

LEISURE | P2



Zia remains critical

UK medical experts to visit Bangladesh to assess treatment of critically ill ex-PM Khaleda Zia

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Rupee hits all-time low

Rupee hits the psychological 90-adollar level in intraday trade before settling 43 paise down at an all-time low of 89.96 against US dollar

BUSINESS | P11



SA wary of Ro-Ko storm

After pipping South Africa in a thriller, India look to seal the three-match ODI series when they take on the Proteas today

SPORTS | P12

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PROMOTING PEACE & HARMONY: Devotees during the opening procession of 20th International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony in Bodh Gaya of Bihar, Tuesday

IMRAN ALIVE: SISTER

Lahore: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan is alive but subjected to "mental torture in solitary confinement", his sister Uzma Khan said Tuesday after meeting him at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. The Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) said in a statement after Uzma's meeting with the 73-year-old former cricketer-turnedpolitician that Khan has been "put in solitary confinement and he is being subjected to mental torture". P10



stopped trusting my phone

Apple 'no' to Sanchar Saathi

Amid growing uproar over the Centre's directive requiring mobile manufacturers to pre-install cybersecurity app Sanchar Saathi on handsets, iPhone maker Apple has clarified that it has no plans to comply with the order. The app directive comes at a time when Apple is entangled in a legal battle with Competition Commission of India over an antitrust penalty. Other smartphone brands, including Samsung, are still reviewing the order. Meanwhile, the government softened its stance as Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia clarified that users will have the option to delete it from their devices

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 2: Apple does not plan to comply with a mandate to preload its smartphones with a State-owned cyber safety app and will convey its concerns to New Delhi, sources said, after the government's



move sparked surveillance concerns and a political uproar.

The Indian government has confidentially ordered companies including Apple, Samsung and Xiaomi to preload their phones with an app called Sanchar Saathi, or Communication Partner, within 90 days. The app is intended to track stolen phones, block them and prevent them from being misused. The government also wants manufacturers to ensure that the app is not disabled. And for devices already in the supply chain, manufacturers should push the app to phones via software updates.

India's telecom ministry confirmed the move later, describing it as a security measure to combat "serious endangerment"

of cyber security. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political opponents and privacy advocates criticised the move, saying it is a way for the government to gain access to the country's 730 million smartphones.

Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Tuesday said the app is a "voluntary and democratic system", adding that users can choose to activate it and can "easily delete it from their phone at any time"

In tackling a recent surge of cybercrime and hacking, India is joining authorities worldwide, most recently in Russia, to frame rules blocking the use of stolen phones for fraud or promoting state-backed government service apps.

The order caused a furore both inside and outside Parliament Tuesday, with a number of lawmakers accusing the government of introducing an app that would act as a snooping tool.

16 POLLUTED RIVER STRETCHES IN STATE **Forest, Environment**

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: At least 16 stretches across major rivers in Odisha have been identified as polluted, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia informed the Assembly Tuesday.

The polluted locations include parts of Kathajodi river in Cuttack, Daya river and Gangua nullah in Bhubaneswar, Kushabhadra near Bhingarpur near Gop, and stretches of Brahmani and Guradi nullah in Rourkela. The minister said most of the contamination is caused by untreated urban wastewater and excessive extraction of river water.

Urban local bodies have been instructed to prevent direct waste discharge into rivers, while district administrations. the Urban Development department, Public Health Engineering Organisation (PHEO), and Water Supply & Sanitation authorities have been directed to act in coordination. "Measures are also underway to enhance river flow, develop riverfronts and construct toilets to curb

open defecation near riverbanks," he said.

Meanwhile, a recent assessment report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) titled 'Polluted River Stretches for Restoration of Water Quality – 2025' indicates that Odisha has recorded substantial progress in river water quality improvement. Based on 2022-23 monitoring data, the report states that only 13 locations across six rivers failed to meet the Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing (BOD < 3 mg/L). The CPCB highlighted Odisha among the better-performing states, noting that 14 river stretches previously classified as polluted in 2018

said most of the contamination is caused by untreated urban wastewater and **excessive extraction** of river water are no longer in that category,

and Climate Change

Minister Ganesh

Ram Singh Khuntia

reflecting the impact of ongoing sewage treatment and water restoration projects.

The report noted recovery in three stretches: Gangua improved from the most crit ical Priority Class I to Priority Class III, Kathajodi moved from Priority Class III to V, and Daya shifted from Prioritv Class IV to V. However, six polluted stretches still demand urgent attention. The Gangua stretch from near Rajdhani College to Vadimula remains the state's highest-priority concern. The CPCB has urged intensified action to bring all polluted stretches to bathing water quality standards.

Bill decriminalising minor offences passed in Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: The Assembly Tuesday passed a Bill aimed at decriminalising certain minor offences in 16 existing laws to promote a more business-friendly and citizen-centric environment in the state.

