



PC's goal

Actor Priyanka Chopra says her creative hunger is far from over as she looks ahead to a new chapter in her international career

LEISURE | P2



Global arms race

Revenues from arms sale by 100 largest defence companies rose by 5.9% last year, with demand boosted by wars in multiple fronts

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Auto sales surge

Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra, see robust growth in sales in November as compared to the same month last year

BUSINESS | P11



Dream run

India look to continue its winning streak against Switzerland in the final group league encounter at the FIH Junior Men's World Cup

SPORTS | P12

SC raps RBI over digital arrest cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The Supreme Court Monday came down heavily on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asking as to why it was not using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to find out and freeze bank accounts used by cyber criminals.

It issued notice to the Central bank and sought its response as to why AI or machine learning technology was not employed to freeze bank accounts used in cyber fraud cases. The top court, which passed the directions in a suo motu case registered on the complaint of an elderly couple from Haryana, noted that mostly senior citizens were targeted by cyber criminals and their hard-earned money extorted. The court also ordered the CBI to carry out a unified pan-India probe into digital arrest scam cases.

Digital arrest is a growing form of cyber crime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement or court officials or personnel from government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls. They hold the victims hostage



and put pressure on them to pay money. A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked the states, including Opposition ruled West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana, to accord assent to CBI for probing digital arrest cases in their jurisdiction.

It directed Information Technology intermediaries to provide details and cooperation to CBI in probe related to digital arrest cases. The bench also directed the CBI to take assistance from Interpol to reach cyber criminals operating from offshore tax haven countries. It asked the Department of Telecom to ensure that telecom service providers do not provide multiple SIM cards to one user or entity, which may be used in cyber crimes.

CENTRE'S CYBER SECURITY MOVE SPARKS CONCERN

The government's decision to mandate the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on all new smartphones—and to make it non-removable—is a landmark shift. While it empowers users to fight fraud and reclaim lost devices, it also raises the stakes on digital rights and State influence over personal technology. Experts warn that imposing a government app on users, with no option to remove it, bypasses user consent and could open the door to surveillance. No wonder Apple, known for its strict privacy policies, has historically refused to pre-load third-party or government apps. This directive puts it in direct conflict with Indian regulators. Whether one sees it as a guardian angel or a digital watchdog, one thing is clear: our next smartphone will come with the government already inside

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 1: The Telecom Ministry has privately asked smartphone makers to



pre-load all new devices with a state-owned cyber security app that cannot be deleted, a government order showed, a move likely to antagonise Apple and privacy advocates.

India is one of the world's largest telephone markets, with more than 1.2 billion subscribers, and government figures show the app, launched in January, has helped recover more than 700,000 lost phones, including 50,000 in October alone.

Apple, which has previously locked horns with the telecoms regulator over development of a government anti-spam mobile app, is among the compa-

nies, such as Samsung, Vivo, Oppo and Xiaomi bound by the new order.

The November 28 order, seen by Reuters, gives major smartphone companies 90 days to ensure that the government's Sanchar Saathi app is pre-installed on new mobile phones, with a provision that users cannot disable it.

For devices already in the supply chain, manufacturers should push the app to phones via software updates, the ministry said in its order, which was not made public and was sent privately to select companies.

The government said the app was essential to combat "serious endangerment" of telecom cyber security from duplicate or spoofed IMEI numbers, which enable scams and network misuse. Apple, Google, Samsung and Xiaomi did not respond to requests for comment. India's telecoms ministry also did not respond.

However, civil society and legal experts have raised

alarms about the directive's implications for privacy and user agency.

Mishi Choudhary, a technology lawyer and internet rights advocate, told Reuters that the move is "cause for concern," arguing that "the government effectively removes user consent as a meaningful choice" when an app is forced onto every new phone and cannot be removed.

Privacy advocates also compare India's step to Russia's MAX pre-install requirement, warning that such policies normalise state-mandated apps and blur the line between targeted safety tools and broader digital surveillance or service promotion.

Critics stress that while Sanchar Saathi's current functions are clearly focused on device security and fraud prevention, baking a non-removable government app into every handset creates a precedent that future administrations could expand in ways that go beyond lost-phone tracking.

GRP constable ends life in Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Dec 1: A Government Railway Police (GRP) constable posted at the office of the Rourkela Railway Superintendent of Police died by hanging Sunday night at his residence in Basanti Colony here, officials said Monday.

The deceased was identified as Sheikh Ahmad Hussain, 48. He lived with his wife, Namita Mahtab. According to police, Namita was sleeping in another room at the time of the incident. When she tried to wake her husband by knocking on the door, she received no response. After repeated attempts, she alerted neighbours, who helped break open the door.

Inside, Hussain was found hanging from a ceiling fan using a scarf. Local police were immediately informed. Udit Nagar police arrived at the scene, recovered the body, conducted an inquest and sent it to the Rourkela Government Hospital for post-mortem.

The couple's daughter works in Bangalore. Both husband and wife were employed at the SSP office, police said.

The reason behind the suicide remains unclear. Police have registered a case.

RAJ BHAVAN IS NOW LOK BHAVAN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: In a historic step toward greater transparency and citizen participation, Odisha has renamed its official Raj Bhavans as Lok Bhavan. The capital's Raj Bhavan will now be called Lok Bhavan, while the Puri Raj Bhavan has been renamed Lok Bhavan, Puri.

Governor Hari Babu Kam-bhampati, announcing the change, said, "Happy to share a meaningful milestone for Odisha as Raj Bhavan is now Lok Bhavan, a name that truly reflects the aspirations of our people. Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, this change reinforces our commitment to transparency, accessibility, and a stronger public connect. Lok Bhavan now stands as a vibrant space for public engagement and inclusive progress, reflecting our resolve to build deeper participation in governance. I am honoured to lead this transition for Odisha."

1 held in Rubaiyya kidnapping case

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a person in connection with the kidnapping of Rubaiyya Sayeed, daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, by JKLF terrorists on December 8, 1989, officials said Monday. The suspect, a resident of Ishber Nishat, was arrested by police for his alleged involvement in the crime 36 years ago, they said. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Boss has clearly said people want delivery, not drama. So our job is to focus only on creating drama



SYMBOLS OF RESILIENCE

Visually impaired T20 Women's World Cup winners receive warm welcome upon their arrival in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

At 99, Berhampur woman doc gifts ₹3.4 crore to AIIMS

Dr Lakshmibai, an alumna of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, is expected to make the announcement formally during her 100th birthday celebration to be held December 5

SUBASA CHANDRA PADHY, OP

Berhampur, Dec 1: A woman doctor from Berhampur, soon to turn 100, has shown remarkable generosity by donating her lifelong savings to support healthcare development.

Identified as Professor Dr K Lakshmibai, a retired obstetrician and gynecologist has donated ₹3.4 crore to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar ahead of her

centenary celebration.

The donation has been earmarked for the Women's Cancer Care and Treatment Center in the AIIMS.

Born December 5, 1926, Lakshmibai studied MBBS at Srirama Chandra Bhanja (SCB) Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack from 1945 to 1950. She was a member of the institution's first MBBS batch. She later completed a diploma and then a master's degree in obstetrics and gynecology from Madras Medical College in 1958.



Dr K Lakshmibai



During her younger days

Lakshmibai began her medical career in 1950 at district headquarters hospital in Sundargarh. She retired in 1986 from Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati (MKCG) Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. She now lives at her home at Bhaba Nagar in Berhampur.

She is expected to announce the donation formally during her 100th birthday celebration to be held December 5. Lakshmibai said she is delighted to dedicate her lifelong savings

to healthcare services.

Her former students, including renowned gynecology professors P Bharati and Dr Bharati Mishra, are co-ordinating the process. They said their mentor's generosity will inspire many as they expressed their happiness.

Lakshmibai has previously received the Bharat Jyoti Award, the International Friendship Society Award and the Best Citizen of India Award for her contributions to healthcare services.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Old, fond memories will define your mood today, which will show up in the manner in which you deal with work, where your mellow side will be visible to others. You are also circumspect with money and tend towards saving it. Ganesha says people dealing in cash and money-lenders will benefit.

TAURUS
Ganesha urges you to be prepared for setbacks and disappointments today. Your efforts may end in being a waste of precious time and energy. The results you get are likely to be far below your expectations. Falling short of your target is likely to weigh you down with stress and anxiety.

GEMINI
You will be in a state of heightened sensitivity today. Therefore you need to curb down on your emotions. You will be able to successfully express your feelings to someone, and your feelings will play a vital part in your life, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Ganesha suggests you not to be sentimental or hasty. Try to handle things deftly in stead of dodging bad episodes or turning a blind eye to them. You will give priority to domestic and private life in stead of career or business aspects.

LEO
Guides help other people choose the right path in life and to select the correct alternatives. It is a good day for those who are in the teaching or coaching professions. It is also a progressive day for those working in MNC's. Ganesha's blessings are with you.

VIRGO
Financial affairs will face a major obstruction today. Ganesha advises you to allow your mind to prevail over your heart. Take extraordinary care of your precious personal possessions, apart from your legal duties and new projects keeping in view their long-term effect on your mind.

LIBRA
It's a day of reaching new heights when it comes to finances. The cosmos favours money-lenders and stock marketeers. Call it the special touch that you give to all transactions monetary, but today you have the uncanny knack of raking in the moolah from all sources. Sit back and see your tenacity multiply your fortunes, says Ganesha

SCORPIO
Today, there are chances that you would be disturbed by continuous flow of negative thoughts in your mind. Try to divert your mind and look for positive people or friends who would cheer you up. Understanding needy people and living up to their expectations would bring some respite to your disrupted mind, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
: Lady luck is all smiles for you today, predicts Ganesha. Suddenly, you feel like multi-tasking and becoming a jack of all. This is likely to keep you busy, almost throughout the day. If need be, your colleagues and peers will lend a helping hand.

CAPRICORN
The journey from defeat to success is driven by optimism. You will be very optimistic today – about your work, future and everything that can lead you to success, says Ganesha. You will also be very careful while dealing with day-to-day work, and will capitalise on every opportunity that can get you a step closer to your goals.

AQUARIUS
Things barely move today. But just like the proverbial tortoise, you seem to be winning the race, for many opportunities will come your way. There won't be any cash crunch, so you needn't lose sleep over that, says Ganesha.

PISCES
The focus will be on children today, says Ganesha. While they will be the cause of an unfair share of your headache, you will be surprised at their ability to step up to the occasion, with just a little amount of coaching.

ORTEGA VOICES AI CONCERN

During a lively discussion on the future of media, Jenna Ortega voiced her worries about the sustainability of AI-driven content in film and television. She suggested that as audiences are inundated with machine-generated art, they might begin to long for the distinctive voice of human creativity

SEYFRIED ON BALANCING MOTHERHOOD & ACTING

Amanda Seyfried admits juggling motherhood with her demanding career is currently a significant challenge. With two children, an 8-year-old daughter and a 5-year-old son, and two films, *The Housemaid* and *The Testament of Ann Lee*, releasing simultaneously, the actress confesses to feeling overwhelmed



PC eyes bigger global goals

New Delhi: Global head-turner Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who continues to straddle industries and continents, says her creative appetite is far from satisfied as she looks ahead to a new chapter in her international career.

Reflecting on her journey, the star, who stepped into Hollywood in 2015 with the American TV series *Quantico*, where she played the lead role of FBI recruit Alex Parrish, noted that while she has explored almost every genre in Hindi cinema, she feels she has “barely scratched the surface” in her English-language work.

Asked what drives her now validation, legacy, or the desire to create space for others who dream beyond borders, Priyanka, who has worked in Hollywood projects such as *Baywatch*, *Isn't It Romantic*, *The White Tiger*, *The Matrix Resurrections*, *Heads of States* and the action thriller series *Citadel*, told this news agency in an exclusive chat: “I think a little bit of all of it. I feel that as an artist, I still have a lot more to do in my English-language work. I feel like I haven't even scratched the surface.”

“In my Hindi cinema filmography, I've worked across almost every genre possible, and now I'm seeking to do the same in English-language or international work, whatever language that might be in.”



How Mrunal deals with rumours

Mumbai: Being an actor means one is constantly subjected to rumours, and actress Mrunal Thakur's latest social media post goes to show how she deals with these rumours.

Mrunal took to the Stories section of her Insta handle and shared a video of her laughing while getting her hair oiled, revealing how she reacts every time she hears or reads a rumour about herself.

Calling these rumours free pr, she wrote the caption, “They talk we laugh (Laughing with tears emojis) P.S Rumours are free Pr and I love free stuff

(sic).” Although Mrunal has not specified which rumour she is talking about, her post seems to be hinting at the speculations that the *Super 30* actress is romantically involved with Dhanush.

While both Mrunal and Dhanush have remained tight-lipped about their relationship status, netizens have been keeping a keen watch on their every move on social media.

Work-wise, Mrunal is busy with her next *Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai*, co-starring Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde, Kubbra Sait, Maniesh Paul, Chunky Panday, Pranav Chadha, Vijay Raaz, Rajesh Jais, and Chaitanya Vyas.

Samantha gets hitched

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu tied the knot with filmmaker Raj Nidimoru in a traditional ceremony Monday.

While reports were doing the rounds that the couple will be entering matrimony soon, the *Yashoda* actress formally announced the new chapter in her life through a special social media post.

Samantha took to her official Instagram handle and dropped some beautiful moments from her simple, traditional yet elegant nuptials.

While the bride was a sight for the sore eyes in a red silk saree with golden embellishments, the director opted for a white kurta pajama with a cream Nehru jacket for the special day.

Samantha's bridal look was further enhanced with some heavy gold jewelry, along with a gajra, mehendi, and complementary makeup.

The post captioned, “(white heart emoji) 01.12.2025(white heart emoji)” showed the newlyweds exchanging wedding rings and praying before commencing their new journey.

As per reports, the two got married at Isha Foundation's Linga Bhairavi Temple in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.



For the unversed, Samantha was earlier married to actor Naga Chaitanya. The couple tied the knot in 2017 in a grand ceremony. However, they ended up going their separate ways in 2021. Chaitanya married actress Sobhita Dhulipala in December last year.



Kubbra's mantra on balancing emotions

Mumbai: Kubbra Sait has always been open about the emotional landscape that shapes her as an actor. Known for her raw, layered performances, she often speaks about the discipline and responsibility required to access deep emotions. In this reflection, she recalls a defining lesson from filmmaker Anurag Kashyap; one that taught her how to approach emotions with both courage and intention.

She remembers the first time she had to cry on cue, unsure of how to summon real emotions on demand. Kashyap guided her

through the process, asking her to sit quietly, read her lines, and allow the feelings to rise naturally. He told her that they would “open the window” to her inner world and, importantly, “close it” before leaving. That idea stayed with her: every person has such a window, a gateway to their emotional depths and knowing how to open and shut it is crucial for balance.

Kubbra reflects that in real life, unlike on a set, emotions are not always handled mindfully. People often confuse triggers from the past with present-day frustrations. Understanding the difference has grounded her both as an actor and as a human being. For her, emotional access is not just an artistic tool but a life skill that helps her navigate intensity without being consumed by it.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

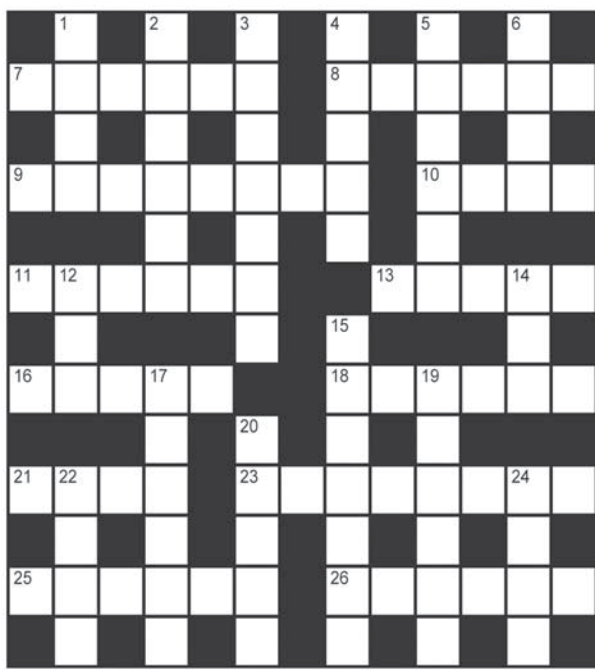


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Agitate
 - 8 Charging need
 - 9 Eggplant and ground lamb dish
 - 10 Nipper
 - 11 Giant pigfish
 - 13 Threshold
 - 16 Some nerve
 - 18 Soothsayer
 - 21 Speech problem
 - 23 Branch
 - 25 Longing
 - 26 Hide from view
 - Down**
 - 1 Extinct bird
 - 2 Population count
 - 3 Soft-shell clam
 - 4 Deep-six
 - 5 Pie chart part
 - 6 Scarf material
 - 12 Shred
 - 14 Valueless
 - 15 Admit a mistake
 - 17 Damage
 - 19 Cleave
 - 20 Small extraterrestrial body
 - 22 Middle of March
 - 24 Cross to bear

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.

	3	7		6		5	9	
5				4				
		2		1				
								5
	5	1	7		3	9		
8								6
1						7		
	8				4			2
				6	8			

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

W	E	A	S	E	L	S		M	E	T	R	E
A	L	L	P	A	A	M						
S	T	A	T	E	R	O	O	M	R	I	P	
P		G	U	B	A	E						
S	A	L	S	A	S	P	A	N	N	E	R	
I	N	E				T	O					
R	E	B	A	T	E		J	A	G	U	A	R
E			E		C	L						
P	U	R	L	I	E	U		C	L	A	S	P
U	T		R		R	U						A
L	E	I		O	V	E	R	S	H	O	O	T
S		N	N		K	A		W				T
E	N	E	M				A	P	L	E	N	T

SUDOKU

7	9	2	5	6	3	4	8	1
1	4	5	9	7	8	3	6	2
8	3	6	4	1	2	5	7	9
9	6	7	1	4	5	8	2	3
3	8	4	2	9	7	1	5	6
2	5	1	3	8	6	7	9	4
4	2	8	6	5	1	9	3	7
6	7	9	8	3	4	2	1	5
5	1	3	7	2	9	6	4	8

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Per capita debt burden till Oct-end ₹26,978

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Odisha's per capita debt burden stands at ₹26,978 till October 31 of 2025-26, while the total loan burden of the coastal state is pegged at ₹1,26,799 crore, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the Finance portfolio, told the Assembly Monday.

