroyed England with a sensational spell of 5.3-4-7-5. The England score wouldn't have reached the three-figure mark had it not been for Nat Sciver-Brunt's (59, 70b, 10x4) composed half century.

Deepti was at the heart of India's effort when they grabbed six England wickets for a mere

10 runs which saw the visitors tumbling spectacularly from 108 for three. A total of 19 wickets fell on the day, 15 of which were captured by the spinners. However, the star among the spinners was Deepti.

The 26-year-old off-spinner

began her destruction job getting rid of Danny Wyatt (19). Deepti soon had Amy Jones (12) caught by Shafali Verma with the ball ricocheting off short-leg Smriti Mandhana's helmet, while Sophie Ecclestone (0) was a tad unlucky when a delivery from

Hockey teams lose

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Valencia (Spain), Dec 15:** The Indian men's and women's hockey teams began their 5-Nation tournament on a disappointing note here Friday. While the men's team lost to hosts Spain 0-1, the women's team went down to the same opposition 2-3.

In the men's game, Alvaro Iglesias scored the only goal in the 29th minute. The Indian men's team that have qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics after winning gold at the Hangzhou Asian Games, are ranked third in the world while Spain are eighth.

The first quarter of the match saw both the teams earn a penalty corner each but neither managed to find the back of the net.

Spain took the initiative in the second quarter and took the lead through a field goal by Iglesias.

The third quarter witnessed both teams in an intense battle to score but they failed to do so. In search of an equaliser, India earned two penalty corners in the last quarter, but failed to convert either.

In the women's game, it was a close affair: Gurjit Kaur (13th) and Sangita Kumari (14th) scored a goal each for India, while Sara Barrios Navarro (second), Patricia Alvarez Nardiz (30th) and Julia Strappato Garreta (53rd) were on target for Spain.

Even though Spain took an early lead, the Indian evens hit back strongly with goals from Gurjit and Sangita scoring in quick succession.

Hardik to lead MI in place of Rohit

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Dec 15:** Hardik Pandya was Friday named Mumbai Indians (MI) captain in place of a highly-successful Rohit Sharma, who led the IPL giants to five trophies. This development certainly raises questions about the future of Rohit with the franchise. Rohit had been leading MI since 2013.

"We express our gratitude to Rohit Sharma for his exceptional leadership; his tenure as the captain of the MI since 2013 has been nothing short of extraordinary. His leadership has not only brought unparalleled success to the team but has also solidified his place as one of the finest captains," MI said in a release.

UNNATI, KIRAN ENTER SEMIS

Odisha siblings Rutuparna, Swetaparna bow out

POST NEWS NETWORK



Unnati Hooda in action

**Cuttack, Dec 15:** Former World No.1 Nozomi Okuhara cantered into the women's singles semifinals, while ace doubles shuttlers Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto fought their way into the doubles last four stage of the BWF Super 100 Odisha Masters badminton tournament here Friday.

However, home favourites and siblings, Rutuparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda bowed out of the tournament after suffering 9-21, 15-21 defeat to the Indonesian combo of Jesita Putri

Miantoro and Febi Setianingrum.

Earlier in another doubles tie it was a close affair for Ashwini and Tanisha. They were up against the Chinese Taipei pair of Sung Shuo-yun and Yu Chien Hui and had to work really hard to win 22-20, 20-22, 21-14 and seal a semifinal spot.

In the women's singles former World Champion Okuhara

barely batted an eyelid in her seamless 21-5, 21-13 triumph over Indonesia's Ruzana in the quarterfinals. Also progressing to the last four stage was defending champion Unnati Hooda defeating compatriot Anupama Upadhaya 16-21, 21-7, 21-15.

In mixed doubles the combo of Tanisha and Dhruv Kapila also sealed a semifinal spot with an easy 21-16, 21-11 win over Indonesia's Marwan Farza and Jessica Maya.

In the men's singles, World Junior Championships bronze medallist Ayush Shetty emerged a 21-16, 21-14 winner over Subhankar Dey. Kiran George also came up with an easy 21-10, 21-16 victory over Meiraba Luwang Maisnam to advance to the semifinals.

iDestiny, Apple Authorised Reseller now open at Chandrasekharapur, Patia



Apple iPhone 15

Mega Launch Offer

Offer Break-up	128 GB	256 GB
MRP- iPhone 15	₹79,900	₹89,900
HDFC Instant Cashback*	₹5,000	₹5,000
Instant Store Discount	₹4,000	₹4,000
Trade-In* (Exchange)	₹15,000	₹15,000
Exchange Bonus*	₹6,000	₹6,000
Additional Benefits*	₹3,000	₹3,000
<b>Effective Price*</b>	<b>₹46,900</b>	<b>₹56,900</b>

₹5000\* Instant Cashback on HDFC Bank Cards and EasyEMI\* + Exchange bonus up to ₹6000\*

EMI Starting at ₹3163\* p.m. 0 Down payment | No Cost EMI | 24 Months

Shop online at [www.iDestiny.in/sale](http://www.iDestiny.in/sale)

+91 80691 99817 +91 75478 23040

UD City Complex, Plot No 421, Patia, Opp. Sreeleathers  
Also at Esplanade One Mall & Saheed Nagar, Janpath Road

iDestiny®



\*Terms and conditions apply. Limited Period Offer. Product features vary by model. Offer Valid Till Stock Lasts.