The Odisha Jan Vishwas Bill, 2025, moved by Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, was debated amid demands from opposition BJD and Congress members to refer it to a select committee for further scrutiny

Swain said, "Several laws in Odisha have come to include strict fines, even imprisonment for minor omissions or procedural lapses, despite the absence of any fraudulent or harmful intent. These onerous provisions place an unnecessary burden on individuals and businesses, discourage compliance and lead to avoidable litigation." He added that 16 legislations spanning key sectors such as labour, urban governance, agriculture, health, and trade have been reviewed under the reform

2-phase Census to begin in April 2026

New Delhi: Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases, the first between April and September 2026 and the second in February 2027, the Lok Sabha was informed Tuesday.

Giving details of the exercise in response to a question by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the two phases will be -- Phase I-House Listing and Housing Census followed by Phase II-Population Enumeration. The first phase will be conducted in a period of 30 days in accordance with the convenience of state/UT governments.

DSPL-395

Come New Year, China to introduce condom tax

Beijing, Dec 2: In a bid to tackle dipping birth rates, the Chinese government has decided to impose value-added tax on contraceptives from January 2026.

According to a 'Bloomberg' report, contraceptive medicines and devices, including condoms, will be subjected to a 13 per cent value-added tax for the first time since 1993, ending a three-decade exemption. The tax change is included in the revised Val-

ue-Added Tax Law and marks a departure from the era when Beijing heavily subsidised and promoted birth control under the one-child policy, the news agency said.



The government is simultaneously introducing financial relief for those who choose to start families. The updated legislation removes VAT on childcare providers such as nurseries and kindergartens,

along with elder-care institutions, disability service organisations, and businesses offering marriage-related services

China's population has shrunk for three years in a row, with only 9.54 million babies born in 2024 – far fewer than the 18.8 million births in 2016, the first year after the one-child policy ended.

Authorities have reacted with a catalogue of pro-natalist measures: local governments are offering cash rewards for newborns, parental leave has been expanded. and guidelines now discourage abortions that are not considered "medically necessary". Yet economic and cultural barriers remain dominant. According to a study conducted by YuWa Population Research Institute raising a child to age 18 costs more than 5,38,000 yuan (\$76,000). Young adults contending with weak job prospects and a slow economy are increasingly reluctant to shoulder that burden, it said.



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eisure



Twinkle

Khanna has responded to the

online backlash surrounding a comment she

made about infidelity on an episode of her talk

show Two Much With Kajol And Twinkle. The

remark—which quickly went viral—was made

during a fun segment where she casually said,

MADONNA BLASTS TRUMP FOR **SILENCE ON WORLD AIDS DAY**

Pop legend Madonna has lambasted US President Donald Trump for his refusal to acknowledge World AIDS Day on Monday. The 67-year-old singer said: "Donald Trump has announced that World AIDS Day should no longer be acknowledged. To ask the general public to pretend it never happened is ridiculous, it's absurd, it's unthinkable."

SCARLETT WAS 'PANICKED' **DURING HER FIRST DATE**

Scarlett Johansson's romance with husband Colin Jost got off to an awkward start. The 41-year-old actress admits that she feared the romance would be short-lived after she 'panicked' due to a lack of dating experience on their first romantic evening together.



accuracy • reliability • trust

Think positive today and watch the world around you changing. Regardless of how difficult things may seem, Ganesha advises you to take it without getting upset. If you set your mind to something, you can do it. You have the Midas touch today, so it is a good time to introduce a new strategy.

TAURUS

You will be feeling listless, lazy and out of sorts today, and will tend to ignore and neglect import-ant tasks scheduled for the day. Ganesha urges you to guard against this tendency as you could miss out on opportunities that you will surely lose out professionally, particularly if you are in business.

You have been ignoring a few problems that have been plaguing your family members for quite some time now. It's time you looked into the matter, says Ganesha. Irrespective of how difficult the challenges are, today you will emerge victorious. And ng with mammoth challenges, there will be passionate, quite often sexu al, interludes. Quite the charmer!

always go down well with many people. even better than others, it is advisable that you keep it under the wraps. The reason being that most people may not be able to understand you. Some may ever feel intimidated by you.

You will feel more emotional today and share your feelings with your friends and near ones. For those who are searching for a life-partner, this might be the time when you will get hitched. You will develop a new perspective on some issues in the office. Your day will be different than normal, says Ganesha.

A shadow grows large in your mind today. An unknown fear will haunt your day, warns Ganesha. But be ready to take a hike. You are most likely to end up spending on your foreign associates. Be careful of those expenses, says Ganesha.

Sometimes, you lend a helping hand and people end up taking the entire arm. Well, that's kids for you! So beware, because young ones around you may try to take undue advantage of your Minor issues and problems may dampen the high spirits that you are in today. But fret not, just keep a cool head and get back on track to being your charismatic self.