Replying to a query of BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, Majhi, however, maintained that Odisha's financial profile is healthy.

Majhi stated that the per capita loan burden of Odisha remains at a lower side in comparison to other states.

According to the 15th Finance Commission recommendations and Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005, state's debt stock should not exceed 25 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). This apart, the interest payment (IP) and revenue receipt (RR) ratio should also be kept within 15 per cent.

"State's debt and GSDP ratio stood at 12.72 per cent, while IP and RR ratio remained at 2.87 per cent. It remained well below the earmarked ceiling," he said.

The CM said that the state government has borrowed ₹14,725.79 crore from several sources.

The state government received ₹2,301.43 crore from the Centre, ₹7,000 crore from open market borrowings, ₹824.36 crore from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), ₹2,170



crore from Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) and ₹2,430 crore from Odisha State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA),

₹26cr, ATVs to boost coastal security

In a bid to further invigorate the coastal security system along the 480-km-long Odisha coastline, the state government has deployed drones, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), fast interceptor vessels besides releasing ₹26.149 crore budgetary allocations in the current fiscal, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the Home portfolio, told the Assembly Monday.

Replying to a query by BJD MLA Tusharkanti Be-

hera, Majhi, in a written reply, said the Coast Guard and state's marine police in joint coordination are conducting exercise to curb sea route infiltration, subversive activities and sea route smuggling.

The state has 18 marine police stations which are keeping a 24x7 vigil along the sea routes. To avert infiltration, special police officers (SPOs) have been stationed at fish landing centres. Five sea-worthy vessels have been hired to step up patrolling while 15 fast interceptor boats are on the

job, keeping constant sea vigil.

Besides, four ATVs have been provided to Kendrapara, Balasore, Puri and Bhubaneswar. These vehicles will patrol difficult terrains, sandy shores and mangrove forests to enhance the existing coastal security setup.

"Ten state-of-the-art drones are being procured to strengthen coastal patrolling," the CM said, adding, "Rs 26.149 crore budgetary allocation has been made to further enhance coastal security mechanism."



FOR A CAUSE

Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das and Ekamra MLA Babu Singh, among other dignitaries, flag off an awareness rally in City to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Monday

Motion on Bhadrak SHG baseless: Parida



POST NEWS NETWORK

Addressing the Assembly, the Deputy CM condemned repeated suspension motions against Mission Shakti department, calling them politically motivated and unbecoming of the dignity of the House

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Assembly witnessed a heated debate Monday as Opposition MLAs moved an adjournment motion over an alleged assault linked to a self-help group (SHG) loan in Bhadrak district. The motion claimed that a daughter was beaten after her mother failed to repay loan instalments, raising concerns over women empowerment in the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida strongly dismissed the allegations, terming the motion "baseless, factually incorrect and politically motivated". She emphasised that the government remains fully committed to monitoring incidents involving women sensitively.

Parida clarified that Manorama Mahapatra of Jai Bajrang SHG in Arangi village had taken ₹60,000 from a ₹7-lakh SHG loan and repaid ₹18,000 before her death. Her daughter Mona Lisa Mahapatra later joined the SHG. She stressed that internal SHG loan decisions are collectively made, and family members must settle outstanding dues using the deceased member's savings. Manorama was covered under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), and her family is eligible for ₹2 lakh.

Regarding the alleged assault, the Deputy CM described it as a "temporary emotional dispute within the SHG" and confirmed that it is under police investigation, with strict action promised under law. She highlighted reforms under the current government, including immediate FIR registration and thorough investigations, citing a recent cyber fraud case involving a former IT minister.

Addressing the House, Parida condemned repeated suspension motions against the Mission Shakti department, calling them politically motivated and "unbecoming of the dignity of this august House". She urged the Opposition to co-operate constructively rather

than targeting the state's more than six lakh SHGs and over 70 lakh women associated with Mission Shakti.

Highlighting government initiatives, she detailed the successes of Mission Shakti, including the creation of over 16.41 lakh 'Lakhpati Didis' through various schemes, with a target of 25 lakh by 2027. The government has doubled revolving fund assistance for SHGs from ₹15,000 to ₹30,000 and increased Community Investment Fund support from ₹35 lakh to ₹60 lakh for GPLFs.

The recently concluded State-level Subhadra Shakti Mela from November 1-12 brought together over 300 SHGs, generating business worth over ₹12 crore, creating 328 'Lakhpati Didis' and 10 'Maha Lakhpati Didis' (annual income above ₹10 lakh). To enhance market access, 273 retail marts have been operationalised, and more than 4.33 lakh women were added to 9,227 new SHGs through social inclusion campaigns.

The government has established 322 block-level and 13 district-level Subhadra Shakti Centres, with 97 Panchayat-level centres completed, along with 5 district-level markets, 700 urban Mission Shakti Gruhas, and 6,500 rural centres. SHGs have availed ₹8,891 crore in bank credit this year, with ₹228.09 crore in interest subvention. Over the past two years, SHGs received government business worth ₹5,411.45 crore.

On social security, 36 lakh women are enrolled under PMJJBY and 46 lakh under PMSBY. The state has signed MoUs with ONDC and Flipkart to enable national-level online sales of SHG products. Traditional food competitions at block, district, and state levels further promote entrepreneurship, offering winners training, free stalls, and exposure visits outside the state.

Odisha IT Policy 2025 to create 1 mn jobs



measurable objectives, and strong governance mechanisms.

Mahaling said the policy will promote emerging technologies including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), cyber security, and blockchain.

A multi-tier governance

structure has been established, featuring a high-level committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for policy oversight and special packages.

Additionally, the Policy Advocacy and Vision Group (PAVG) will serve as a think tank for mid-course corrections. The Odisha Computer

Application Centre (OCAC) will function as the nodal agency, supported by dedicated project implementation and management units.

Investor services such as end-to-end facilitation, project tracking, and grievance redressal will be provided through the GO SWIFT single window portal. A three-tier clearance system will ensure timely approvals for projects of different scales.

Mahaling added that operational guidelines for Odisha IT Policy 2025 have been prepared and will be published shortly.

Majhi concluded.

Odisha is a leading state in the country in fiscal manage-

ment and is in much better position compared to other states. The government's total

liabilities consisted of internal borrowings, loans and advances from the Union government

and balances in the public account, said an official of the Finance department.



KONARK FEST KICKS OFF: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurates 36th Konark Festival Monday in presence of Deputy CM and Tourism Minister Pravatī Parida, Puri MLA Sunil Kumar Mohanty, Pipili MLA Ashrit Pattanayak and Brahmagiri MLA Upasna Mohapatra

OP PHOTO

BARABATI T-20

OCA offers 1st ticket to Lord Jagannath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) has offered the first ticket for the upcoming T20 match between India and South Africa December 9 to Lord Jagannath, seeking blessings of the deity for the smooth conduct of the game, an official said Monday.

Accompanied by several members of the association, OCA secretary Sanjay Behera offered the ticket to the deity at Srimandir in Puri Sunday,

he said.

"The first ticket was placed at the lotus feet of the Lord as a symbolic invitation, seeking his divine blessings," the OCA official said.

According to OCA sources, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has bought tickets for the upcoming international cricket match at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack.

OCA president Pankaj Lochan Mohanty and Behera met the CM at his residence and handed over the tickets, they said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: In a major step to strengthen rural livelihoods and prevent distress-driven migration, the Odisha government approved the extension of enhanced state support under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) until the financial year 2028-29.

The move is expected to benefit 5.57 lakh families across 30 blocks in nine districts, providing assured employment within their villages and significantly

reducing the need for workers to migrate outside the state in search of work.

Under the enhanced assistance, eligible households will receive 300 days of wage employment annually. For the first 100 days, the state government will provide an additional daily wage of ₹98 on top of the standard MGNREGA wage. For the remaining 200 days, workers will continue to receive the regular MGNREGA wage along with supplementary state support.

The initiative, spearheaded by Chief Minister Mohan



Charan Majhi and Minister of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Rabi Narayan Naik, aims

to ensure stable livelihoods strengthen rural incomes, and promote equitable grassroots development. Minister Naik highlighted the focus on eliminating "Dadan," or distressed migration, emphasizing that no worker from Odisha should be forced to leave their home for basic livelihood needs.

This enhanced MGNREGA support is part of Odisha's broader vision of "Bikashita Odisha for Bikashita Bharata," aimed at boosting rural employment, reducing poverty, and building a self-reliant and prosperous State.

Odisha emerging as clean energy destination: Report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 1: Odisha is rapidly emerging as one of India's most promising clean energy destinations, on the back of strong natural advantages, progressive policies and growing industrial demand, a report said Monday.

According to a joint report by EY-Assocham, with significant solar, wind and hydro potential, a strong port ecosystem and clear policy direction, the state can play a key role in supporting India's clean energy targets for 2030 and its long-term net-zero vision.

"Odisha's ports, its large

industrial base and plans for energy storage and green hydrogen give it a unique opportunity to attract investment and become a green manufacturing hub for Eastern India," the report said.

It highlighted significant opportunities for hydrogen and ammonia exports from Odisha, considering the state's well-developed port ecosystem, which gives it a strategic advantage in supplying markets such as Japan, Korea, and the European Union. In addition, several major global players are already evaluating green hydrogen and ammonia projects along the eastern coastal corridor, posi-



tioning Odisha as an emerging hub for clean energy exports.

"Odisha's strong foundation for green industrialisation is anchored in its port-based ecosystem at Paradeep, Dhamra and Gopalpur, its substantial renewable energy potential,

and progressive incentives for green infrastructure and captive generation. The state's 34 GW of pumped storage potential positions it to lead India's energy storage transformation, enabling 24x7 renewable power and enhancing grid stability,"

said Somesh Kumar, Partner and Leader, Power and Utilities, EY India.

The report noted that the electricity demand of the state is projected to reach a peak of 10,564 MW by FY 2033-34, driven by industrial expansion and rising consumption.

To meet this surge, the state will require an estimated 26,237 MW of total contracted capacity additions over the next decade, reinforcing the urgent need for integrated planning and infrastructure readiness.

To address these challenges and opportunities, the report recommended that the government of Odisha—particularly

the Industries and Energy Departments—establish a dedicated State Energy Planning and Transformation Unit. This unit should focus on comprehensive planning for renewable energy, pumped storage, hydrogen production, ports, transmission, land pooling and financial mobilisation.

"Odisha is uniquely positioned at the intersection of industrial scale, renewable abundance and a world-class port ecosystem, giving it one of the strongest clean energy value propositions in India today," said Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, Chairman, Odisha State Development Council, Assocham.



Parida unveils crèche at Kharavela Bhavan



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Monday inaugurated KALIKA, a crèche facility at Kharavela Bhavan designed to provide safe, nurturing day-care support for the children of working mothers and staff. The initiative aims to strengthen work-life balance in government offices and marks a step forward in building inclusive, empathetic workplace support systems.

With colourful activity areas, trained caregivers and a child-friendly environment focused on learning, play and well-being, KALIKA aims to help children blossom while enabling parents — especially mothers — to focus on their work without stress.

Speaking on the occasion, DC-cum-ACS Anu Garg said, “KALIKA is an important step toward building a workplace where motherhood and professional responsibilities go hand

in hand. When employees feel supported, both productivity and dignity grow.”

Housing & Urban Development department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee added, “A child-friendly space like KALIKA sends a clear message — that care is integral to our work culture. This facility will ease the lives of working mothers and help create an environment where children can grow with love, learning and security.”

The inaugural event also saw the participation of senior officials and staff of the Housing & Urban Development department, underscoring a shared commitment to enhancing employee welfare and child-centred facilities. The administrative officer and the crèche caretaker were also present.

KALIKA stands as a milestone in Odisha’s vision of a modern workplace — one that is conducive to productivity, rooted in compassion, and nurturing the future through every child it shelters.

Centre, Odisha collaborate to tackle water shortages

Odisha’s drinking water challenges raised in Rajya Sabha

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 1: Persistent drinking water shortages and groundwater depletion in Odisha were highlighted in the Rajya Sabha Monday, along with the measures underway to ensure safe and sustainable water supply across the state.

Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna shared the information in response to a question, underscoring the ongoing collaboration between the Centre and the Odisha government to address drinking water challenges.

Somanna noted that several blocks in Odisha are grappling with chronic drinking water shortages caused by groundwater depletion and contamination from iron, fluoride, salinity, and bacteriological impurities. To address these challenges, he said that the Panchayat Raj & Drinking Water (PR&DW) department Government of Odisha, has launched multiple interventions, including surface water-based mega piped water supply schemes, single- and multi-village piped water projects, solar-powered piped water systems, and the installation of Iron Removal Plants (IRPs) and de-fluoridation units.

He added that since August 2019, the Government of India



has been implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in collaboration with states and Union Territories, including Odisha, to ensure tap water supply to every rural household. While drinking water remains a state subject, the Centre provides both technical and financial support to support these initiatives.

He also highlighted that source sustainability measures—such as constructing recharge structures, restoring water bodies, and promoting rainwater harvesting—are being implemented in coordination with other departments to ensure safe drinking water during the summer months.

However, Somanna pointed out that 705 multi-village piped water supply schemes have been delayed due to land acquisition issues, contractor non-performance, and pending clearances from departments

including NH, NHAI, R&B, RD, Forest, and Railways.

To tackle these challenges, the state government has established institutional mechanisms, including committees led by the Development Commissioner and the PR&DW Secretary, and conducts monthly district-level coordination meetings under the District Collector. Penalties for defaulting agencies and strengthened monitoring systems have also been introduced to expedite project completion.

The Minister also highlighted district-specific interventions in areas such as Naupada, Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, and parts of Gajapati, where water contamination is severe. Measures include the installation of Iron Removal Plants (IRPs) and de-fluoridation units, regular disinfection of water sources, and community awareness programmes promoting safe water practices. Village Water & Sanitation Committees have been empowered to monitor water quality using field test kits.

Special steps are also being taken to address recurring water scarcity, including prioritised completion of ongoing surface water-based schemes and temporary measures such as repairing defunct tubewells and installing new ones in critical areas, he added.

Brown sugar worth ₹34L seized; 3 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: In a major crackdown on illegal narcotics, the Bhubaneswar Excise Department on Monday arrested three individuals, including a woman, from the Mainshikhala Basti area in front of Rajiv Awas Yojana Apartment, Block-2, and seized 340 grams of brown sugar worth ₹34 lakh.

The accused have been identified as Ramesh Sethi (26), Simanchala Gauda (33) and Mamata Das (41).

According to sources, the Excise Department received a reliable tip-off about brown sugar smuggling in the area. A team led by Inspector of Excise Range-I, Nabasmita Nayak, intercepted the suspects, who attempted to flee but were apprehended.

Mamata later arrived at the spot and intervened during the investigation, prompting officers to search her. A total of 340 grams of brown sugar was seized from all three accused. They were arrested and forwarded to court.

“Narcotic peddlers have been active in the Mainshikhala Basti area. In the past two months, we have arrested 5-6 peddlers from this location and forwarded them to court,” said Raj Sekhar Swain, Deputy Superintendent of Excise, Bhubaneswar.

In another incident, Khandagiri police Monday arrested four individuals for



peddling brown sugar near Bhuasuni Temple along the AIIMS road on the outskirts of the City. Police also seized 20 grams of the contraband and two motorcycles used in the illegal trade.

The accused have been identified as Arun Patra (19), Sakti Narayan Nanda (27), Jagannath Sahoo (29) and Dasarathi Dalei (26).

According to police sources, the IIC of Khandagiri Police Station received credible information about illegal drug peddling in the area. Acting on the tip-off, a police team conducted a raid and apprehended the accused on the spot.

Police have booked the accused under Section 21(b) of the NDPS Act and forwarded them to court.

RDWU marks 11th Foundation Day

Bhubaneswar: The three-day celebrations marking the 11th foundation festival of Ramadevi Women’s University (RDWU) and the 125th birth anniversary of Maa Ramadevi began Monday, organised by the university’s Alumni Association. Padma Shri Damayanti Besra, chief guest, recalled her student days and stressed the importance of preserving the mother tongue and valuing teachers’ guidance. Sudipa Ray, former Alumni Association vice-president, urged students to emulate Maa Ramadevi’s dedication, selflessness, and humility. Vice-Chancellor (I/C) Chandi Charan Rath addressed the gathering, while Vice-President Suchitra Samal delivered the welcome address. Outstanding students and alumni were felicitated for achievements and contributions. Snehalata Das concluded with a vote of thanks.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Bhawanipatna, CF NO.2, Dt.01.12.2025, I, SUBODH MANDAL, S/o. Ramachandra Mandal, permanent R/o. Village/Po - Bhusandapursasan, Ps - Tangi, Dist. Khorda, Pin -752021, Odisha declare that, I have changed my name from SUBASH CHANDRA MANDAL to SUBODH MANDAL. Henceforth I shall be known as SUBODH MANDAL for all purposes. SUBODH MANDAL

Before Executive Magistrate, Khallikote, Ganjam, I, Gangadhar Mallik (old name), S/o.- Somanath Behera, Kandara Bangala Sahi, Ward No.- 11, At/P.O./ P.S.- Rambha, Ganjam, Odisha vide affidavit No.- A/743/15.10.25, That now onwards I shall be known as Jahala Behera (new name), S/o.- Somanath Behera for all future purposes.

BMC deploys new fleet of mechanical road cleaners

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: In a major step toward urban cleanliness and sustainable development, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has introduced a new fleet of six advanced mechanical road-cleaning vehicles to cover key road networks across the City. The fleet was inaugurated Monday by Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra.