SCORPIO

You may be bored with the same, old routine. In short, you feel like you are stuck in a rut and desperately need to do something exciting. Hanging out with friends of opposite sex may bring some respite to your restless soul.

SAGITTARIUS

Your business is all set to expand with you making the most of your overseas contacts. Effective communication skills will help you sail through your tasks. And you are making all the right moves to become the leader of your pack.

CAPRICORN

Some people do backbreaking work throughout their life, and still don't taste the sweet taste of success. While in your case, success will be easy as pie. You are already loaded with work and some new projects - assignments will be added to that, today. But, you are not complaining as some recreational activities will refresh your mood and energy.

AQUARIUS

You have already fulfilled your short-term objectives. But you are ambitious, and straightaway begin setting your longterm goals. But all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, says Ganesha. Leisure time with family will rejuvenate and prepare you for a better stint at work.

PISCES For those in the creative fields of marketing or advertising, today is an extraordinary opportunity to tweak your marketing mix into bringing in maximum profits with bare minimum efforts. Your health interests will also take priority now, and you will find yourself spending more time in the gym, says Ganesha.



cently released What Do I Know (Just A Girl) with Shenseea, says she has more global collaborations coming up in 2026.

Nora says, "I'm doing more international musical collaborations with different artistes while also expanding my global music catalogue! I'm aiming at positioning myself in more global platforms as i have been doing since 2020. I performed at one of the most prestigious venues, Olympia in Paris. And in 2022 i performed at the closing ceremony world cup FI-FA in Qatar. Now i have my made my US tv debut with Jimmy Fallon, promoting my new pop track What do I know. It's all a part of expanding my global footprint."

She says she's already looking forward to 2026 and has begun work on her projects for the coming year. She says, "We are in the final phases of putting the videos together! Some songs have been recorded and others are in the initial recording phase. But I'm very excited for 2026 and for the kind of music will be putting out into the world. AGENCIES

Sayani sparks debate on Mumbai pollution

Mumbai: Actor Sayani Gupta has sparked a significant public conversation around Mumbai's worsening air pollution after sharing a deeply personal account of her recent health struggles. Her candid remarks have resonated widely with citizens facing similar issues as the city's Air Quality Index continues to dip into alarming levels. In her post, Sayani explained that her health concerns began soon after she returned from Goa. "Ever since I've gotten back from Goa. I've been unwell," she said, noting that what initially felt like a minor throat irritation escalated into voice loss and severe sinus complications. The actor added that the impact has been felt not just physically but also in her day-to-day functioning and work commitments.

Highlighting the severity of the situation, she added, "I have literally not opened my windows because of the AQI... The air purifier is on, which I hope helps, but it's pointless." Her statement captures the growing dependency on indoor filtration systems as outdoor air becomes increasingly

Sayani's comments have struck a chord because they speak to a shared frustration among Mumbai residents who have been grappling with dustfilled air, largely attributed to relentless construction, mass redevelopment projects and thinning green cover. Addressing the visible haze that envelopes the city, she wrote, "we are not just covered in cement and dust from the outside, but also our lungs are filled with dust."

Mumbai: Ishaan Khatter's Homebound, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, has earned a prestigious milestone as India's official entry for the Best International Feature category at the Academy Awards

> next year. In the film, Ishaan plays Shoaib, a young Muslim

boy pushed to the margins of society, who shares a deep and unbreakable bond with Chandan, portrayed by Vishal Jethwa, a Dalit boy navigating similar struggles. Raat gayi, baat gayi" while discussing infidelity in Ishaan's personal journey, much like his character's, reflects the The comment sparked widespread conversation complexities and richness of on social media. Addressing the criticism, Twinkle India's cultural fabric. Born clarified that to actor Neelima Azeem her statement and a Hindu father, Ra-

Ishaan puts humanity

over religion

Twinkle responds to backlash over infidelity comment

her statement was intended as a joke and not meant to be taken seriously. Speaking to a news portal, she said, "It was part of a light-hearted game. It was not meant as a serious debate." jesh Khattar, and raised in an interfaith home, Ishaan grew up embracing multiple traditions. He is also the not meant as a serious debate.' half-brother Twinkle went on to explain how she would have approached the topic if the conversation had been serious.

She said she would have discussed the evolution of monogamy—from early nomadic societies to settled agricultural communities—and how concepts of lineage and family structures shaped the idea. "That is a serious debate," she added. "This was just a joke and it was a light-hearted moment.'

The episode featured Twinkle, Kajol, Karan Johar, and Janhvi Kapoor. During one segment, they were asked, "Which is worse, emotional cheating or physical cheating?" While Twinkle, Kajol, and Karan appeared to take a lighter stance on physical infidelity, Janhvi disagreed and called it a deal-breaker, leading to a lively discussion.

poor. Speaking to Barkha Dutt for Mojo Story, he said, "For me, that's my idea of India, actually. When you're raised in a household that is, for the lack of another word, pluralistic, secular or just open, liberal, you grow up, like I did, going to mandirs, masjids, churches, and all of them, trying to imbibe the beauty of all of these religions, cultures, and faiths.

For Ishaan, this pluralism is deeply embedded in India's identity and is its greatest



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

8 3

8

4

5

9 4

2

8

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

6

SUDOKU

5

9

6 5

SOLUTIONS

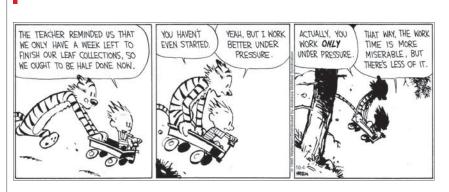
9

1

PEANUTS



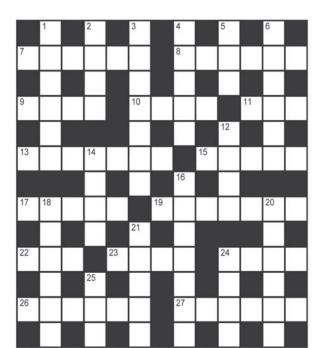
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 23 Pedestal

24 Overlook

(2-4)

26 Concede (4,2)

27 Some relatives

Acre	oss	
7	Hound dog	

- 8 Cereal fruit
- 9 Agree 10 Cathedral recess

(3,4)

22 Gallivant

- 11 Plum part
- 13 Catamounts 15 Flick
 - Down
- 17 Blink of an eye
 - 1 Fine wool
- 19 Ocean movement
 - 2 Gawk at
- - 3 Fine

5 Game piece

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 4 Pizza feature
- and-white crested eagle 24 Stubborn sort

21 Large black-

6 Model's wear

12 Sulk

14 Bistro

16 Daydream

20 Renounce, as

18 Persians

a son

- 25 Track action

MOU 2 6 3

SUDOKU



owntown

Only 25 of 207 water projects completed since 2020-21

trict-level coordination meet-

ings are being conducted on

a monthly basis, under the

chairmanship of the Collector,

to resolve pending approvals

and issues expeditiously, and

monitoring systems have been

strengthened to expedite the

progress of works, Naik added.

Participating in the discus-

sion, Barabati-Cuttack MLA

Sofia Firdous questioned as to

how all the mega projects were

given to only 17 contractors and

advance funds were released.

She demanded a Vigilance

In his reply, the minister said

the previous government had

given the contract to the firms

Bhubaneswar: The Opposition

BJD Tuesday asked the state

government to intervene and en-

sure that Rs 7,145 crore 'illegally

collected from around one crore

power consumers in the name of

'minimum charges' or 'monthly

minimum fixed charges' be re

funded with the interest amount.

The issue was raised by BJD

member Ganeswar Behera in

the Assembly during the Zero

Hour, and backed by party col-

leagues Byomakesh Ray and

probe into the matter.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Only 25 of the 207 mega piped water supply projects have been completed between financial years 2020-21 and 2025-26, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) Minister Rabi Narayan Naik told the Assembly Tuesday.

Responding to queries from several members on the delay projects, Naik said in order to ensure safe and adequate drinking water to all rural households, the PR&DW department has undertaken 207 mega piped water supply projects under various programmes. "Of these, 25 projects have been completed between financial years 2020-21 and 2025-26," added Naik.

The previous (BJD) government had completed only three such projects, while the current dispensation has completed over 22 projects in the last 17 months, he said.

Similarly, the previous BJD dispensation had completed civil works in only 16 projects, while the present administration has completed over 90 per cent of the civil works of 66 projects, Naik said.

During the tenure of the BJP government, the state has expedited solar pump and small drinking water projects, he pointed out.

"It was due to the incompetence of the BJD government, people in rural areas were deprived of drinking water. The previous dispensation just procured pipes and laid those down without making progress in other civil works to supply water," the minister said.

Slamming the Opposition BJD, Naik said the previous government had provided 80 per cent of the total funds to project executing agencies without seeing the progress on the ground.

"A total allocation of Rs



35,193.24 crore has been earmarked for the projects, out of which an expenditure of Rs 17, 502.12 crore has been incurred during the period, 2020-21 to 2025-26," he said.

Naik said certain projects have been delayed due to various factors, including land acquisition issues, negligence of implementing agencies, delays in statutory approvals and right-of-way clearances from different departments.

In this connection, penalties have been imposed on defaulting agencies and showcause notices issued to them, the minister said. To address these challenges, the state government has taken corrective measures, including the establishment of appropriate institutional mechanisms, such as the formation of a high-level committee, headed by the Development Commissioner and Secretaries of stakeholder departments as members. It conducts monthly review

Another committee, headed by the PR&DW department Secretary, has also been formed with engineers-in-chief of all infrastructure departments as members, he stated.