The initiative expands the mechanical cleaning programme—which was previously limited to select stretches of national highways—to additional prominent roads within BMC limits. The newly added routes have been divided into three packages, two of which have already been finalised. Lion Services and Jagruti Welfare Organisation have been selected to deploy the mechanical cleaning vehicles across these zones.

The launch ceremony was



attended by BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Commissioner Chanchal Rana, senior officials and representatives of the implementing agencies.

Highlighting the role of modern technology in urban management, Minister Mahapatra said, “The use of scientific and mechanical equipment ensures efficient cleaning and contributes significantly to public health and the overall development of the city.”

Mayor Sulochana Das emphasised the government’s focus on extending cleanliness efforts beyond BMC limits to neighbouring areas to ensure

a cleaner urban environment. Commissioner Chanchal Rana added that night-time cleaning schedules have been optimised to maintain efficiency without disrupting daily city activities.

Notably, mechanical cleaning earlier covered about 80 km of roads. With the expansion, the programme will now extend to 166 km of roads—totaling 715 lane kilometres—not only within BMC limits but also in adjoining urban areas. The cleaned stretches include key routes from Rasulgarh to Nakhar, Khandagiri to DN Regalia, Patia to Nandan Kanan, NH to AIIMS Bhubaneswar, DN Regalia to Kalinga Vihar, NH to Kolathia Road via Manipal Hospitals, Khandagiri Charichak to Kalinga Studio, and Kalinga Studio to CRPF Square.

With this initiative, Bhubaneswar continues to set a benchmark in urban cleanliness and sustainable civic management, reflecting a citizen-centric approach to infrastructure development.

City Manipal Hospitals holds spl events for senior citizens



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, organised a special programme, “Healthy Day Out for the Young at Heart”, at Indira Gandhi Park here Sunday. The event aimed to promote health awareness and encourage an active lifestyle among senior citizens, with over 50 members of the Senior Citizens’ Forum participating. Special transportation was arranged to ensure comfortable travel for all attendees.

The event began with yoga and asanas conducted under medical supervision, keeping in mind the fitness levels and health conditions of the participants. This was followed by a physiotherapy session where experts demonstrated techniques to manage and relieve various types of pain. To enhance awareness about com-



mon heart ailments among the elderly, a cardiology talk was delivered by the hospital’s Senior Cardiologist and Director, Cath Lab, Lingaraj Nath.

To create a fun and engaging environment, simple games such as ‘Throw Ball’ and ‘Letter Correction’ were organised, with enthusiastic participation from all attendees. Music and dance performances added to the lively, cheerful ambience.

Speaking on the occasion, Saktimaya Mohapatra, Cluster Director (South-East), said, “We are delighted to organise this healthy and joyful morning for our senior citizens. This is a small effort from our side to support their physical and mental well-being.”

The programme concluded with a special city tour in a dedicated bus, allowing the senior citizens to enjoy the pleasant morning views of Bhubaneswar before heading home.

Awareness rally held on World AIDS Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Odisha observed World AIDS Day Monday with a public awareness rally here, alongside various programmes across the state aimed at educating citizens and curbing the disease.

Speaking on the occasion, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling urged everyone to promote awareness. “To control this disease, it is essential to create maximum public awareness and ensure that affected patients receive necessary treatment without discrimination or stigma,” he said. The rally was held from Capital Hospital to Sishu Bhawan Square. The rally was attended by dignitaries including Kotpad



Odia inscriptions found in Birupa–Chitrotpala basin

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 1: In a significant archaeological breakthrough, ancient stone inscriptions dating back to the Ganga and Suryavamsi Gajapati periods have been discovered in the Birupa–Chitrotpala river basin of Odisha. The find follows a joint survey undertaken by the Rediscover Lost Heritage (RLH) Group, Silver City Cuttack (SCC) Public Charitable Trust, and the Kalinga Epigraphical Research Society (KERS).

The team, led by history researcher Deepak Kumar Nayak and epigraphist Bishnumohan Adhikari, surveyed several key locations in the river basin, including Gopinathpur, Kisinapur, Bhadreswar and Kendupatana. Their efforts uncovered valuable details about inscriptions from the Ganga and Suryavamsi Gajapati eras, offering fresh insights into the region’s cultural and historical significance.

A key highlight of the survey was the successful deciphering of an ancient inscription engraved on the pedestal of the main idol at the Lakshminarayana Temple in Kendupatana. According to epigraphist Bishnumohan Adhikari, the inscription comprises two lines, translated as:



A key highlight of the survey was the successful deciphering of an ancient inscription engraved on the pedestal of the main idol at the Lakshminarayana Temple in Kendupatana

Line 1: Sribisvanatha _leprati
ma and Line 2: E pratima gahile
|| a || Dulala || ka(ru)ra ||

Though partially damaged, the inscription is written in a blend of Odia and Sanskrit. Based on paleographic analysis, Adhikari estimates it to date back to the 14th–15th century CE. The find offers important clues about the temple’s origins and its links to the Ganga dynasty.

Deepak Kumar Nayak, heritage researcher and RLH member, suggested that the inscrip-

tion likely dates to the reign of Ganga ruler Narasimhadeva IV (1377–1414 CE). He further noted that “Sribisvanatha,” mentioned in the text, may refer to Srikaraa Bisvanatha Mahasenapati, a prominent official who served as Chaturdiga Dandaparichha during that period. The name of Bisvanatha Mahasenapati also appears in inscriptions at Simhachalam in Andhra Pradesh (1381 CE) and the Siddheswar Temple in Jajpur (1394 CE), reinforcing his

association with the Ganga era.

The survey also uncovered additional inscriptions from the Suryavamsi Gajapati period. RLH founder member Bikash Prasad Das said the team had documented detailed information on inscriptions at Gopinathpur, Kisinapur and Bhadreswar Temple. An estampage (inked impression) of a key inscription from Bhadreswar Temple has also been obtained and will be included in a forthcoming book compiling all the survey findings.

“The Kendupatana inscription and other findings from this region paint a vivid picture of Odisha’s ancient past, particularly the architectural and political developments during the Ganga and Suryavamsi Gajapati eras,” said Das. “We hope these discoveries will strengthen ongoing efforts to preserve and understand Odisha’s cultural heritage,” he added.

The rediscovery of these inscriptions has been hailed as a major advancement in archaeological research in Odisha. Local heritage groups and scholars are now calling for stronger preservation measures and further excavations in the Birupa–Chitrotpala river basin, an area believed to hold many more untapped historical treasures.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	89.67 ▲ 0.10	SENSEX	85641.90 ▼ 64.77	GOLD	₹127,317 ▲ ₹434
EURO	104.43 ▲ 0.66	NIFTY	26175.75 ▼ 27.20	SILVER	₹174,306 ▲ ₹2669

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	28.2°	25.8°	Partly Cloudy sky
Min Temp	16.0°	15.6°	
Humidity	66%	79%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

MAN BEATS WIFE TO DEATH

Further details will emerge after the postmortem and completion of the investigation, the SDPO said.

ments and said necessary steps would be taken after a review.

illegal timber extraction and smuggling as well as in tracking wildlife movement. The operation also helped in staying alert to any suspicious activity. All data collected during the operation has been compiled and submitted to the divisional forest officer for future planning and monitoring, officials said.

Sonepur: A unique hand-woven rendition of the Bhagavad Gita was unveiled Monday on the occasion of the 5,162nd Gita Jayanti. District Collector Dr Nruparaj Sahu released the work and praised weaver Prafulla Meher for his exceptional craftsmanship. Meher, 63, of Gokarneshwar Pada, created a 14.5-metre cloth panel featuring all 18 chapters of the Gita in Sanskrit, woven in miniature script totalling 700 shlokas. The intricate piece was completed with the support of 27 artisans over four and a half years.

On being informed, district Collector Manoj Satyawalan Mahajan directed the Koraput block development officer (BDO) to visit the site. BDO Debashish Gouda and Additional District Education Officer (ADEO) Jagannath Bhatra reached the school and started an inquiry. Officials said the exact cause will be known after the investigation.

The young artist's achievement has been widely appreciated across intellectual circles of Rourkela for bringing recognition to the city.

 Chola <i>Enter a better life</i>	CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India Branch Office : 3rd Floor Sreemaa Construction Building, Naya Chowk Madhupatna, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753 010.	DEMAND NOTICE
DEMAND NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002		
You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrowers has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with Interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and cost. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Company.		
Loan A/c. No. HE01BHU00000086448 Name and Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower : Applicant : Soubhagini Swain, W/o. Pradeep Kumar Swain Anuary VTC, Gopa, Near Temple, P. O. - Annuary, Sub-District - Banki, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754009 Co-Aplicants : Pradeep Kumar Swain, S/o. Pramod Swain Anuary VTC, Gopa, Near Temple, P. O. - Annuary, Sub-District - Banki, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754009 Swadhin Swain, S/o. Pramod Swain Anuary VTC, Gopa, Near Temple, P. O. - Annuary, Sub-District - Banki, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754009 Sitaram Enterprises Anuary VTC, Gopa, Near Temple, P. O. - Annuary, Sub-District - Banki, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754009 Purna Chandra Swain, S/o. Pramod Swain L-292, Phase-4, HB Colony, Near High School, Dumuduma, Khorda, Odisha - 751019	Property - 1 : All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing Khata No. 227/259, Plot No. 305, Area Acre 0.120 Decimals, Status - Home Stead, Mouza - Gopa, Tahasil - Banki, P. S. - Banki, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754009. Bounded as : North - Road and Plot No. 298, South - Plot No. 306, East - Plot No. 304, West - Plot No. 269 Property - 2 : All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing Khata No. 227/246, Plot No. 269, Area Acre 0.220 Decimals, Status - Home Stead, Mouza - Gopa, Tahasil - Banki, P. S. - Banki, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754009. Bounded as : North - Plot No. 270, South - Plot No. 267, East - Road, West - Plot Nos. 267, 268, 270 & 272.	Loan Amount : Rs. 75,00,000.00 (Rupees Seventy Five Lakh only) Date of Demand Notice : 17.11.2025 NPA Date : 03.06.2025 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 82,44,460.00 (Rupees Eighty Two Lakh Forty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty only) as on 15/11/2025 together with interest
Loan A/c. No. HE01TYQU00000064751 Name and Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower : Applicant : Samir Kumar Parida, S/o. Nityananda Parida Japabhuan, P. S. - Ersama, Jagatsinghpaur, Odisha - 754139 Co-Aplicants : M/s. Samir Kumar Parida Khata No. 451/39, Plot No. - 1219, Parida Bhawan, Near RI Office Japa, Jagabhuan, Ersama Sub Post Office, Village - Japa, Ersama, Jagatsinghpaur, Odisha - 754139 Malati Manjari Parida, W/o. Nityananda Parida Titira, P. O. - Titira VTC - Titira, Jagatsinghpaur, Odisha, Pin - 754110	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing Khata No.34, Plot No. 1/181, Area - Acre 0.44 Decimal, Mouza - Sunadia Kanda, P. S. - Ersama, Kism - Gharabari, P. S. - Ersama, District - Jagatsinghpaur, Odisha.	Loan Amount : Rs. 1,14,40,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Fourteen Lakhs Forty Thousand only) Date of Demand Notice : 10.11.2025 NPA Date : 03.11.2025 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 1,15,53,317.00 (Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Seventeen only) as on 10/11/2025 together with future interest, penal charges, other charges, and all the incidental expenses
Loan A/c. No. ML01BHU00000054286 Name and Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower : Applicant : Suresh Mandal Chandrama Deipur, P. O. - Brajarajpur, Ranapur District - Nayagarh, Odisha, Pin - 752026 Co-Aplicants : Sairam Verity Store Flat 45, Brajarajpur, Ranpur, District - Nayagarh, Odisha, Pin - 752026 Bebina Mandal, W/o. Suresh Mandal Chandrama Deipur, P. O. - Brajarajpur, P. S. - Ranpur District - Nayagarh, Odisha, Pin - 752026	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing Khata No-56/19, Plot No. 15, Area Acre 0.100 Decimal, Mouza-Chandramadeipur, Tahasil - Ranapur, P. S. - Ranapur, KISSAM - Homestead, District - Nayagarh, Odisha.	Loan Amount : Rs. 17,00,000.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh only) Date of Demand Notice : 10.11.2025 NPA Date : 03.11.2025 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 20,59,047.00 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Forty Seven only) as on 10/11/2025 together with future interest, penal charges, other charges, and all the incidental expenses
Loan A/c. No. HE01URI00000076722 Name and Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower : Applicant : Sujana Kumar Bastia, S/o. Sri Khetra Mohan Bastia Chakrapada, Astaranga, Namaro, Kakatapur, District - Puri, Pin - 752109 Co-Aplicants : M/s. Ma Naraayani Chuda Mill Plot No. 606/772, Namaro, Chakrapada, Kakatapur, Puri, Odisha Pin - 752109 3. Ramamani Bastia, W/o. Sujana Bastia Chakrapada, Astaranga,Namaro, Kakatapur, District - Puri, Pin -752109	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing Khata No.130/14, Plot No. 606/772, Mouza - Chakrapada, Area. 0.200 Decimal, Tahasil -Astaranga, P. S. -Astaranga, Tahasil No. 657, P. S. No.172, Kism - Gharabari, District -Puri, Odisha.	Loan Amount : Rs. 60,00,000.00 (Rupees Sixty Lakh only) Date of Demand Notice : 10.11.2025 NPA Date : 03.11.2025 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 60,99,940.00 (Rupees Sixty Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty only) as on 10/11/2025 together with future interest, penal charges, other charges, and all the incidental expenses
Loan A/c. No. ML01CUK00000029986, ML01CUK00000028577 & ML01CUK00000086696 Name and Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower : Applicant : Jibanananda Sahoo, S/o. Ramesh Chandra Sahoo Barapada, Kendupatana, Salipur, District - Cuttack, Pin - 754203 Co-Aplicants : Jyoti Ranjan Sahoo, S/o. Ramesh Chandra Sahoo Barapada, Kendupatana, Salipur, District - Cuttack, Pin - 754203 Sahoo Transport, Nischintakolli, Basanti Niwas, Mahanga District - Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 754207 Jasoda Sahoo, W/o. Jibanananda Sahoo Barapada, Kendupatana, Salipur, District - Cuttack, Pin - 754203 5. Omm Transport and Omm Traders Khata No. 702/346, Plot No. 922/2775 Chandbali Road Nischintakolli, Near Canara Bank, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 754207	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing Khata No. 702/346, Plot No. 922/2775, Area Acre 0.014 Decimal, and Plot No. 917/2774, Area - Acre 0.780 Decimal, Total 2 Plots, Total Area - Acre - .092 Decimal, Mouza - Nischintakolli, Tahasil - Nischintakolli, S. R. O. - Salipur, District - Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 754203.	Loan Amount : (1) Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh only) (2) Rs. 20,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Lakhs only) (3) Rs. 9,50,000.00 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Fifty Thousand only) Date of Demand Notice : 10.11.2025 NPA Date : 03.11.2025 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 29,44,553.00 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three only) as on 10/11/2025 together with future interest, penal charges, other charges, and all the incidental expenses

Care not for time and success.
Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper.

SRI AUROBINDO

Indo-China Hiccups

Despite the new-found bonhomie between China and India in the wake of US President Donald Trump’s tariff war, China is back to its old game of needling India at the slightest opportunity by claiming Arunachal Pradesh as Chinese territory. This time it has raked up the issue in a crude, arrogant, undiplomatic and insensitive way subjecting a woman, Pema Wangjom Thongdok, hailing from the state and working in the UK, to an 18-hour ordeal at the Shanghai airport recently. The incident has confirmed the suspicion that China is actually trying to take advantage of the plight of India facing huge, nearly insurmountable tariff barriers put up by the US, while pretending to be willing to make a common cause with India against Trump.

When China unveiled its version of the US H-1B visa for Indian techies and scientists willing to work there after the US’ steep tariff and incredible hike of the H-1B visa, it was feared China would try to arm twist India over border disputes. But, it could not be imagined that China would provoke India so soon. This incident is highly surprising after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met China’s President Xi Jinping during a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in China only a few weeks ago.

India had to issue a “strong demarche” to China after the woman from Arunachal Pradesh had been harassed and stopped by Chinese immigration officials at the Shanghai airport. The officials ridiculed her and told her to “apply for a Chinese passport” since Arunachal Pradesh “belongs” to China.

Pema Thongdok, a principal regulatory consultant working in financial services in London, told the media she was detained at Shanghai airport for 18 hours and immigration and airlines staff were “unprofessional and rude,” laughing and mocking at her.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the passenger had been detained on ludicrous grounds. It maintained that Arunachal Pradesh is an indisputably Indian territory and its residents are perfectly entitled to hold and travel with Indian passports. It has also been highlighted that the actions of the Chinese authorities are in contravention of the Chicago and Montreal Conventions relating to civil aviation.

The woman was flying from London to Japan, transiting via Shanghai and was booked on a China Eastern Airlines flight. She has been residing and working in the United Kingdom for the past 14 years. She said she had transited via China in October 2024 without facing any issue. Never before had she been harassed or her status as an Indian citizen belonging to the north-eastern state questioned. This makes China’s intent all the more suspect.

What is more, the woman claimed she had checked with the Chinese embassy prior to her journey that a transit of less than 24 hours does not require any transit visa. She was to make a stopover of only three hours at the Shanghai airport. However, upon arrival in Shanghai around 6 am on 21 November, immigration officers refused to allow her transit and declared her Indian passport invalid solely because her place of birth is Arunachal Pradesh. They repeatedly insisted that Arunachal Pradesh is part of China and therefore her Indian passport was invalid and not an acceptable form of document to travel. Her passport was withheld without explanation and she was kept in custody within the airport for nearly 18 hours without access to food, support, or proper communication. She complained that despite having a valid Japanese visa and not leaving the airside transfer area she was denied boarding for her original flight. China Eastern and the immigration officers later told her that unless she booked a new ticket specifically on the airlines, they would not return her passport. She could contact the Indian Embassy with great difficulty and Indian officials ultimately escorted her to a flight late in the evening at 10.20 pm. The Chinese officials were cautious enough not to stamp her passport which was eventually returned to her.