In addition to this, dis-

1,396 human, 5,609 animal deaths in conflicts in 10 yrs

PAID COMPENSATION

PEOPLE WHO LOST

Bhubaneswar: A total of 1,396 people and 5,609 animals lost their lives in man-animal conflicts in the state in the last 10 vears. Forest. Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told

Tuesday.

Replying to a written query by BJP MLA Akhila Chandra Naik, the minister said the highest of 251 deaths human were reported from the Dhen-

kanal forest division between 2014-15 and 2024-25. Keonjhar and Angul forest divisions registered deaths of 125 and 119 people, respectively, during the period. A total of 90 people lost their lives in the Rourkela division, and 81 such deaths were reported from the Baripada division, he said. The maximum of 186 hu-

from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other states.

Stating that the BJP government believes in transparency, Naik hinted that action can be

"Power distribution compa-

nies have been exploiting them

(consumers) and collected Rs

7,145 crore illegally, while the

Odisha Electricity Regulatory

Commission (OERC) is a silent

The BJD members cited Sec-

tion 62(6) of the Electricity Act,

2003, which mandates that if a

licensee or a generating com-

pany charges more than the

determined tariff, the excess

spectator," Behera alleged.

Tusharkanti Behera.

man deaths was recorded in 2023-24, followed by 175 deaths The minister said the state

government has paid compensation of Rs 61.74 crore to the families of people who lost

their lives due to man-animal conflict in the last decade. He said the

government has been improving THEIR LIVES DUE TO and securing animal habitats, IN THE LAST DECADE undertaking tree plantation drives creating and

adequate pastureland, and patrolling in forests to prevent such conflicts.

"The government has also deployed anti-poaching squads and enhanced surveillance to monitor movements of animals and poachers through advanced technology and public awareness," he added.

taken in future.

The BJP government is committed to providing water supply to all households by 2027, he stated.

BJD for refund of ₹7K-cr 'illegally' collected from power consumers

the customer with interest.

amount must be refunded to

'This provision has been made to protect consumers from overcharging and ensures that any excess revenue is returned to the person who paid it, with the addition of interest." they said.

Behera alleged that neither the state government, nor the OERC is concerned over the 'exploitation' of consumers in the state.

Oppn stages walkout over Anwesha Yojana

Madho Singh Haath

studying in Eklavya

dropouts, and also many

schools. The government

runs residential schools

for the tribal and Dalit

students. We have also

raised the scholarships

for the ST and SC

NITYANANDA GOND | ST & SO

DEVELOPMENT, MINORITIES &

students

ST and SC students are

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Opposition BJD and Congress MLAs Tuesday, alleging that the BJP government in the state has scrapped the Anwesha Yojana, a flagship initiative that facilitates English medium education for SC and ST students.

Launched in 2015 by the previous BJD government, the scheme provides full financial support for SC and ST students from disadvantaged backgrounds to

study in English medium private schools in urban areas. The government bears the cost of tuition fees, uniforms, books, transportation, accommodation, and nutri-

ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Minister tyananda Gond clarified the tenure of the scheme was valid

only till the 2024-25 academic year, and it is currently under government review for extension. Gond denied allegations of discontinuation, stating that a five-vear review was mandatory.

Initiating the debate, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam said it was shocking that a government headed by a tribal Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi, was 'denying' rights and opportunities to tribal and Dalit children. "The BJP government has

stopped a scheme that created hope among tribals and Dalits. This is the BJP government's

Social media influencer tenders

keeping tribals and Dalits marginalised and hindering their progress," he alleged.

Noting that 40 per cent of the state's population were tribals and Dalits, Kadam said, "Our CM is a tribal, and therefore, we expected that STs and SCs would get their benefits. But, things are totally different."

BJD MLA Ganeswar Behera said the dropout rate in Odisha came down to 18.1 per cent in 2023-24, from 33 per cent in 2021 22, because of schemes such as

Anwesha Yoja na launched by the BJD gov-We have launched Shahid ernment.

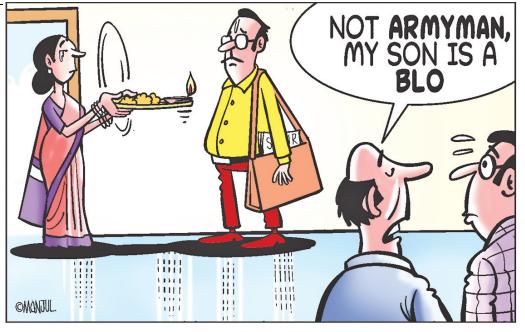
Replying to Kharcha scheme to arrest Opposi tion's charge Gond said that the scheme was launched in 2015, and around 20,473 students are staying in different hostels and getting quality education across 17 districts.

BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE MINISTER "There has been no fresh

admission in the 2025-26 ac ademic year. The scheme should be reviewed once in five years. The tenure of the scheme was till 2024-25. Now it is under consideration of the government for further exten sion," he said.

"We have launched Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha scheme to arrest dropouts, and also many ST and SC stu dents are studying in Eklavya schools. The government runs residential schools for the trib al and Dalit students. We have also raised the scholarships for the ST and SC students,

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



SC: Police must be careful while filing chargesheet in civil disputes

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Supreme Court Tuesday said police must be careful in filing chargesheet and criminal courts in framing charges in cases of pending civil disputes between parties.

A bench of Justices N Kotiswar Singh and Manmohan said in a society governed by the rule of law, the decision to file a chargesheet should be based on the investigating officer's determination of whether the evidence collected provides a reasonable prospect of conviction.

"This Court would like to emphasise that where there is a pending civil dispute between the parties, the Police and the Criminal Courts must be circumspect in filing a chargesheet and framing charges respectively. The Police at the stage of filing of Chargesheet and the Criminal Court at the stage of framing of Charge must act as initial filters ensuring that



only cases with a strong suspicion should proceed to the formal trial stage to maintain the efficiency and integrity of the judicial system," the bench said.

It said the tendency of filing chargesheets in matters where no strong suspicion is made out clogs the judicial system. It forces judges, court staff and prosecutors to spend time on trials that are likely to result in an acquittal. This

diverts limited judicial resources from handling stronger and more serious cases. contributing to massive case backlogs, the bench said.

The top court said there can be no analysis at the charge-framing stage as to whether the case would end in conviction or acquittal, but the fundamental principle is that the state should not prosecute citizens without a reasonable prospect of conviction, as it compromises the right to a fair process.

The observation of the apex court came while setting aside an order of the Calcutta High Court which had dismissed the discharge application by an accused in a case of wrongful restraint, voyeurism and criminal intimidation.

The top court said in the present case, the police and the trial court should have been cognisant as there was a pending civil dispute with regard to the property in question as well as a prior subsisting injunction order.

4 highway robbers held Puri: Puri Police Tuesday claimed to

have cracked a high-profile highway robbery case under operation White Metal, with the arrest of four accused and recovery of booty, including gold and silver, worth Rs 78.96 lakh. The accused were identified as Tuku Navak. 45, Prasant Pradhan, 41, M Goutham, 24, and Subhrajit Mohanty, 22. According to police, the incident occurred around 9:45pm November 20 when a vehicle transporting jewellery and cash from Radha Krushna Jewellery of Chandanpur was intercepted by the robbers near the Samiajpur Railway Over Bridge on NH-316. Armed with pistol, the robbers fled with eight gold necklaces weighing 132 grams 31 kg of silver ornaments, Rs 6 lakh in cash and other valuables. Following a complaint, a case was registered at Chandanpur police station the same night. Acting swiftly, Puri Superintendent of Police formed two special investigation wings under operation White Metal to trace the culprits. Multiple raids were conducted to locate the robbers. Investigation uncovered that Tuku, a jewellery shop owner of Chandanpur and an acquaintance of the complainant, conspired the robbery. He allegedly conspired with Prasant who further brought in three associates. Police arrested the accused December 1 and 2 and recov ered a white car, a motorcycle, six mobile phones and a pistol from them. "Cash and stolen items, including gold and silver, worth Rs 78.96 lakh have been recovered from their possession. The accused have confessed to their involvement in the crime," police said. Puri Police said efforts are underway to identify other possible accomplices in the case.

apology for controversial video

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Social media influencer Shubhankar Mishra, who has been booked for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of Lord Jagannath devotees, Tuesday tendered an apology for his controversial video on the 12th-century shrine. Mishra, on his YouTube channel, said that he does not have any wrong intention to spread such information on the

social media platform. "However, in an effort to inform people on the religious matters, I had done the video where it was mentioned that Shree Jagannath Temple had been cursed by Radha Rani. I collected this information from internet and other sources," he said. "If anybody is hurt over my statement. I tender an apology. I had no such ill inten-

a devotee of the Lord Jagannath. Mishra said he has deleted

tions," he said, adding that he is



the video and also received several suggestions from well-wishers and others regarding his video of Srimandir.

In the controversial video, Mishra had said, "Unmarried couples visiting the shrine could face breakups due to an alleged 'curse' by Radha Rani."

A case has been registered against Mishra at the Singhadwar police station in Puri

In the controversial video, Shubhankar Mishra had said that unmarried couples visiting the shrine could face breakups due to an alleged 'curse' by Radha Rani

under Sections 299 (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings) and 302 (uttering words, making gestures, or placing objects with the deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person) of BNS.

Puri District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida, who is also the deputy chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), had said that a committee was examining the controversial video of



AT LORD'S SERVICE: 875 varieties of delicacies being offered to the deities at Gaur Vihar Ashram in Puri, on the occasion of Byanjan Dwadasi, Tuesday

Crackdown on illegal MTP CP reviews T20 match arrangements kits, abortion pill misuse

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: In a move to safeguard public health, the Health & Family Welfare Department has intensified its statewide crackdown on the illegal sale of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) kits, misuse of abortion pills and unsafe self-medication practices.