China of course sought to brazen it out by claiming that the woman had only been subjected to routine check, provided with food and no discourtesy was shown to her.

This is typical Chinese prevarication. At a time when India is working to improve ties in the current changed geopolitical and economic situation, such actions by the Chinese side create unnecessary obstructions to the process. It also shows that India’s response to American tariff aggression has been futile. India seems to have fallen in a helpless situation where neighbours realize that the nation is weak.

WISDOM CORNER

“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.” VIKTOR E. FRANKL

“The man who promises everything is sure to fulfil nothing, and everyone who promises too much is in danger of using evil means in order to carry out his promises, and is already on the road to perdition.” CARL JUNG

“A man can be himself only so long as he is alone, and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom, for it is only when he is alone that he is really free.” ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1804:** Napoleon is crowned Emperor of France. Napoleon Bonaparte had risen through the ranks of the French army during the French revolution and became one of the most influential political figures of his era. His self-coronation as Napoleon I took place in Notre Dame in Paris, France.
- **1823:** The Monroe Doctrine, which declared that the U.S. should not interfere in European affairs but that its sphere of interest included the entire Western Hemisphere, was enunciated by President James Monroe this day in 1823.
- **1942:** Scientists led by Enrico Fermi conducted the world’s first controlled self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction, at the University of Chicago.
- **1971:** The United Arab Emirates was formed by the union of six small emirates on the Arabian Peninsula; a seventh emirate joined in February 1972.
- **1982:** William C. DeVries implanted the first permanent artificial heart in Barney Clark; the aluminum and plastic device was called the Jarvik-7.
- **1983:** The groundbreaking music video for Michael Jackson’s song Thriller aired on MTV.
- **1993:** Colombian criminal Pablo Escobar—who, as head of the Medellín cartel, was arguably the world’s most powerful drug trafficker in the 1980s and early ’90s—was killed during a shoot-out with authorities.

power post

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

CONSEQUENCES OF PEACE



Trump’s 20-point Gaza peace plan reflects one of Keynes’ most important insights, embodied by the warning that the ‘perils of the future lay not in frontiers and sovereignties, but in food, coal, and transport’

ing year, the Biden administration – along with France, Germany, India, Italy, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the EU – committed to developing a new India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), aimed at stimulating economic growth and development through enhanced connectivity and integration. IMEC builds on the 2018 “Railways for Regional Peace” project, which would connect Israel, the UAE, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia via high-speed rail. It adds a maritime route from India to the Persian Gulf, and pipelines for exporting gas, mainly green hydrogen, from India and the Gulf countries to Europe. As European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen put it, IMEC is more than “just a railway or a cable”; it is a “green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations.” But realizing the IMEC vision will be no easy feat. For starters, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are strategic trade partners of China, and part of the BRI. The UAE also joined the China-led BRICS grouping in 2024, and Saudi Arabia has been weighing membership since being invited to join in 2023. Trump now must convince them to distance themselves from China’s Middle East infrastructure plans, and commit instead to the US-backed strategy.

More fundamentally, progress on connectivity requires a stable Middle East – and that presupposes a peaceful and reconstructed Gaza. So, unlike US President Woodrow Wilson’s interwar administration – which succumbed to domestic isolationist pressures and withdrew from peace-building in Europe, ultimately leading to another conflagration – Trump is willing to take heat from his MAGA base for being too focused on foreign affairs. He has leveraged American power to push recalcitrant regional players toward a peace deal that reflects Keynes’ wisdom. Trump’s peace plan includes not only a permanent ceasefire, the deployment of a temporary International Stabilization Force (with a United Nations mandate), and the disarmament of Hamas, but also the creation of a transitional Palestinian civil administration and Gaza’s reconstruction and economic development. It states that Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza, and that no Palestinians will be forced to leave the enclave.

But this is just the beginning. The plan is more outline than blueprint, and its lack of clarity on how its various stages would be navigated leaves plenty of room for divergent interpretations by the parties. Already, Hamas has said that it would not relinquish its weapons, and

both Hamas and Israel are likely to resist many other elements of the plan. The ceasefire remains tenuous. Moreover, Trump’s regional alliance is driven by deep ideological and strategic divisions: The Qatar-Turkey axis is too friendly to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood for the Saudi-Emirati-Israeli bloc. It also remains to be seen how Egypt would stomach a Turkish role in Gaza. Nonetheless, Trump has set the stage for a new Middle East peace, based on economic integration and infrastructure connectivity. An expansion of the Abraham Accords – Israel’s bilateral agreements establishing diplomatic relations with four Arab countries (Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan, and the UAE) – may now be in the offing.

To improve the chances of success, Trump has taken a number of steps to increase his administration’s leverage over regional actors, including signing an arms deal with Saudi Arabia and a security pact with Qatar, and indicating that he may lift the ban on F-35 sales to Turkey. For Egypt, the prospect of securing major contracts in Gaza’s reconstruction is highly appealing. Trump has even brought Syria into America’s orbit, while Turkish and US companies gear up for the reconstruction bonanza.

Perhaps most important, Trump has made it clear that Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu needs him, even going so far as to send a letter to Israel’s president requesting a full pardon for Netanyahu in his ongoing corruption trial. Internationally isolated, wholly dependent on US military and political support, and facing a citizenry eager for an end to Israel’s longest war, Netanyahu has little choice but to bend to Trump’s will. Whether the Trump peace plan’s watered-down vision of Palestinian statehood coincides with that of the Arab side is another matter.

The writer is a former Israeli foreign minister.

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Shlomo Ben-Ami

TRUMP HAS SET THE STAGE FOR A NEW MIDDLE EAST PEACE, BASED ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIVITY

These ambitions long preceded the Gaza war. In 2017, during his first presidency, Trump reached an agreement with Japan to offer “high-quality infrastructure investment alternatives in the Indo-Pacific region,” and established a partnership aimed at promoting universal access to affordable and reliable energy in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. “In a globalized world,” then-Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, “there are many belts and many roads, and no one nation should put itself into a position of dictating ‘One Belt, One Road.’”

Former US President Joe Biden took up the infrastructure mantle in 2022, when he established the I2U2 Group with India, Israel, and the UAE to focus on “joint investments and new initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, food security, and technology.” The follow-

SPECTRUM COMMERCE

The slide in India’s exports

India’s exports have witnessed a slide in most sectors, as per latest reports, in view of the current geopolitical situation and the pressure of US tariffs. The fault-lines have widened with the rupee falling to its lowest value while exporters, especially small and medium-sized firms, continue to face sustained pressure. Though the trade pact with the US is close to finalisation and it is expected that the tariffs would be brought down, the position now is far from encouraging.

India’s export-oriented policy efforts have not only faced weak global demands but intense competition from Asian peers that have historically exported their way to prosperity, enabling labour shifts out of agriculture. Many of the economies have become preferred destinations for entrepreneurs and firms relocating from China. Mention may be made of relative newcomers like Vietnam which recorded strong export growth during the post-pandemic period, when the global economy has been slow. Both Vietnam and China increased their export shares while India slipped. India’s goods export growth averaged only one percentage

point above world GDP during 2014-2024. Though comparisons cannot be made with countries such as Indonesia or Brazil, it is significant to note that even Vietnam tripled its share of world exports from 0.6% to 1.7% during this period, almost equalling India’s 2024 share of 1.8%.

There is good news for the country as the European Union is eyeing to forge a broad agenda with India to firm up a free trade pact, a defence framework agreement and a strategic agenda at their annual summit on 27 January. Added to this, after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Canadian counterpart on the sidelines of the G-20 summit, it was decided to begin negotiations on an ambitious ‘Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement’. It is understood that the agreement will cover goods, services, investment, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade and dispute settlement. It has also been reported that India and Israel will soon begin negotiations for an FTA, according to Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The government is aware of the matter and has rightly taken

a prompt decision by clearing the ₹25,000-crore Export Promotion Mission after a long time and also the ₹20,000 crore additional free collateral credit to support exporters grappling with global trade uncertainty. Priority support has been identified to sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods and marine products hit by US tariffs. Along with this, the RBI decided to cushion exporters in stressed sectors by announcing relaxation under the Foreign Exchange Management Act by extending the time available to exporters to realise and repatriate export proceeds from the existing 9 to 15 months. The shipment time has also been increased from one to three years, giving exporters greater flexibility to manage orders and supply chain uncertainties.

The need of the hour is obviously on improving quality through technological upgradation, especially in labour-intensive sectors through innovative designs and better marketing in foreign and unexplored markets with the government helping through its trade missions abroad. Moreover, cost-effectiveness is also a key factor in

Indian goods making entry into foreign markets in a big way.

In the current situation, the four Labour Codes announced recently may augur well for the growth of the economy as also the export front. Prime Minister Modi stated that “the codes will serve as a strong foundation for universal social security, minimum and timely payment of wages, safe workplaces and remunerative opportunities for our people, specially Nari Shakti and Yuva Shakti.”

It is a fact that rigid labour laws prevalent in the country had been hurting entrepreneurship growth. A large provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 forbid enterprises with 100 or more workers from laying off workers under any circumstances. This draconian provision, complemented by other rigidities encouraged firms, especially the labour-intensive ones, to remain small.

At the same time, Indian trade unions have condemned the government’s rollout of the new Labour Codes, as a “deceptive fraud” against workers. It remains to be seen whether with these Labour Codes, India will be able to attract more foreign investment. INF



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE FAULT-LINES HAVE WIDENED WITH THE RUPEE FALLING TO ITS LOWEST VALUE WHILE EXPORTERS CONTINUE TO FACE SUSTAINED PRESSURE

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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Bhubaneswar-751010



Precious time

Sir, This refers to “SIR shadow over Winter Session,” **Orissa POST**, December 1. It is really unacceptable to see every Parliament session getting seriously disrupted for pressing the just demand of the Opposition parties to discuss issues of national importance. If the agenda of the ruling party at the Centre is to seek co-operation from the major Opposition party the burning issues such as the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) in various states, national security, and air pollution in the national capital region should be discussed in the Parliament in open mind. Any denial of giving a patient hearing on the issues shall only suggest the government’s hidden intention to curb the democratic rights of the Opposition parties. The ruling party particularly the minister in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju must bear in mind how much tax-payers’ money is being drained out from the exchequer in holding Parliament sessions. Any denial of taking cognizance of the matter amounts to criminal negligence.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Coercive proposal

Sir, Ukrainian and US officials are meeting in Florida to refine Washington’s revised framework for ending Russia’s war in Ukraine, following criticism that earlier drafts favoured Moscow. Led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff (US Special Envoy to the Middle East), the talks aim to balance calls for a “just peace” with battlefield realities and Ukraine’s insistence on retaining sovereignty and its right to join the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Any outcome will shape global geopolitics: a viable plan could stabilise energy markets, reduce European security risks and influence US-Russia relations. For India, a settlement could ease volatility in oil prices, strengthen its balanced diplomacy with Moscow and Washington, and stabilise defence-procurement channels. However, if the proposal appears coercive toward Ukraine, it may prolong the conflict, sustaining global economic uncertainty and strategic unpredictability.

RS Narula, PATIALA



Traffic drives daily pollution: Study

The analysis — based on CPCB data — points to a “toxic cocktail” of PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and carbon monoxide (CO), pollutants closely linked to vehicles and combustion sources, that has heightened health risks this season

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Even with farm fires at a multi-year low, Delhi-NCR’s winter air remains suffocating. For most of October and November, pollution levels hovered between “very poor” and “severe”, fuelled by a rising “toxic cocktail” of PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and carbon monoxide (CO) emitted mainly from vehicles and other local sources.

At least 22 air-quality monitoring stations in Delhi recorded carbon monoxide (CO) levels above permissible limits on more than 30 of the 59 days assessed, with Dwarka Sector 8 logging the highest number of breaches at 55 days, followed by Jahangirpuri and Delhi University’s North Campus, both at 50 days, according to a new analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The analysis also highlights a troubling proliferation of pollution hotspots in the capital.

In 2018, only 13 locations were officially designated as hotspots. Now, several more locations routinely record pollution levels far higher than the city average.

Jahangirpuri emerged as Delhi’s most polluted hotspot, with an annual PM2.5 average of 119 µg/m³, or micrograms per cubic metre, followed by Bawana and Wazirpur (113 µg/m³), Anand Vihar (111 µg/m³), and Mundka, Rohini, and Ashok Vihar (101–103 µg/m³).

Vivek Vihar, Alipur, Nehru Nagar, Siri Fort, Dwarka Sector 8 and Patparganj were some of the new hotspots flagged by CSE. Smaller NCR towns also recorded more intense and lon-



DELHI CHOKES

ger smog episodes this year.

Bahadurgarh experienced the longest continuous smog event — lasting 10 days, from November 9 to 18 — indicating that the region increasingly behaves as a single airshed with uniformly high pollution levels.

CSE’s assessment finds that early winter pollution has plateaued at unhealthy levels, driven mainly by local emissions, even as the contribution of stubble burning has dropped significantly.

Researchers found that PM2.5 levels rose and fell almost in tandem with NO2 during peak traffic hours. Between 7–10 am and 6–9 pm, both pollutants spiked sharply as vehicular emissions accumulated under shallow winter boundary layers.

While NO2 showed rapid, traffic-linked peaks, PM2.5 recorded broader, slower-moving spikes. CO levels also breached the eight-hour standard at several locations across the city.

“This synchronised pattern reinforces that particulate pollution spikes are being fuelled daily by traffic-related emissions of NO2 and CO, especially under low-dispersion conditions,” said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director (research and advocacy), CSE.

The report notes that stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana was significantly subdued this year, partly because floods disrupted the crop cycle.

For most of the early winter period, farm fires contributed less than 5 per cent to Delhi’s pollution, rising to 5–15 per cent

on some days and peaking at 22 per cent on November 12–13.

While the decline in stubble burning prevented extreme pollution spikes, it did little to improve daily air quality, the report said. PM2.5 remained the dominant pollutant on 34 days, followed by PM10 on 25 days, ozone on 13 days, and CO on two days.

Throughout November, the AQI remained in the ‘very poor’ to ‘severe’ range, underscoring the persistent impact of Delhi’s local pollution sources — traffic, industry, waste burning, and domestic fuel use.

Although peak pollution levels this year were lower compared to the past three winters due to reduced firecrackers and farm-fire impact, average pollution levels showed almost

AQI crosses 300 in several areas

New Delhi: Delhi’s air quality deteriorated again Monday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) moved closer to the “very poor” category, just a day after strong winds briefly improved conditions from “very poor” to “poor” for the first time in 16 days. At 7 a.m., the AQI crossed the 300 mark, still in the “poor” category as a dense layer of fog and smoke blanketed the national capital, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

no improvement.

PM2.5 levels for October–November were about 9 per cent lower than last year, but compared to the three-year baseline, no meaningful progress was observed.

Between 2018 and 2020, PM2.5 levels recorded a steady decline, partly due to the pandemic. Since 2021–22, however, annual averages have plateaued at elevated levels.

In 2024, the annual average rose sharply to 104.7 µg/m³, reversing earlier gains.

The report recommends a set of deep structural measures to tackle emissions across sectors — time-bound electrification targets, scrapping of older vehicles, expanded public transport and last-mile connectivity, and better walking and cycling infrastructure.

It also calls for parking caps, congestion taxes, cleaner industrial fuels, lower gas taxes, elimination of waste burning, improved waste segregation, and remediation of legacy dumps. On Monday, Delhi’s 3 pm AQI stood at 303, placing it in the ‘very poor’ category, according to the CPCB’s air quality bulletin.

Fadnavis govt set to turn 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 1: The BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra will complete its first year in power December 5, 2025, a period characterized by infrastructure expansion, a focus on investor confidence, and a delicate balancing act within the three-party coalition. The Mahayuti—comprising BJP, NCP, and Shiv Sena—won 235 seats in the 288-member assembly in the November 2024 elections, which were touted as a strong mandate for development. Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as chief minister December 5, though the delayed government formation led to speculation about Eknath Shinde’s role, especially regarding the CM post.

The delay also marked a tense period, with the swearing-in of ministers taking place on December 15, just before the winter session of the new Assembly. The government’s first major challenge came with the December 9 murder of Beed sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh. Opposition outrage followed the arrest of the main accused, Walmik Karad, an aide of NCP minister Dhananjay Munde. Amid national outrage, Munde resigned in March due to health reasons.

The ruling alliance has emphasized “speed, transparency, and coordination” in governance, highlighting major infrastructure projects like metro rail in Mumbai, Pune, and Thane, the coastal road, trans-harbour link, and the mega Vadnavan port. Efforts have also been made to position Maharashtra as India’s top investment destination, amid global competition for capital. However, managing a three-party coalition with distinct constituencies remains challenging. Allegations of corruption and misconduct have surfaced, particularly against Shiv Sena ministers and MLAs. A controversial Pune land



deal involving Deputy CM Ajit Pawar’s son, Parth, led to an FIR, though opposition parties criticized his absence from the investigation. Similarly, a Jain Trust property sale involving Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol also drew criticism, though the deal was later canceled.

The Opposition also criticized the government for not fulfilling promises like a farm loan waiver and increasing financial aid for the Ladki Bahin Yojana, which were part of the BJP’s election campaign. Additionally, activist Manoj Jarange’s hunger strike in August led to the state agreeing to issue Kunbi caste certificates, granting the Maratha community OBC quota benefits. However, this decision faced opposition from other backward classes, forcing the government to establish a cabinet sub-committee to manage the issue.

Despite internal speculation, leaders from all three ruling parties have maintained that the government is functioning cohesively. However, tensions surfaced recently when Shiv Sena ministers skipped a cabinet meeting after BJP president Ravindra Chavan inducted functionaries from Shinde’s faction in key strongholds.

As the government enters its second year, the focus will shift to completing large-scale infrastructure projects, expanding rural outreach, and improving ease of doing business. The opposition has vowed to increase scrutiny, setting the stage for a politically active year ahead in Maharashtra.