The Drugs Control Directorate has been directed to follow a zero-tolerance approach and take strict action against unregulated and unsafe abor-

Coordinated enforcement operations involving Assistant Controllers of Drugs, Drug Inspectors, police and district-level administration are underway across the state. Raids are being carried out on unauthorised sale of MTP kits. shops operating without qualified pharmacists, lack of prescription records, illegal stocking of abortion pills and other violations under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules, The denartment has clearly directed authorities to prevent illegal activities by unscrupulous

shop owners and agents. So far, more than 400 raids have been carried out across various districts, uncovering 234 violations. Fifty-five shop

Fake recovery agent

held for snatching

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Saheed

Nagar police Monday arrest-

ed a fake recovery agent for

forcibly taking a vehicle and

extorting money from a man. The accused, identified as Deepak Kumar Baliarsingh

(45) of Khurda district, tar-

geted a vehicle bearing reg-

istration number 24 BH 2950

B, driven by a professional

driver and financed by Union

On November 28, 2025, Deep-

ak falsely introduced himself

to the vehicle owner as a le-

gal advisor of Union Bank and

claimed the vehicle required

urgent inspection. Trusting

him, the owner sent the vehi-

accused took him to a seclud-

ed spot near Jayadev Vihar on

NH-16 and demanded ₹38,200

as alleged EMI dues and pen-

alties, which the owner later

Later, Deepak demanded an additional ₹30,000 to release

the vehicle. When the owner refused, Deepak reportedly

threatened the driver, pushed him aside, forcibly snatched

the vehicle's key and fled from

Despite repeated requests

by both the owner and the

driver, Deepak refused to

return the vehicle without the additional payment. Left

with no alternative, the driv-

er approached the police and

During the investigation,

police seized a vehicle bear-

ing registration OD 02 BD 1612

from Deepak. In a subsequent raid, the hijacked vehicle was

recovered from Bhavya Stock-

yard at Sisupalgarh under

Dhauli Police limits. Deepak

also reportedly made a volun-

Investigators found that

Baliarsingh had been operat-

ing as a repo agent, misusing bank authority to illegally

seize vehicles, extort money

and intimidate owners and

drivers. Deepak was produced

before the court and further

investigation is under way

lodged a complaint.

tary confession.

into the matter.

After the driver arrived, the

cle to Bhubaneswar.

Bank, police said.

vehicle in City

POST NEWS NETWORK



- unauthorised MTP kit sales, shops without prescriptions and illegal abortion pill stocking
- raids across districts have uncovered 234 violations

owners have been served showcause notices as a precursor to prosecution, while two medical stores operating without proper licenses and selling MTP kits have been seized, with prosecution processes initiat-

ed, an official informed. "The state government has reiterated that stringent action will continue against distribu-

Fifty-five shop owners have stores selling MTP kits have been

Coordinated enforcement of Drugs, Drug Inspectors and underway across the state

tors, wholesalers and retailers involved in illegal sales," he

In addition, strict surveillance has also been heightened on habit-forming drugs, codeine-containing syrups and spurious drug networks as part of the broader enforcement initiative, the

CM urges faster use of ₹34,052 crore DMF funds



Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Tuesday chaired an important meeting to review the functioning and progress of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) across

During the meeting, it was revealed that ₹34.052 crore had been collected from 11 DMF districts by October this year, with around 55 per cent already utilised. The Chief Minister urged officials to expedite spending to ensure timely delivery of basic services to the public.

Additionally, it was noted that the Trust Board meeting for 10 districts will be convened once the DMF is reconstituted.

Majhi directed the departmental secretary to ensure every DMF submits an annual report along with an audit report. He also instructed that DMF funds

collected from minor minerals be utilised within the same district, prioritising essential needs such as education, health, water supply, and transportation.

Emphasising comprehensive coverage, the Chief Minister directed that all areas near mining zones receive full basic facilities in saturation mode and that measures be taken to prevent pollution in nearby settlements. The meeting also underscored the need to hold DMF Trust Board meetings to speed up projects and identify villages directly or indirectly affected by mining activities.

The Chief Minister further directed that an endowment fund be created in districts with annual DMF collections of ₹10 crore or more. This fund should be invested in government securities, scheduled bank bonds, or fixed deposits to generate long-term livelihood opportunities.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: A high-level coordination meeting of Bhubaneswar–Cuttack Commissionerate police was held Tuesday at the Police Seva Bhawan Conference Hall to review security, traffic, and administrative arrangements for the T20 International Cricket Match between India and South Africa December 9 at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack.