Rare striated grassbird spotted in Chaprala forest in Gadchiroli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gadchiroli, Dec 1: The presence of a rare striated grassbird was recorded in the Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra during a survey, according to the Forest Department.

The finding is highly significant, as the species is extremely rare in eastern Maharashtra.

Earlier, the striated grassbird had been reported only once from the Tapi River basin in Jalgaon district along the Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh border, Sub-DFO Mangesh Balapure said in a release.

existed from Chandrapur district, the new sighting at Chaprala marks an important range extension for this species within Maharashtra.

Two striated grassbirds were spotted in the tall grass habitat along the Pranhita River during a bird survey conducted in the Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary November 29–30 as part of a citizen science initiative.

The release stated that EA D’Abreu, the then curator of Central Museum Nag-



The finding is highly significant, as the species is extremely rare in eastern Maharashtra

tit-babbler, forest wagtail, Indian scops owl, and brown hawk owl. Around 140 species have been recorded during the survey”, according to the release.

Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary covers 134.78 sq. km and falls under the unified control of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). It is bounded by the Pranhita River and the Maharashtra-Telangana border on the west, and by the Wainganga River on the south-west.

The sanctuary supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the Giant Squirrel (Shekru), the State Animal of Maharashtra, along with tiger, leopard, sloth bear, spotted deer, sambar, four-horned antelope, and the Indian Tree-shrew, among other species.

This was the first-ever citizen science bird survey conducted in Chaprala Sanctuary. More seasonal bird surveys are planned to further document the avifaunal diversity of this relatively unexplored region, with the expectation of discovering many more species.

A citizen science bird survey involves the public participating in data collection to monitor bird populations for scientific research and conservation.

grassbird spotting in the then Central Provinces and Berar (now Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha). The bird was rarely reported in this part since 1923, making this an important finding.

The survey documented a healthy population of threatened riverine species (as per IUCN), including River Lapwing, Oriental Darter, and Black-headed Ibis, which fall under the “nearly-threatened” category.

“Several other uncommon and noteworthy species were recorded during the survey, such as orange-breasted green pigeon, pin-striped

Flamingo season begins

Thane: The first flock of flamingos of the season have arrived in Thane creek area, senior bird researcher Mrugank Prabhu said Monday. The presence of 300 greater flamingos have already been recorded in Thane Creek, while early fly overs have been sighted at DPS lake in Nerul, Prabhu said. Though numbers remain modest, larger flocks are expected soon, Range Forest Officer Prashant Bahadure said. Their arrival at Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, though slightly delayed this year, has revived hopes of a strong migratory phase, officials said. NatConnect Foundation director BN Kumar said the state government must urgently issue the gazette notification declaring DPS lake as a conservation reserve. The proposal in this regard was approved earlier this year by the the State Wildlife Board.



Stating that only one recent record of the species

pur, had mentioned in 1923 about the straited

National capital shivers at 5.7 °C

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The city’s temperature plunged to 5.7 degrees Celsius Monday — the coldest morning of the season so far.

The temperature fell from 8.3 degrees Celsius a day earlier and was 4.6 degrees below the season’s average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. A weather ex-

pert said the sharp drop in temperature was due to calm winds and clear skies. Mahesh Palawat, Vice President of Meteorology & Climate Change, said the temperature will increase slightly over the next two or three days as two western disturbances approach, which will temporarily raise the minimum temperature. “For the next one or two days, a

slight rise in temperatures is expected, before a fresh dip sets in during mid-December,” he said, adding, “From the second week of December, temperatures in the capital are likely to fall again, marking the onset of a colder phase.”

There are two western disturbances approaching, which will marginally increase temperatures after December 5, he said.

Government of Odisha, Department of Water Resources
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, LEFT CANAL DIVISION NO.VI,
AT/PO: Jaipur Road, Dist.- JAJPUR (ODISHA)
e-mail: selcd6@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. SE/LCD-VI/P1/01/2025-26
No.A-1003:- The Superintending Engineer, Left Canal Division No. VI, Jaipur Road on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover for E.I. works as detailed in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approximate Estimated cost put to Tender (₹)	Cost of Bid Document (₹)	Bid Security (₹)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
1.	Shifting / heightening of 11 KV line & LT Line at Korei Branch Canal from RD (11 000 km to 23 250 km) and Mukundapur Distributary from RD (0 000 km to 8 130 km) of Rengali Irrigation Project, Phase-II	₹ 6333352 78/- (Excluding GST)	₹ 10000/-	₹ 63400/-	HT Electrical contractor having valid license from ELBO	04 (four) calendar months

Date & Time of available of bid document in the portal/online:- from dt 02.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 22.12.2025 up to 05.30 P.M. **Date of Opening:-** dt 23.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M. **Name and address of officer inviting Bid:-** Superintending Engineer, Left Canal Division No. VI, Jaipur Road. **Further details can be seen from the Govt. website** www.tendersodisha.gov.in/www.dowr.odisha.gov.in. **Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.**
OIPR-32554/11/0003/2526
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Left Canal Division No.VI, Jaipur Road

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଜନସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଖଣ୍ଡ ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BALASORE
AT-SAMALPUR, P.O-BALIA, DIST-BALASORE, PIN-756056
(e-mail: eepbbls@gmail.com, Phone-9438660004)
No.6487/DATE 28.11.25
1st CORRIGENDUM
TENDER FOR THE WORK
No.C-1628:“Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of DG Sets (CPCB IV+GEN Set with AMF Pannel) with Movable Trolley including shed for Soro Town”.
In continuation to this office Bid-Identification No.SEPHBLs-28 of 2025-26 dt 12.11.2025. The following amendments have been made to **Critical Dates**.

Item/ Clause	Description	Existing Critical Dates	Revised/Amended Critical Dates
1	Critical Dates in NIT, Section-1 of DTCN	Last date and time of seeking clarification dt.28.11.2025 Last date & time of bidding on-line dt.03.12.2025 Date & Time of opening Bid dt.04.12.2025	17.00 Hr. of dt.05.12.2025 17.00 Hr. of dt.10.12.2025 17.00 Hr. of dt.11.12.2025

All other terms and conditions unaltered.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
P.H. Division, Balasore
OIPR-13053/11/0035/2526

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORP, PHULBANI, KANDHAMAL
Tel.No.06842-253619, Fax:06842-253619, E-mail:municipality.plb@rediffmail.com
Letter No.4517/ Date: 29.11.2025
TENDER NOTICE
No.O-1636: Phulbani Municipality invites sealed double cover tenders from Registered Firms/ Service Provider/ Registered Organisation for providing consultancy and non consultancy services under Phulbani Municipality.

Sl. No.	Description	Data
1	Name of the Works	Providing Comprehensive Architectural and Engineering Consultancy Services for Planning, Design, Estimation, Technical Sanction, Bid Facilitation, Execution of Projects, Execution Supervision and Completion of Various Infrastructure and Civic Projects under Phulbani Municipality, Kandhamal.
2	Name of the ULB	Phulbani Municipality
3	Tender Paper Cost	Rs.10,000.00 (Ten Thousand only)
4	EMD	Rs.5,00,000.00 (Five Lakh only)
5	Last date for sale of the bid doc	09.12.2025, 05.00 PM
6	Bid submission end date	09.12.2025, 05.00 PM
7	Bid opening date and time	10.12.2025, 10.00 AM
8	Name and address of bid inviting officer	Executive Officer, Phulbani Municipality

Sd./ Executive Officer
Phulbani Municipality
OIPR-13195/11/0016/2526

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES No.A-1015
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DRAINAGE DIVISION, BERHAMPUR
e mail: eeddbherampur@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
e-Procurement Notice No.01/2025-26 Dt.27.11.2025

1. Type of Work	Improvement, Renovation & Construction of FLB
2. Total number of works	10 No. works
3. Estimated Cost of Individual Packages	Varies from Rs.44.34 Lakh to 83.24 Lakh
4. Bid Identification No.	EE-DD-BER-NO.01/2025-26 to EE-DD-BER-NO.10/2025-26
5. Period of Completion	06 (Six) working Calendar months
6. Availability of Tender On-line	02.12.2025, 10.00 Hours to 12.12.2025, 17.00 Hours
7. Date of Opening	15.12.2025 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha
8. Class of Contractor	'B' Class only
9. Bid Security/ EMD	Mentioned in detail Notice
10. Cost of Tender Paper	Rs.10,000/-
11. Procurement Officer	Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./ Executive Engineer
Drainage Division, Berhampur
OIPR-32092/11/0002/2526

of the day **quote**

On pensions alone, in 18 months, we spent Rs 50,763 crore. Nobody in the country is extending welfare at this scale

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

Even though our state has a low HIV prevalence, the 4,477 new infections reported over the past three years are a matter of concern

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

After meeting him, with his permission and following his advice, he joined another party

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN | TN DY CM

SHORT TAKES

Three killed as jeep plunges into gorge

Jaipur: Three people, including two women, were killed and 25 others were injured when a packed jeep lost control and plummeted into a gorge after one of its wheels came off in Rajasthan's Pali district Monday, police said. The accident occurred around noon in the Kundal area under Bali police station limits, when the vehicle -- carrying 28 passengers -- was on its way from Panch Bor Sayra in Udaipur district to Kundal for a condolence meeting, Station House Officer Parbat Singh said.

ED raids against Maha Trust, Yemeni national

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Monday conducted searches at a dozen locations in connection with an FCRA "violation" case against a Maharashtra-based Trust, officials said. The raids were undertaken at premises located in the Nandurbar district and in Mumbai in the case of Jamia Ismailia Ishatul Uloom (JIU) and a Yemeni citizen Al-Khadami Khaled Ibrahim Saleh and others.

2 killed in fire at night shelter

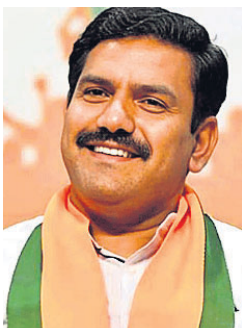
New Delhi: Two people were killed after a massive fire broke out in a night shelter in the early hours of Monday in southwest Delhi's Vasant Vihar, an official of the Delhi Fire Services said. The night shelter is operated by SPYM NGO, the police said in a statement, adding seven people were residing there at the time of the incident.

'Beef' in buffet triggers row at UP wedding

Aligarh: A fight broke out at a wedding reception in Civil Lines over a "beef curry" sticker at the dining counter. Guests Akash and Gaurav Kumar objected to the label and tried to record a video, leading to a scuffle. Police said the confusion arose from "beef" being used for both buffalo (legal) and cow meat (banned).

Job aspirants in Dharwad protest

Dharwad: Several job aspirants Monday staged a protest here demanding that the Karnataka government launch a recruitment drive to fill vacancies across various departments. Police said 35 people, including women, were detained. The demonstration was organised by Janasamanyara Vedike and Udyogakankshigala Horata Samiti.



The competition for the chief minister's chair is intensifying day by day. According to information I have, at least seven to eight senior legislators and ministers in the ruling party are competing to somehow become the CM

B Y VIJAYENDRA | K'TAKA BJP PRESIDENT

SABARIMALA TEMPLE COLLECTIONS SOAR

The lord Ayyappa temple here has recorded a significant surge in revenue during the first 15 days of the ongoing annual mandala-makaravilakku pilgrimage season, with total collections touching Rs 92 crore



DELHI BLAST CASE

NIA raids multiple locations in J&K, UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/New Delh, Dec 1: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Monday conducted searches at several locations in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh as part of its investigations in the Delhi car bomb blast case.

Various digital devices and other incriminating materials were seized during the searches conducted at the premises of several accused and suspects, a statement issued by the federal probe agency said.

A total of eight locations were searched in Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama and Awantipora districts of J&K, and one location in Lucknow, it said.

On November 26 and 27, the NIA had conducted extensive searches at the premises of the prime accused, Dr Muzammil Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Saeed, in the Al Falah University complex and other places in Faridabad, Haryana.

A huge quantity of cash, foreign currency, gold and other incriminating materials were seized during those searches, and the same are being minutely examined to unravel the conspiracy that culminated in the bombing, the NIA said.

The anti-terror probe agency has arrested seven key accused so far in the case.

The NIA teams are questioning the arrested accused while continuing to pursue various leads in connection with the November 10 blast which took place outside the Red Fort in Delhi, killing 15 people. "NIA continues to work closely with various state police forces to track and arrest every member of the terrorist module involved in the bomb attack," the statement said.

Air pollution crisis needs regular monitoring: SC

The court stressed that the issue of stubble burning should not be politicised or used for ego-driven purposes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The Supreme Court Monday emphasised that air pollution in Delhi-NCR should not be treated as a seasonal issue, directing that the matter be heard twice a month to address both short- and long-term solutions. The bench, led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymaya Bagchi, questioned the usual attribution of air pollution to stubble burning, noting that other factors might be at play. CJI Kant, from a farmer's family in Haryana, pointed out that stubble burning had occurred during the COVID-19 lockdown, yet air quality improved, suggesting other contributors to the pollution.

The court stressed that the issue of stubble burning should not be politicised or used for ego-driven purposes. It urged the Centre to clarify the actions taken by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and other agencies to tackle pollution, and ordered a report on short-term and long-term measures.

The bench also raised concerns over unplanned urbanisation and the growing population, which it argued exacerbates pollution. CJI Kant remarked that cities were not designed to accommodate large populations, with many households owning multiple cars. He noted that while metro projects could be a long-term solution,



immediate measures were urgently needed.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati listed several pollution sources, including vehicular emissions, construction dust, and biomass burning. Amicus curiae Aparajita Singh highlighted the persistent issue of vehicular pollution and non-functional air quality monitoring devices in Delhi. She also pointed out the chronic problem of cars parked on both sides of roads, contributing to poor air quality.

The CJI acknowledged that while the courts might not have all the solutions, they could provide a platform for experts to discuss and devise effective measures. The bench called for a scientific analysis to identify the primary causes of air pollution and urged for a comprehensive approach involving all stakeholders.

The court also emphasised that it would monitor the situation regularly, ensuring the air pollution issue is heard twice a month. It reiterated the need for long-term, sustainable solutions, and criticized the reliance on emergency measures like the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The next hearing is scheduled for December 10.

The court November 19 had urged the CAQM to consider postponing outdoor sports events for Delhi-NCR schools due to hazardous air quality levels.

WB BLO PROTEST

High drama at CEO office; BJP leaders meet poll officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 1: A section of BLOs, engaged in the SIR process in West Bengal, held a massive protest outside the CEO's office here Monday over alleged excessive workload during the ongoing enumeration exercise, prompting the authorities to increase police deployment at the demonstration site.

What began as a routine sit-in by the BLO Adhikar Raksha Committee became a massive protest as senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari and party MLAs came to meet Election Commission officials in the afternoon, with the demonstrators raising anti-BJP slogans and trying to breach barricades erected by the police.

The narrow stretch outside the CEO's office in central Kolkata erupted with slogans -- "go back" from BLO members, "shame" from BJP supporters -- leading to chaos at the entrance. Police personnel formed chains to prevent the two groups from converging around the gate.

BLO group members shouted that they must be allowed inside to submit their memoran-



dum, accusing the authorities of "avoiding" them for days.

Their cries drew immediate counter-slogans from BJP supporters, forcing security personnel to widen the cordon and repeatedly appeal for calm. At one point, a barricade wobbled under pressure as protesters leaned in, prompting officers to rush forward and steady it amid noise and confusion. The agitation spilled into the adjoining lane, where placards, flags, and rising voices pierced through the December afternoon.

Protesting BLOs are seeking a two-month extension for the SIR deadline and compensation for families of deceased

BLOs, citing heavy workload concerns. Inside, however, Adhikari's meeting with CEO Manoj Agarwal and senior officials proceeded.

Once out, the Leader of Opposition told reporters that the BJP had submitted "data concerning 17,111 booths" and demanded strict monitoring of post-December 14 hearings.

His memorandum also pressed for the removal of "superannuated IAS officers" deployed in the SIR exercise, exclusion of EROs who are not of SDO rank, and deletion of names of what he described as "Bangladeshi Muslims" from electoral rolls.

LS sees adjournments, walkout in RS over SIR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Opposition, accusing it of turning Parliament into a "warm up arena" for elections or as an outlet to vent out frustration after defeat, and offered to give them tips to bring positivity in politics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The first day of the Winter session witnessed repeated adjournments of the Lok Sabha and an Opposition walkout from the Rajya Sabha over demand for a debate on Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls as the government asserted that it is not averse to a discussion but a timeline cannot be set.

Interacting with reporters in Parliament House complex before the start of the session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Opposition, accusing it of turning Parliament into a "warm up arena" for elections or as an outlet to vent out frustration after defeat, and offered to give them tips to bring positivity in politics.

He said Parliament was not a place for drama but delivery.

In the Lok Sabha, amid disruptions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced two new bills that seek to repurpose levies on 'sin goods' such as tobacco, pan



masala and related products.

The Bills were introduced ahead of the scheduled phase-out of the GST compensation cess levied on them.

In the Rajya Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju asserted that the government is not averse to holding a discussion on SIR or electoral reforms and asked the Opposition not to insist on setting a timeline. He was responding to Opposition members who were demanding an immediate discussion on the SIR or electoral reforms in the House. Not satisfied with the minister's response, members of several Opposition parties staged a walkout from the Upper House. Responding to the Opposition parties' demand to start an immediate discussion on the ongoing SIR exercise in nine states and three Union territories, Rijiju sought more time to respond to the matter.

Rajya Sabha Chairperson C P Radhakrishnan had earlier disallowed notices given by nine Opposition members on several issues, including a discussion on SIR, leading to protests by the Opposition.



Fisherman clean their boats at the Arabian Sea, in Mumbai, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

Cyclone Ditwah brings rain for Chennai, neighbourhood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Dec 1: Chennai and its nearby districts continued to receive steady downpour Monday due to the remnants of the now weakened Cyclone Ditwah, leading to inundation of roads, highways and low-lying areas, including some residential localities.

Moderate to heavy rain lashed Chennai, marooning AGS colony in Velachery here. A car sank in the city and a government bus was stranded due to sudden inundation in

Poonamallee. Traffic snarls were witnessed in many parts, including the Kathipara flyover in the city.

The weather office forecast heavy to very heavy rain in Chennai and Tiruvallur districts till Tuesday morning due to the remnants of the cyclonic storm Ditwah that remained close to Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts. Expressing concern over the sufferings of farmers in the Cauvery delta districts where heavy downpour ravaged the crops, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin

said he has ordered immediate compensation from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the loss of agricultural crops including paddy, loss of human lives and livestock and damage to houses during the northeast monsoon starting from October. "I am directly monitoring the work to drain rainwater in all the flood-affected areas. Our government will provide all basic facilities to the people staying in the relief camps for as long as needed and will protect them," the chief minister said in a post on 'X.'

RUNAWAY BRIDE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

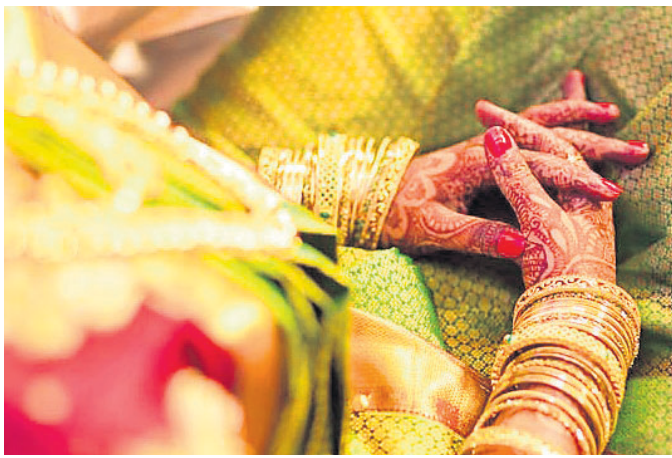
Unnao (UP), Dec 1: The 'baraat' was received at the door with band and 'baaja', the bride and groom exchanged garlands. All seemed well and on track to happily ever after. Until the time came for the 'pheras' and the families found to their utter shock -- the bride had run away with her lover!

The drama, straight out of a film script centred on a feisty woman asserting herself, took place Saturday night in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district.

Recapping the developments of the extraordinary evening when the young woman decided she was better off as the runaway bride exercising choice, police officials said the wedding procession arrived at Ajaypur village right on schedule.

The two families completed the traditional 'dwarachar' and other rituals. The bride and groom then performed the 'varmala' ritual. Soon after, the bride went to her room while the groom's family got busy with other preparations.

Some time later, the family went to her room to escort



Woman elopes with lover after 'varmala' ceremony

SOON AFTER, THE BRIDE WENT TO HER ROOM WHILE THE GROOM'S FAMILY GOT BUSY WITH OTHER PREPARATIONS

LATER, WHEN THE FAMILY MEMBERS WENT TO CALL HER FOR THE PHERA CEREMONY, THEY FOUND THE WOMAN MISSING

her for the 'pheras', the seven rounds around a fire that would solemnise the wedding. But the room was empty.

The lady had fled. The two families learnt a

little later that she had eloped with a young man from the village. The hapless father spoke to his daughter over the phone and she told him her wishlist for life -- she wanted to marry her lover and live with him.

Shocked by the turn of events, the two families had a heated exchange. Finally, the groom's side returned home. Without a bride.

The bride's father has lodged a complaint against the youth at the Purwa police station. A probe is on in the matter and action will be taken as per law, a senior police officer told

of the day

quote

What the Opposition is asking for is a debate on SIR. Is that drama? If raising people's voice is drama, then the people will give them a befitting reply in the next election

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC LS LEADER

Hello India, look towards Andhra Pradesh! one kilogram of bananas is being sold for just ₹0.50! yes, you heard it right, fifty paise. This is the plight of banana farmers in Andhra Pradesh

JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | YSRCP SUPREMO

My heartfelt gratitude to the people of Arunachal. Your overwhelming support strengthens our resolve to serve with even greater dedication and commitment

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

XPOST

OF THE DAY

BREAKING NEWS
This is how the JUDICIARY and the MEDIA work in a Democracy
The Queenlands Supreme Court

delivers a tight slap on the face of Adani, and the Australian Media calls it a Massive Victory .
Ben Pennings an Australian activist has won a legal battle against Adani's Carmichael coalmine. The Queenlands Supreme Court orders Adani to drop it's \$600 m damages claim and a 5 year injunction against the activist.

@RavinderKapur2

SHORT TAKES

Anil Ambani moves top court

New Delhi: Industrialist Anil Ambani has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the Bombay High Court which upheld the State Bank of India's (SBI) decision classifying his and Reliance Communications' accounts as fraud. The matter is yet to be listed for hearing. The High Court had October 3 dismissed Ambani's plea challenging the SBI decision and said there was no merit in the plea.

Modi speaks to Lankan president

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday spoke to Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and assured him of continued support in the rehabilitation efforts across all regions impacted by Cyclone Ditwah. In a telephone conversation, Modi expressed condolences for the loss of lives and devastation in Sri Lanka, and said the people of India stood in firm solidarity and support with the people of the island nation in this hour of need.

Maha: First phase of local body polls today

Mumbai: Maharashtra will witness the first phase of much-awaited local body elections Tuesday with voting scheduled for 264 municipal councils and nagar panchayats, a battle taking place amid friendly fights, alliance strain and legal tangles a year after Assembly polls. Nearly one crore voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in round one of the multi-tier rural and urban local bodies elections, which as per the Supreme Court, are to be concluded by January 31.



The Election Commission of India must answer why it was silent on the pre-poll distribution of ₹10,000 each to women by the NDA government. Bribery was the biggest reason behind out defeat

SHAKEEL AHMED KHAN | SENIOR CONG LEADER

TN 'RAJ BHAVAN' IS NOW 'LOK BHAVAN'

"Raj Bhavan" is officially renamed as "Lok Bhavan", reinforcing the ethos of a people-centric democracy and dropping colonial nomenclature, the office of the Tamil Nadu Governor said Monday



BREAKFAST MEET ROUND 2

Sidda to visit DKS home



Siddaramaiah, earlier in the day, had said he was yet to receive a formal invitation and would go on receiving it, while Shivakumar had maintained that it's a matter between him and the CM, and that they were working like "brothers"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 1: In an apparent display of unity, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to visit his deputy D K Shivakumar's residence for breakfast December 2, just days after the two broke bread in the wake of a raging power tussle.

Shivakumar Monday evening confirmed that he has invited Siddaramaiah for breakfast to discuss and strengthen their collective efforts to deliver on promises to Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah, earlier in the day, had said he was yet to receive a formal invitation and would go on receiving it, while Shivakumar had maintained that it's a matter between him and the CM, and that they were working like "brothers".

"Me and the CM continue

to work together as a team. I have invited the Hon'ble CM for breakfast tomorrow to discuss and strengthen our collective efforts to deliver on our promises to Karnataka," Shivakumar posted on 'X' in the evening.

In an attempt to break the logjam over the leadership row involving the two leaders, Shivakumar had visited the CM's residence two days ago, for a similar breakfast meeting, convened by Siddaramaiah at the behest of the Congress high command.

Following the initial meeting held Saturday, both leaders had publicly stated that "there won't be any confusion".

On the leadership issue, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar maintained that they would obey the high command.

The development is seen as a move by the high command to pause the leadership tussle between the two, and signals Siddaramaiah's continuation as the CM for time being, especially ahead of the Belagavi legislative session from December 8.

"As told by the CM Saturday, he is scheduled to visit Shivakumar's residence for breakfast tomorrow," official sources said.

Speaking to reporters earlier Monday, Siddaramaiah had said, "On that day (Sat-

day) he (Shivakumar) asked me to come to his house for breakfast Tuesday. I have not received any call till now, other than what he said the day before yesterday. If invited, I will go. He may call. I think he will invite me."

Responding to a question if he has extended an invitation to the CM to join him for breakfast, Shivakumar earlier in the day said, "It's a matter related to me and the CM, we both are working like brothers."

"We met under your (media) pressure (November 29). There was no need for it. You are alleging groupism, but there are no groups. You are creating groups - DK group, Siddaramaiah group and others," the state Congress chief said.

Asserting that he is not in any group, Shivakumar added, "I have 140 people (MLAs) with me."

"When we are born or die, we are alone. When it comes to the party, we will take everyone together. There is no need for anyone to worry."

Meanwhile, Shivakumar's brother and former Congress MP D K Suresh, who was camped in Delhi, reportedly to meet the Congress high command leaders, returned to Banagalore Monday.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, Suresh, not willing to share details about his travel, said, "It was a personal visit. I cannot say every thing. Everything is happening smoothly. Breakfast meetings are taking place. Tomorrow also there is a breakfast meeting. So everything will come to a stage."

The high command will take appropriate decisions at an appropriate time. "Until then, we will have to wait," he said.

Asked whether the time has come for Shivakumar to become the CM, Suresh said, "Let's wait and see."

RUBAIYYA SAYEED ABDUCTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Srinagar, Dec 1:

The CBI Monday arrested an "absconder" carrying a ₹10 lakh reward in connection with the sensational 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiyya Sayeed, the daughter of the then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, for allegedly being part of a conspiracy hatched by members of the banned JKLF terror group.

The person, identified as Shafat Ahmed Shangloo, is alleged to be a close confidant of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an "absconder", Shafat Ahmed Shangloo, wanted in the 35-year-old case relating to the kidnapping of Rubaiyya Sayeed, the agency said in a statement. "The said accused

Shangloo conspired with Yasin Malik and others in committing a crime under various sections of Ranbir Penal Code and TADA Act during the Year 1989."

"The absconder is carrying a reward of 10 lakh on his head. He will be produced before the TADA Court Jammu, within the stipulated time as per law," the CBI Spokesperson said. According to officials, Shangloo was allegedly an office bearer of the banned terror group and was handling the outfit's finances.

The CBI, along with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, arrested Shangloo from his residence in the Nishat area in Srinagar after following the due legal process, the officials said.

Malik, who has been attending the court hearings through video-conferencing, has been



Booth Level Officers (BLOs) assist voters in filing enumeration forms for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bikaner, Rajasthan

PTI PHOTO

Centre probes GPS spoofing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The government Monday said GPS spoofing and interference incidents have been reported at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai airports, and the Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) has been directed to identify the source of spoofing.

"Some flights reported GPS spoofing in the vicinity of IGIA, New Delhi while using GPS based landing procedures, while approaching on RWY 10. Contingency procedures were used for GPS spoofed flights approaching to RWY 10.

"There were no effects on movements of flights, on other runway ends having conventional navigational aids being operational," Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu

told Rajya Sabha.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is the country's busiest airport and RWY refers to runway.

Global Positioning System (GPS)/ Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.

"Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also requested Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) to possibly identify the source of interference/spoofing.

"During the high-level meeting, WMO was directed to mobilise more resources to identify the source of spoofing based on approximate spoofing location details shared by DG-CA and AAI," Naidu said in a written reply.

CBI nabs suspect after 36 years



identified by eyewitnesses, including Rubaiyya Sayeed.

The JKLF chief, who is serving a jail term in Delhi's Tihar Jail in a terror financing case, is not produced in the court physically due to a Ministry of Home Affairs order restricting his movement.

During the court hearings, Sayeed had identified four other accused besides Malik of being involved in the heinous crime. She was abducted from near Lal Ded Hospital in Srinagar December 8, 1989, and

was freed five days later after the then V P Singh government, which was supported by the BJP, at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange.

Now living in Tamil Nadu, Sayeed is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over the case in 1990.

Malik, 56, was sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in May last year. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 terror financing case registered by the NIA. In order to expedite the trial, the CBI had appointed its senior counsel Monika Kohli as the chief prosecutor after framing charges against Malik in the much-publicised cases related to the Sayeed's abduction and killing of four IAF personnel in Srinagar more than three decades ago.

Woman who 'married' corpse of lover claims cops abetted murder



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nanded, Dec 1: A day after "marrying" her lover's corpse, a 21-year-old woman in Maharashtra's Nanded district Monday alleged that two cops from Itwara police station abetted his murder.

Superintendent of Police Abinash Kumar said an inquiry will be conducted into the allegations by an Additional SP-rank officer.

Videos of Aanchal Mamidwar's act at the deceased's home and her call for her kin to be hanged for the killing went viral on social media.

Police have arrested Mamidwar's two brothers-Himesh and Sahil (25)- and their father, Gajanan Mamidwar (45), in connection with the murder of Saksham Tate (20), which was prima facie a fallout of caste differences between the victim and Aanchal.

"On the day of murder, my brother Himesh took me to Itwara police station in Nanded in the morning and asked me to file a complaint against Saksham," she told PTI Videos.

Aanchal said she refused to file fake complaints.

"Two police officials provoked him (Himesh), saying that he should go kill the man, whom I love, rather than getting into a fight with other people," Aanchal said, adding that Himesh challenged them to visit the police station after killing Saksham.

AIDS-related deaths down by over 80%

The HIV epidemic in India remains low nationally, with new infections and AIDS-related deaths declining faster than the global average, stated the India HIV estimation 2025 report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: India achieved 48.7 per cent decline in annual new HIV infections and 81.4 per cent reduction in AIDS-related deaths between 2010 and 2024, according to government data.

There has been a 74.6 per cent decline in mother-to-child HIV transmission, the data stated.

The HIV epidemic in India remains low nationally, with new infections and AIDS-related deaths declining faster than the global average, stated the India HIV estimation 2025 report.

All the same, certain states had a rising epidemic, potentially due to injecting drug use and casual heterosexual

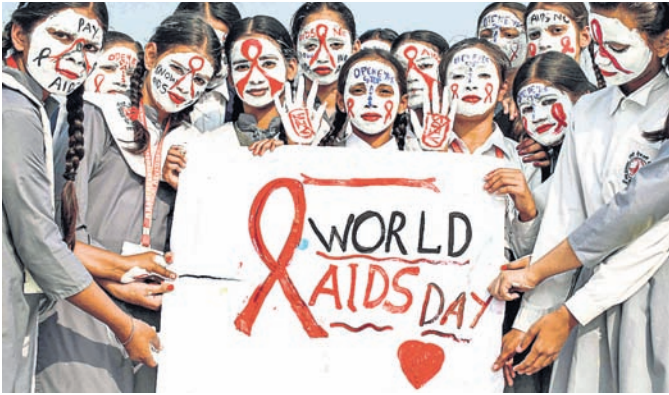
behaviour, it said.

"India is on track to attain SDG 3.3 of ending HIV-AIDS as a public health threat by 2030," the report said.

According to it, India had around 25.61 lakh people living with HIV (PLHIV) in 2024 with Maharashtra (3.99 lakh) having the highest number of them, followed by Andhra Pradesh (3.91 lakh) and Karnataka (2.10 lakh).

Of the total number, 13.97 lakh were male and 11.64 lakh were female.

Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Bihar, Gujarat, and Punjab have between 1 lakh to 2 lakh PLHIV. Together, these nine states have 74 per cent of the total PLHIV burden in India. An annual new HIV in-



cidence rate per 1,000 uninfected population was estimated at 0.05 (UB-0.03-0.08) nationally — males 0.05 and females 0.04.

The incidence rate was 0.06 among the young population. Mizoram had the highest

estimated HIV incidence per 1,000 uninfected population, followed by Nagaland and Tripura, the report said. Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya were other states with an incidence rate of 0.20

or higher. Annual new cases were estimated to decline nationally by around 48.70 per cent between 2010 and 2024 but increased by more than 400 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. Globally, annual new infections had declined by 40 per cent between 2010 and 2024.

Annual AIDS-related mortality rate per 100,000 population was estimated nationally at 2.32 (men -2.91 vs women 1.70).

AIDS-related mortality per 100,000 population was highest in Manipur (15.49), Mizoram (10.88), and Nagaland (7.59), the report stated.

Annual AIDS-related deaths declined by 81.40 per cent between 2010 and 2024 in the country.

of the day

quote

Our prayer ... gives us the strength to continue to hope and work, even when surrounded by the sound of weapons

POPE LEO XIV | HEAD OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

We are deeply engaged in developing next-generation breakthrough technologies for potential future confrontations with Iran, in both defensive and offensive capabilities, while advancing additional operational capabilities.

MAJ GEN (RES.) AMIR BARAM | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ISRAEL MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, ISRAEL

South Africa is and will remain a full, active and constructive member of the G20

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

SHORT TAKES

Airbus nears full repair

Paris: Airbus (AIR.PA), opens new tab fleets were returning towards normal operations Monday after the European planemaker pushed through abrupt software changes faster than expected, averting a prolonged crisis over the discovery of a space-related computer bug. Dozens of airlines from Asia to the United States said they had carried out a snap software retrofit ordered by Airbus, and mandated by global regulators, after a vulnerability to solar flares emerged in a recent mid-air incident on a JetBlue A320. Wrestling with safety headlines long focused on rival Boeing (BA.N), opens new tab, Airbus said Monday that the vast majority of around 6,000 of its A320-family fleet affected by the safety alert had been modified, with fewer than 100 jets still requiring work.

Pak policeman killed in blast

Peshawar: A policeman was killed and three others were injured in a suicide attack near a police vehicle in northwest Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Monday, police said. The incident occurred in the Lakki Marwat district when a police van from the Tajori police station came under attack when a suicide bomber detonated himself near the vehicle, officials said. Head Constable Alauddin died in the explosion. The injured cops were rushed to the hospital. The attacker's accomplice managed to escape. A search operation has been launched in the area. Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi condemned the terrorist attack and reaffirmed that the provincial government stands firmly with the police force.

Khaleda Zia critically unwell

Dhaka: Bangladesh's former prime minister Khaleda Zia is "extremely unwell" and she has been placed on ventilation, with both local and international medical specialists overseeing her treatment, her party leaders said Monday. Zia, the 80-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, was admitted to a private hospital November 23 when she developed a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs. Four days later, the three-time prime minister was shifted to the coronary care unit after several of her health complications worsened. Her condition has deteriorated, and she was put on ventilation, BNP Vice-Chairman Advocate Ahmed Azam Khan was quoted as saying by news portal tbsnews.net. "She is in a very critical condition. There is nothing more to do except seek prayers from the whole nation," he told reporters outside Evercare Hospital here.

Japan: Princess Aiko fans want male-only succession law to go

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Dec 1: Japan's beloved Princess Aiko is often cheered like a pop star.

During a visit to Nagasaki with Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the sound of her name being screamed by well-wishers along the roads overwhelmed the cheers for her parents.

As she turns 24 Monday, her supporters want to change Japan's male-only succession law, which prohibits Aiko, the emperor's only child, from becoming monarch.

Along with frustration that the discussion on succession rules has stalled, there's a sense of urgency. Japan's shrinking monarchy is on the brink of extinction. Naruhito's teenage nephew is the only eligible heir from the younger generation.

Experts say the female ban should be lifted before the royal family dies out, but conservative lawmakers, including Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, oppose the change.

Aiko has gained admirers since debuting as an adult royal in 2021, when she impressed the public as intelligent, friendly, caring and funny.

Support for Aiko as a future monarch increased following her first solo official overseas trip to Laos in November, representing the emperor. During the six-day visit, she met with top Laotian officials, visited cultural and historical venues and met with locals.

Earlier this year, Aiko accompanied her parents to Nagasaki and Okinawa. She has followed the example set by her father, who places great importance on passing down the tragedy of



We face this disaster with resilience and solidarity. Our nation is strong right now, able to overcome this

PRABOWO SUBIANTO | PRESIDENT, INDONESIA

RUBENS PAINTING SELLS FOR \$2.7MN

A long-lost painting by Baroque master Peter Paul Rubens, which was hidden for more than four centuries, sold at 2.3 million euros (USD 2.7 million) at an auction Sunday in Versailles. The painting was recently found in a private townhouse in Paris. It depicts the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ



Flooding death tolls rise in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Padang Sidempuan, Dec 1: Indonesia's president told survivors of last week's devastating floods that help was arriving to those in need Monday as Asian governments scaled up their responses to a disaster that has left more than 1,000 dead in three countries.

Hundreds more are missing following flooding and landslides in the past week, which killed at least 604 people in Indonesia, 366 in Sri Lanka and 176 in Thailand, authorities said.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto pledged to rebuild infrastructure while visiting areas impacted by floods and landslides on Sumatra island that left thousands homeless and 464 people missing as of Monday.

Some areas of Indonesia remained unreachable on Monday after the disaster damaged roads and downed communications lines, with residents in impacted areas relying on aircraft delivering supplies. Flooding displaced 290,700 people in North Sumatra, West Sumatra and Aceh provinces, the National Disaster Management Agency said.

Prabowo, who visited the devastated provinces of North Sumatra, West Sumatra and Aceh on Monday, said the government's response is reaching those in need.

We need to confront climate change effectively," Prabowo told reporters after visiting survivors in North Sumatra. "Local governments must take a significant role in safeguarding the environment and preparing for the extreme weather conditions that will arise from future climate change."

B'desh court sentences Hasina to 5-yr jail, UK lawmaker niece to 2 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Dec 1: A Bangladesh court Monday convicted and sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to five years of imprisonment and her niece, British parliamentarian Tulip Siddiq, to a two-year jail term in a land scam case.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka also handed down a seven-year jail term to Hasina's sister, Sheikh Rehana, in the corruption case lodged against 17 people. The court handed down the verdict in a packed courtroom in the absence of the three accused.

The 14 other accused are former government officials who were handed down a five-year prison term each, but only one

of them was in jail and faced the trial in person.

The court also imposed a fine of Tk 1 lakh each on all 17 convicts, including Hasina, Rehana, and Siddiq, failing which they will have to serve an additional six months in jail.

Siddiq, a British-Bangladeshi Labour Party politician, is Rehana's daughter and has been the Member of Parliament for Hampstead and Highgate since 2015. In a statement in London, Siddiq, 43, condemned the sentencing as "unjustified" and said she refused to be "distracted by the dirty politics of Bangladesh".

"The outcome of this kangaroo court is as predictable as it is unjustified. I hope this so-called 'verdict' will be treated with the contempt it deserves," she said.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency services personnel evacuate a local citizen wounded after a Russian missiles attack in Dnipro, Ukraine, Monday

AP PHOTO

Global arms sales hit record \$679bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stockholm, Dec 1: Revenues from sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest weapons-producing companies worldwide rose by 5.9 per cent last year, with demand boosted by the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and global and regional geopolitical tensions, according to a global report released Monday.

The combined arms revenues of the three Indian companies in this list increased by 8.2 per cent to USD 7.5 billion on the back of domestic orders, says the report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The Sweden-based global think-tank, in a statement, also shared a weblink that carried the list of "top 100 arms-producing and military services companies" in the world in 2024.

The Indian firms which figure in it are -- Hindustan Aeronautics (at 44th spot), Bharat Electronics (58th), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (91st).

"Revenues from sales of



arms and military services by the 100 largest arms-producing companies rose by 5.9 per cent in 2024, reaching a record USD 679 billion, according to new data released today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)," the statement said. Global arms revenues rose sharply last year, as demand was "boosted by the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, global and regional geopolitical tensions, and ever-higher military expenditure."

For the first time since 2018, all of the five largest arms companies increased their arms revenues, SIPRI reported.

The top five companies in the list in that order are -- Lockheed Martin Corp. (the US), RTX (the US), Northrop Grumman Corp. (the US), BAE Systems (the UK) and General Dynamics Corp. (the US).

"Although the bulk of the global rise was due to companies based in Europe and the United States, there were

year-on-year increases in all of the regions featured in the top 100. The only exception was Asia and Oceania, where issues within the Chinese arms industry drove down the regional total," it said.

In 2024, the combined arms revenues of US arms companies in the top 100 grew by 3.8 per cent to reach USD 334 billion, with 30 out of the 39 US companies in the ranking increasing their arms revenues. These included major arms producers such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics, the statement said.

"However, widespread delays and budget overruns continue to plague development and production in key US-led programmes such as the F-35 combat aircraft, the Columbia-class submarine and the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Several of the USA's largest arms producers are affected by overruns, raising uncertainty about when major new weapon systems and upgrades to existing ones can be delivered and deployed," it added.

Hong Kong arrests more suspects in fire probe as toll hits 151

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Dec 1: Hong Kong authorities said Monday they had arrested 13 people for suspected manslaughter in a probe into the city's deadliest fire in decades, pointing to sub-standard renovation materials for fuelling a blaze that has claimed at least 151 lives.

Police continued to sweep the seven burnt-out towers engulfed in Wednesday's disaster at the Wang Fuk Court estate, finding bodies of residents in stairwells and on rooftops, trapped as they tried to flee the flames.

More than 40 people are still missing. "Some of the bodies have turned into ash, therefore we might not be able to locate all missing individuals," police official Tsang Shuk-yin told reporters, choking up with emotion. Tests on several samples of a green mesh that was wrapped around bamboo scaffolding on the buildings at the time of the blaze did not match fire retardant standards, officials overseeing the investigations told a news conference. Contractors working on the renovations



used these substandard materials in hard-to-reach areas, effectively hiding them from inspectors, said Chief Secretary Eric Chan. Foam insulation used by contractors also fanned the flames and fire alarms at the complex were not working properly, officials have said.

Thousands have turned out to pay tribute to the victims, who include at least nine domestic helpers from Indonesia and one from the Philippines with lines of mourners stretching more than a kilometre (a half-mile) along a canal next to the estate.

Vigils are also due to take place this week in Tokyo, London and Taipei, authorities said. Amid pockets of public anger over missed fire risk warnings, Beijing has warned it would crack down on any "anti-China" protests.

Oxford word of the year reflects online outrage with ‘rage bait’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Dec 1: Rage bait, or online content deliberately designed to elicit anger or outrage, was Monday named the word of the year by Oxford University Press, the publisher of the Oxford English Dictionary.

The Oxford University Press (OUP) said the term is a noun which describes online content that is designed to be frustrating, provocative, or offensive, typically posted in order to increase traffic to or engagement with a particular web page or social media account.

It found that the word has increased threefold in usage in the last 12 months, based on its language monitoring data.

"The fact that the word rage bait exists and has seen such a dramatic surge in usage means we're increasingly aware of the

manipulation tactics we can be drawn into online," said Casper Grathwohl, President of Oxford Languages at OUP.

"Before, the internet was focused on grabbing our attention by sparking curiosity in exchange for clicks, but now we've seen a dramatic shift to it, hijacking and influencing our emotions, and how we respond. It feels like the natural progression in an ongoing conversation about what it means to be human in a tech-driven world — and the extremes of online culture," he said.

The linguist pointed out that while the 2024 word of the year 'brain rot' captured the mental drain of endless scrolling, the 2025 choice shines a light on the content purposefully engineered to spark outrage and drive clicks.

"Together, they form a



powerful cycle where outrage sparks engagement, algorithms amplify it, and constant exposure leaves us mentally exhausted. These words don't just define trends; they reveal how digital platforms are reshaping our thinking and behaviour," he added.

The OUP's choice for the year followed three days of online voting in which more than 30,000 people had their say.

"With 2025's news cycle dominated by social unrest, debates about the regulation of online content, and concerns over digital wellbeing, our experts no-

ticed that the use of rage bait this year has evolved to signal a deeper shift in how we talk about attention — both how it is given and how it is sought after — engagement, and ethics online," the publisher noted.

Rage bait is a compound of the words rage, meaning a violent outburst of anger, and bait, an attractive morsel of food.

Although a close parallel to the etymologically related clickbait, rage bait has a more specific focus on "evoking anger, discord, and polarisation".

"The emergence of rage bait as a standalone term highlights both the flexibility of the English language, where two established words can be combined to give a more specific meaning in a particular context — in this case, online — and come together to create a term that resonates with the

world we live in today," the OUP states.

The other words on the 2025 shortlist included aura farming, or the cultivation of an impressive, attractive or charismatic persona or public image by behaving or presenting oneself in a way intended subtly to convey an air of confidence, coolness or mystique.

The verb biohack — to attempt to improve or optimise one's physical or mental performance, health, longevity or wellbeing by altering one's diet, exercise routine, or lifestyle or by using other means such as drugs, supplements, or technological devices — was also in the running.

The top three contenders were put to a public vote on social media to help OUP's language experts make a final decision.

of the day

quote

The impact of AI is going to be huge on this segment (media and entertainment). And there are a lot of positives which are going to be there, obviously there will be negatives, so there have to be guardrails for understanding where we don't cross the line

SANJAY JAJU | INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SECRETARY

With realisations stabilising after two years of significant adjustments, the overall growth outlook of 6-7 per cent remains more volume-driven than price-led

ANUJ SETHI | SENIOR DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

Many people were spreading a wrong narrative that the small car is not being purchased as entry customers are directly buying expensive SUVs and so the segment didn't need any support

RAHUL BHARTI | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER CORPORATE AFFAIRS, MARUTI SUZUKI

SHORT TAKES

Gold surges ₹3K

New Delhi: Gold prices surged by ₹3,040 to ₹1,33,200 per 10 grams in the national capital Monday, tracking strong global trends and a weak US dollar, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Analysts said sustained jewellery demand amid the ongoing wedding season supported the precious metal. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity zoomed by ₹3,040 to ₹1,32,600 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). Gold is now inching closer to its all-time high of ₹1,34,800 per 10 grams (99.9 per cent purity) and ₹1,34,200 per 10 grams (99.5 per cent), respectively, traders said. Silver continued its upward march for the fifth straight day, surging by ₹5,800 to ₹1,77,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), as per the association.

Diesel sales zoom

New Delhi: India's consumption of diesel - the most used auto fuel - soared to a six-month high in November as the festival season and GST rate cut spurred the wheels of the economy, according to preliminary industry data. Sales of diesel - the most consumed fuel in the country, accounting for almost 40 per cent of the fuel consumption basket - rose 4.7 per cent to 8.55 million tonnes in November, its best showing since May 2025, data from the Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) showed. The fuel, which is the backbone of goods transportation, had seen demand drop month-on-month for three straight months before showing a slight pick-up as monsoon rains receded in September.

GST collection slows

New Delhi: Gross GST collection rose at a slower pace of 0.7 per cent in November at ₹1.70 lakh crore, as domestic revenues declined, according to the government data released Monday. Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection was over ₹1.69 lakh crore in November 2024. Gross domestic revenues declined 2.3 per cent to over ₹1.24 lakh crore. The decline follows the reduction of GST rates for 375 items, effective September 22. Revenues from the import of goods grew 10.2 pc to ₹45,976 crore in November.

FESTIVE BOOST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: With demand continuing to be strong post the festive season, leading automakers, Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra, saw robust growth in sales in November as compared to the same month last year.

Maruti Suzuki India reported the best-ever total sales, including exports, last month at 2,29,021 units, a year-on-year growth of 26 per cent as compared to November last year.

Total domestic passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers were at 1,70,971 units compared to 1,41,312 units in the year-ago month, an increase of 21 per cent.

Overall sales, including LCV Super Carry, in the domestic market rose 21 per cent to 1,74,593 units. It is the company's highest-ever in any November during the last 40 years.

The carmaker said that it witnessed sales growth in all segments, including small cars and SUVs, last month.

Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee, said retail growth was even better, at 31 per cent year-on-year, in November.

He noted that retail sales of its small car portfolio - S Preso-, Alto K10, Celerio, WagonR - witnessed an increase of 37 per cent in November.

Banerjee stated that the company saw a growth in SUV sales

TARIFFS DENT DEMAND

Factory growth slows to nine-month low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: India's manufacturing sector activity eased to a nine-month low in November, mainly owing to softer rise in sales and production amid reports of challenging market conditions, a monthly report said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) falling to 56.6 in November from 59.2 in October, highlighted the slowest improvement in operating conditions since February.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's final November PMI confirmed that US tariffs caused the manufacturing expansion to slow," said Pranful Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

"Although companies suggested that the trend for international sales remained favourable - reflecting greater sales to clients in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East - there was a mild loss of overall growth momentum," the report said.

On average, new export orders rose at the weakest pace in over a year.

"The new export orders PMI fell to a 13-month low. Business confidence, as indicated by expectations for future output, showed a big fall in November, potentially reflecting increasing concerns about the impact of tariffs," Bhandari said.

The firms have been closed on account of amalgamation, conversion, dissolution and struck off from the records under the Companies Act, 2013

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The government Monday said 2,04,268 private companies have closed down during the last five years.

These companies have been shut down on account of amal-

Auto sales on fast lane



MARUTI SUZUKI LEADS THE SALES SHARE FOLLOWED BY TATA MOTORS IN NOVEMBER AS DEMAND REMAINS ROBUST		
AUTOMAKERS	SALES GROWTH (YoY)	UNITS SOLD
Maruti Suzuki	21%	1,70,971
Tata Motors	22%	57,436
M&M	22%	56,336
Hyundai	4%	50,340
TKM	28%	33,752
Kia	24%	25,489
Renault	30%	3,662

as well, with the segment now accounting for 30 per cent of the overall sales.

He noted that the company had a low network stock of around 80,000 units, and 40,000 units were already in transit.

"We are receiving very good traction - currently, we do not have any stock in the factory for 8 models. The pending bookings are hovering at around 1.5 lakh units," Banerjee said.

The company reported the

COAI welcomes and commends the Department of Telecommunications for taking a landmark step towards bolstering national security and safeguarding our citizens, by mandating SIM-binding for devices for app-based communication services

SP KOCHHAR | DIRECTOR GENERAL, COAI



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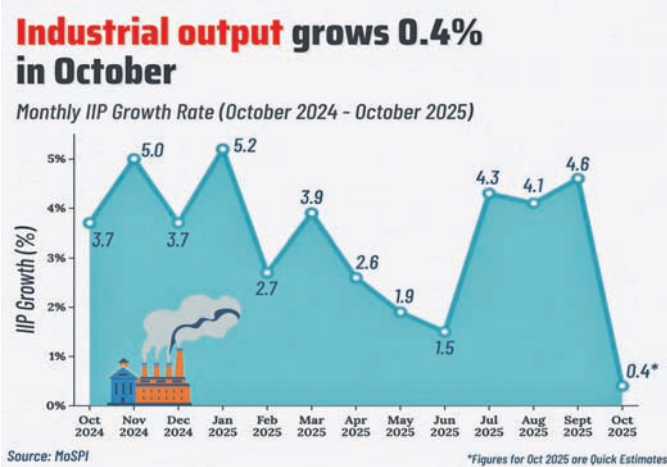
MARUTI SUZUKI, SMG MERGE

Maruti Suzuki India Monday said the scheme of amalgamation with Suzuki Motor Gujarat has become effective from today. Consequent to the effectiveness of the scheme, there has been an increase in the authorised share capital of the company by an amount of ₹15,000 crore crore the auto major said in a regulatory filing



13-MONTH LOW

Power, mining and mfg drag IIP growth to 0.4%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: India's industrial production growth slowed to an over one-year low of 0.4 per cent in October this year due to poor showing by power, mining and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released Monday.

Factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), expanded by 3.7 per cent in October 2024.

The previous low was recorded as flat growth in September 2024. The National Statistics Office (NSO) revised the industrial production growth to 4.6 per cent for September 2025 from the provisional estimate of 4 per cent released last month.

The latest NSO data showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth decelerated to 1.8 per cent in October 2025 from 4.4 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production contracted by 1.8 per cent against a growth of 0.9 per cent recorded a year ago.

Power output contracted by 6.9 per cent in October 2025 compared to a 2 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

During the April-October period of FY26, the country's

industrial production growth decelerated by 2.7 per cent from 4 per cent in the same period a year ago.

Within the manufacturing sector, 9 out of 23 industry groups have recorded positive year-on-year growth in October 2025. As per the use-based classification, the capital goods segment grew 2.4 per cent in October 2025, down from 2.9 per cent in the year-ago period.

Consumer durables (or white goods production) contracted 0.5 per cent during the reporting month compared to a 5.5 per cent growth in October 2024.

In October 2025, consumer non-durables output declined 4.4 per cent against a 2.8 per cent growth a year ago.

Infrastructure/construction goods reported a 7.1 per cent expansion in October 2025, up from a 4.7 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods declined by 0.6 per cent in October 2025 compared to 2.5 per cent growth a year earlier.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 0.9 per cent in the month under review against 4.8 per cent growth a year ago.

FDI surges 18% to \$35.18bn in April-Sept FY26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India rose 18 per cent to \$35.18 billion during April-September this fiscal year, while the inflow from the US more than doubled to \$6.62 billion during the first half of this fiscal, according to government data released Monday.

Foreign Direct Investment

Inflow from US doubles

(FDI) during April-September FY24 stood at \$29.79 billion.

Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, increased to about \$50 billion during the first six months of this fiscal year as against \$42.3 billion in the same period of 2024-25.

Inflows from the US rose to

\$6.62 billion during the latest six-month period from \$2.57 billion recorded in April-September 2024-25. Singapore was the largest source of FDI during the period, contributing \$11.94 billion. It was followed by the US, Mauritius (\$3.47 billion), UAE (\$2.33 billion), Cayman Islands (\$1.83 million), the Netherlands (\$1.63 billion), Cyprus (\$1.4 billion), and Japan (\$1.21 billion).

CAD narrows to 1.3% of GDP in Q2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 1: India's current account deficit narrowed to \$12.3 billion or 1.3 per cent of GDP in the September quarter on the back of a reduction in the trade deficit, higher services exports and higher remittances by the diaspora, the RBI said Monday.

The CAD (current account deficit), an important indicator of a country's external strength, stood at \$20.8 billion, or 2.2 per cent of the GDP in the year-ago period. However, it was just \$2.4 billion or 0.2 per cent of the GDP in the preceding June quarter.

For the first half of FY26, the current account deficit declined to \$15 billion or 0.8 per cent of GDP from \$25.3 billion or 1.3 per cent of GDP in the year-ago period. When compared year-on-year, the merchandise trade deficit came down to \$87.4 billion in the July-September quarter against \$88.5 billion in the same period a year ago, the



central bank said.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) recorded a net inflow of \$2.9 billion in Q2 FY26 against a net outflow of \$2.8 billion in the corresponding period of the last fiscal. In the case of foreign portfolio investment (FPI), there was a net outflow of \$5.7 billion in the period compared to a net inflow of \$19.9 billion in Q2 FY25.

Net inflows under external commercial borrowings reduced to \$1.6 billion in Q2 FY26 from \$5 billion in the year-ago period, the RBI said. On a BoP basis, there was a depletion of \$10.9 billion to the foreign exchange reserves against an accretion of \$18.6 billion in Q2 FY25, the RBI said.

Stock markets retreat from lifetime highs on profit-taking in financial, FMCG shares

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 1: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally lower after hitting their fresh all-time highs Monday due to profit-taking at higher levels and foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex pared early gains and closed 64.77 points or 0.08 per cent lower at 85,641.90. During the day, the benchmark jumped 452.35 points or 0.52 per cent to hit a record intra-day high of 86,159.02.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 27.20 points or 0.10 per cent to settle at 26,175.75. During the day, it climbed 122.85 points or 0.46 per cent to hit a lifetime high of 26,325.80.

Markets faced correction at higher levels as expectations of an RBI rate cut this week faded following better-than-expected

After reaching a new high, the market moved into a range-bound phase as expectations of an RBI rate cut in December faded following better-than-expected Q2 GDP growth and a sharp depreciation of the rupee

TOP LOSERS		PTI GAINERS	
%	POINTS	%	POINTS
-2.67	Max Healthcare	1,131.80	
-2.19	Indigo	5,772.50	
-1.71	Bajaj Finance	1,019.80	
-1.23	Sun Pharma	1,809.00	
-0.89	Adani Enterprises	2,259.90	
-0.84	Tata Consum	1,162.50	
-0.76	Trent	4,218.00	
-0.69	Apollo Hospitals	7,285.00	
-0.65	M&M	3,733.00	
-0.65	SBIN	972.60	

Q2 GDP growth, an expert said.

A slower growth in GST collection and profit-taking at higher levels also dragged the key indices.

Stock markets had surged to their record highs in the morning session as investor

sentiment turned positive after India's economy grew at a higher-than-expected 8.2 per cent in July-September - recording the fastest pace in six quarters.

Among Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Sun Pharma, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finserv were the major laggards.

However, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Maruti, Bharat Electronics, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Adani Ports and HCL Tech were among the gainers.

On Friday, the Sensex dipped by 13.71 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 85,706.67. The Nifty skidded 12.60 points or 0.05 per cent to 26,202.95.

Over 2.04L private companies shuttered in last five years

The firms have been closed on account of amalgamation, conversion, dissolution and struck off from the records under the Companies Act, 2013

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The government Monday said 2,04,268 private companies have closed down during the last five years.

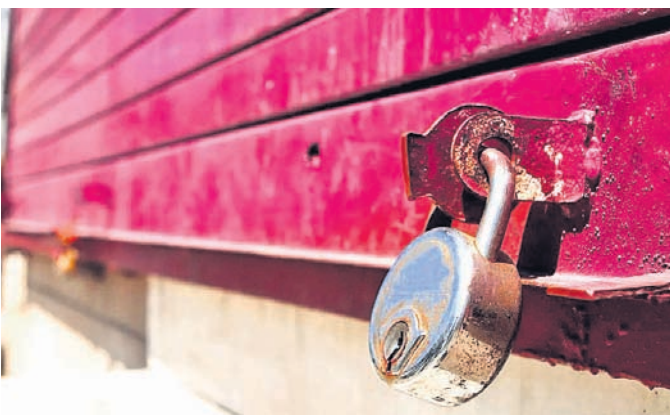
These companies have been shut down on account of amal-

gamation, conversion, dissolution and struck off from the records under the Companies Act, 2013.

According to data provided in a written reply by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra to Lok Sabha, 20,365 private companies were closed down in 2024-25 while the count was at 21,181 and 83,452 in 2023-24 and 2022-23, respectively.

The number of shuttered private companies stood at 64,054 in 2021-22 and 15,216 in 2020-21.

To a query on whether employees of the closed down private companies have been rehabilitated, the minister said there is no proposal before the government.



Meanwhile, as many as 1,85,350 companies have been removed from the official records in five financial years starting from 2021-2022, with

8,648 entities struck off till July 16 this fiscal.

Generally, under the Companies Act, 2013, entities can be removed from the official

records if they are not carrying out business activities for long or companies can also seek voluntary removal after fulfilling various regulatory requirements.

To queries about shell companies and whether they are being used for money laundering activities, Malhotra, in another written reply, said that the term 'shell company' is not defined in the Companies Act, 2013.

Providing details in another written reply, the minister said a total of 1,85,350 companies have been struck off during the period from 2021-22 to the current financial year till July 16.

Out of the total, the maximum of 82,125 companies were

struck off from the records in 2022-23, also the fiscal when the corporate affairs ministry had carried out a strike-off drive to weed out companies that have not been carrying out business activities for a long time.

On whether the government proposes to strengthen inter-agency coordination with Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax Department for monitoring of activities such as shell companies being used for money laundering activities, the minister replied in the affirmative.

"Whenever such instances are reported, the same are shared with other government agencies for monitoring such activities," he said.

Pratyasa turns water therapy into talent

FIGHTING ALL HEALTH PROBLEMS, THE 23-YEAR-OLD ODISHA SWIMMER IS MAKING WAVES AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Dec 1: What started as water therapy for a child battling health complications has blossomed into a medal-rich sporting career, with Pratyasa Ray emerging as one of India's brightest swimmers at the Khelo India University Games here. She has won three gold, one silver and a bronze at KIUG.

Across four editions of the event, she has amassed 18 medals -- nine gold, seven silver and two bronze -- in addition to strong results at national and international meets.

Yet, few know the struggles her parents endured in her early years, when her health was a constant source of worry.

By the time Pratyasa turned three, her parents had already been to numerous hospitals, seeking answers for their daughter's recurring health issues and delayed physical development. It was then that her mother, Charushree, came across an article on water therapy and decided to try it.

"Pratyasa was born healthy. But she was given antibiotics to protect her from an infection when she was just 21 days old and those medicines reacted adversely. After that, her natural physical development stopped. Our concern grew. We wanted a healthy child, but everything was going against us," Charushree told SAI Media.

"During that time, I read in Reader's Digest that swimming can help children with several health issues. Tired of continuous hospital visits, I decided to take that risk.

"I started taking my three-year-old daughter to a swimming pool in Sambalpur. No admission was possible at that age, so I went into the water with her myself.

"The initial days were filled with tears and fear, but gradually, water turned her fear into play. Within two months, hospital visits reduced, and af-



My goal is to participate in the Asian Games, but before that, I want to compete in the World University Games and improve my timing. I love swimming, so I just want to swim, but I also want to achieve milestones for myself along the way

PRATYASA RAY

ter three months, her health stabilized." Six months after being introduced to water, Pratyasa indicated for the first time that she could enter the pool without a tube.

"It was as if water gave her relief. She started enjoying being in water and realised that it was keeping her away from hospitals. Over the next two to three years, she easily increased her swimming distance from 25 meters to 50 meters," her mother recalled.

Pratyasha doesn't remember these early days; everything she knows comes from her mother.

"A local coach in Sambalpur recognized my potential and suggested I take up competitive swimming," she said.

At the age of eight, Pratyasha started training professionally at the Jharsa Khaitan Swimming Complex under Rangnidhi Seth.

"During this period, my father, Rajat Kumar Ray, who works in the Odisha govern-

MEDAL-RICH CAREER

•Pratyasa is among the top swimmers in the country and demonstrated her talent at the recently concluded Khelo India University Games, winning three gold medals, one silver, and one bronze

•The Utkal University student has won a total of 18 medals over the last four editions of the Khelo India University Games, including nine gold and seven silver medals

•In addition to her achievements at Khelo India University Games, she competed in three Khelo India Youth Games editions, securing four silver and three bronze medals

•During Senior Nationals in September last year she clinched gold in the relay and silver in the 100m backstroke

ment, was transferred to Bhubaneswar. I then began professional training in Kalinga. Balancing studies and sports, I am now pursuing a double postgraduate degree from Utkal University," she said.

Pratyasa is now aiming to make it to the Indian team for the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.

WOMEN'S BLIND T20 WC

Phula Soren, Parbati Marndi, Jamuna Rani Tudu and Basanti Hansda were presented with a cheque of ₹11 lakh each as a token of appreciation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday felicitated four Odisha players of the Indian Women's Blind Cricket Team that won the inaugural Women's Blind T20 World Cup 2025, defeating Nepal in a thrilling final in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Chief Minister honoured the players—Phula Soren of Balasore, Parbati Marndi, Jamuna Rani Tudu and Basanti Hansda of Mayurbhanj—at his residence and presented each of them a cheque of Rs 11 lakh as a token of appreciation for their



achievement.

Majhi lauded the players for their grit, determination and exceptional performance on the global stage. "Through dedication and hard work, you have brought glory to the nation and the state. You are an inspiration for every Odia," he said, encouraging them to continue their journey of success with

Through dedication and hard work, you have brought glory to the nation and the state. You are an inspiration for every Odia

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CM, ODISHA

confidence. The Indian team created history by clinching the first-ever Women's Blind

T20 World Cup title at Colombo, marking a significant milestone for the sport in the country.

Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Sports Department Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav, Director Vedula Vijay, team coach Debashish Jena and senior officials were present at the ceremony.

FOOTBALL CRISIS

Sports min to meet all stakeholders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandavya will meet representatives of all stakeholders in Indian football, including the sport's national federation, its former commercial partner and clubs December 3, to try and find a way out of the current crisis.

The latest crisis emerged after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) could not find a new commercial partner for the conduct of domestic league, including the top-tier Indian Super League.

"The Supreme Court has directed that the ministry step in to figure a solution and this is being done in compliance with that directive. This will be a day long series of meetings with representatives of Indian football. They can raise their concerns and the minister will give his suggestions accordingly," a ministry source told Monday.

Indian domestic football first plunged into chaos after Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the entity the owned and organised the ISL, informed the AIFF in July that it was keeping the country's top-tier league on hold due to a lack of clarity over the renewal of the 15-year Master Rights Agreement (MRA) that ends December 8.

FIH JUNIOR MEN'S WORLD CUP

Untested India look to polish grey areas against Switzerland

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madurai, Dec 1: In-form but untested Indian team will look to fine-tune its grey areas while continuing its winning run against Switzerland in the final group league encounter ahead of the knockout stage at the FIH Junior Men's World Cup here Tuesday.

Both India and Switzerland are unbeaten in Pool B with two wins from as many matches but the hosts are on top of the table by virtue of superior goal difference.

It was a goal-fest for the Indians in the first two games in Chennai as they beat Chile 7-0 before thrashing Oman 17-0.

Switzerland, on the other hand, beat Oman 4-0 and then eked out a narrow 3-2 win over Chile. And come Tuesday, the world no 2 side is expected to get the better of Switzerland comfortably.

But some concerns remain for India ahead of the knockout stage. In the first two games, the Indian defence was hardly tested as goalkeepers Prince Deep Singh and Bikramjit Singh were least bothered.

The defence led by skipper Rohit too would like to be more



in action going into the business end of the tournament.

Another area of concern for India would be conversion drag-flick goals from penalty corners. Skipper Rohit, the team's main dragflicker, looked a pale shadow of himself and needs to up his game. It is not that India didn't score from penalty corners but most of the goals came from indirect variations and rebounds.

The most heartening aspect of India's outing in the first two games is the performance of their midfield and forwardline.

Dilraj Singh is the joint top-scorer of the tournament with six goals, including a hat-trick against Oman, while Arshdeep Singh too scored three goals in the last match.

The likes of Manmeet Singh,

Ajeet Yadav and Ingalemba Luwang Thouraojlam too have ben among goals. The match against Switzerland is India's only game in Madurai before they return to Chennai for their remaining campaign. And it remains to be seen how the Indians acclimatise to the conditions here.

But India's assistant coach Birendra Lakra, who is in charge of communicating with the players from the dug out, is not too much bothered.

"Definitely the ground will change but we will have the same weather conditions. We also got two days time to practice and adjust."

Despite being considered as clear favourites, Lakra warned the players against taking Switzerland lightly.

Indian women's hockey team chief coach Harendra resigns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Indian women's hockey team chief coach Harendra Singh Monday resigned from the post with immediate effect citing "personal reasons".

Harendra, who had taken over the reins in April last year, led India to title triumph in the Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir in November last year, but under him the team also got demoted from the FIH Pro League after finishing last in the 2024-25 season.



"Coaching the Indian women's hockey team has been a privilege that has been a highlight of my career. Though personal reasons call me to step away, my heart remains with this extraordinary team and their ongoing success," said Harendra, who was the United States men's hockey team's tactician prior to becoming the Indian women's coach, said in a Hockey India statement.

"I will always cherish my journey with Hockey India and continue to support their efforts to take Indian hockey to the highest levels of achievement," he said.

Verstappen back in race after McLaren's Qatar horror

The Red Bull racer wins Qatar GP, eyes fifth Formula One World Drivers' Championship title

REUTERS

Doha, Dec 1: Formula One champion Max Verstappen revelled in McLaren's strategy horror show at the Qatar Grand Prix Sunday as the Red Bull driver won again, days after the team's boss compared him to a movie monster who keeps on coming back.

"He can call me Chucky," grinned the Dutchman after winning under the Lusail floodlights from third place on the grid.

McLaren, who had both cars disqualified in Las Vegas a week earlier while Verstap-



On pure pace they (McLaren) are faster, but as it showed today again anything is possible

MAX VERSTAPPEN

pen won, had swept the front row with Oscar Piastri on pole and championship leader Lando Norris -- seeking to clinch the title -- alongside the Australian. Then it all went wrong again for the champions.

Verstappen passed Norris at the start and pitted from second on lap seven when the

safety car was deployed, while the McLarens stayed out and paid the price -- Piastri ending up second and Norris fourth.

That rocketed Verstappen up to second in the championship, 12 points behind Norris with only the Abu Dhabi finale remaining and four ahead of Piastri. At the end of August the Dutch driver had been 104 points off Piastri's lead.

"I didn't expect to win today, that's for sure," Verstappen told Sky Sports television. "Looking at pure pace, we were not on the same level as McLaren, but we made the right call, as most of the grid did, in boxing under the safety car. That almost gives you a

Duplantis, McLaughlin-Levrone named World Athletes of the Year

REUTERS

Monaco, Dec 1: Sweden's pole vault sensation Mondo Duplantis and American 400 metres World champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone were named World Athletes of the Year Sunday.

Duplantis, along with retaining his gold medal at the World Championships in Tokyo in September, continued his dominance of the event, breaking his own world record another four times and was undefeated

in 16 competitions.

The 26-year-old also won a fifth consecutive Diamond League title.

"I hope to keep pushing it. I hope to keep irritating everyone who has to vote for me for years to come," Duplantis said.

"It's really important for me to win this for the field eventers. It's very special, I'm going to really cherish this one."

McLaughlin-Levrone, like Duplantis, is also undefeated for two years, in both the 400m flat, her main event in 2025,



and in the 400m hurdles. Her winning time of 47.78 in



Tokyo was the second-fastest 400m of all time and the 26-year-

In 2025, Duplantis set four world pole vault records and was undefeated in 16 competitions. He holds the current world records for both indoor and outdoor pole vault and has won multiple Olympic and World Championship titles

McLaughlin-Levrone went undefeated through 2025 to become the first athlete to have ever won world titles in both the 400m flat and 400m hurdles. The American became 400m world champion in Tokyo when she ran 47.78 seconds - the second fastest time in history

old became the first athlete to have ever won world titles in both the 400m flat and 400m hur-

dles. She also formed part of the US 4x400m gold medal winning relay team at the World Championships.

"Wow, I'm honestly blown away to win this. Thank you so much, World Athletics, for this honour and recognition," McLaughlin-Levrone said.

"The culmination of the season in Tokyo was a really special moment. For me, 2025 was a year of stepping outside of the comfort zone and pushing the bounds of what was mentally and physically possible", she added.