The meeting was chaired by Bhubaneswar–Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh, along with Addl. CP Narasingha Bhol, DCP Bhubaneswar Jagmohan Meena, DCP Headquarters Suresh Chandra Patra, DCP Traffic Tapan Kumar Mohanty, and other senior officers. Representatives from stakeholder agencies, in-

Binode Routroy's birth

anniversary celebrated

Bhuhaneswar: The state-level birth an

artist, sculptor, craftsmen and artisan

at the Dhauli College of Art campus

by the Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, the

Odia Language, Literature & Culture

sculptor Binod Maharana graced the

Dalai. Professor at Utkal University of

Renowned artist Bijav Kumar Parida

attended as honoured quests, sharing

remarkable contribution to Odisha's art

artist Panchanan Samal welcomed the

ing 25 paintings depicting Routroy's life, philosophy, and artistic legacy was

showcased. Additionally, 15 students from the college created artworks

inspired by the artist's portraits, creations, and social themes. Outstand

ing student artists were felicitated

for their works. The programme was

coordinated by faculty members Yanita

Priyadarsini, Sarat Samal, Sunil Dakua,

Department, and Dhauli College of

Services department, Airport Authority, Fire service, Capital Hospital, Hotel Mayfair, CISF, and the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA), also participated, pledging full cooperation for the safe and successful conduct of

Senior officials discussed security arrangements at Biju Patnaik International Airport for the teams' arrival and departure, as well as at their stay at Hotel Mayfair. Detailed

plans for en-route security. VIP movement, and designated 'Fan Zones' were finalised, and traffic and route-lining from the airport to the hotel and from the hotel to the stadium for practice sessions and match day were approved. Traffic advisories for spectators and the public will be issued soon. Officials reviewed challenges from previous international matches to ensure smoother management this time. For the large turnout expected, STU, OSAF, ODRAF,

Fire Service, and BDDS team will be deployed at all sensitive points. Anti-sabotage measures including metal detectors CCTV surveillance, and continuous monitoring of suspicious activity were emphasised, along with medical preparedness through static response teams ambulances, and fire tenders. Logistics support, including barricades, walkie-talkies, PA systems, and drinking water facilities, will also be provided

ASSAM & NAGALAND'S FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

Unity in diversity shared nat'l responsibility: Guv

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Gover nor Hari Babu Kambhampati Tuesday stressed that unity in diversity is not just a slogan but a shared national responsibility. He was speaking at the Foundation Day celebrations of Assam and Nagaland at New Abhishek Hall, Lok Bhavan. First Lady Jayashree Kambhampati was also present.

Extending warm wishes to the people of Assam and Na galand, Kambhampati said the occasion represents not only the rich history of these two proud states but also the values that bind the nation together unity, respect, and a shared vision. He added that India grows stronger when its diversity is honored with sincerity.

Highlighting Assam, he said it is a land of the Brahmapu tra, verdant tea gardens, rich wildlife, spiritual heritage, and vibrant festivals like Bihu, serv ing as a cultural anchor for the Northeast, Praising Nagaland,



he lauded the state's tribal heritage, the Hornbill Festival, and its strong sense of community as examples of unity in diversity, praising its people for their honesty, warmth, and discipline.

Kambhampati emphasised that India's development is a collective journey shaped by every state and every culture. He said that when the nation progresses with mutual respect and shared responsibility, challenges become easier to overcome, and collective goals become achievable.

The Governor appreciated PM Narendra Modi's initiative, Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, calling it a meaningful effort to reinforce national bonds. He also lauded Odisha's inclusive

the Northeast have made the state their second home.

During the event, a video message from Assam Gover nor Lakshman Prasad Acharya was also played. Additionally northeastern natives residing in Odisha, including Bhaskar Jvoti Sharma, Principal Sec retary, Excise Department (Assam native), and Temjenwapang AO, Special Secretary, Planning & Convergence Department (Nagaland native), shared their experiences.

The celebration also featured several cultural performances Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Governor, Roopa Roshan Sahoo, delivered the welcome

New projects to be placed on 'Gati Shakti' platform

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: A key secretary-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Manoi Ahuia at Lok Seva Bhawan Tuesday decided to mandate the inclusion of all new projects on the 'Gati Shakti' platform. The move aims to streamline planning and implementation by addressing land acquisition, approach road planning, and inter-departmental coordination at an

The high-level meeting discussed urgent development projects and key priority works outlined by the Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Progress related to infrastructure initiatives announced recently was

Officials presented that a central database for project monitoring has been created to track implementation status across departments. The Chief Secretary emphasized the need for regular updates to the database and closer monitoring of progress to ensure timely completion of infrastructure development.

Divisional Secretaries were advised to conduct regular reviews and closely supervise newly launched infrastructure projects within their respective departments to avoid delays and accelerate delivery.

The Chief Secretary also took up other major administrative issues and issued necessary directions to improve coordination and efficiency in infrastructure execution.

The Gati Shakti platform, launched in 2021, is designed to achieve integrated and coordinated planning for infrastructure projects, reduce logistics costs, and accelerate implementation through a com prehensive digital multimodal connectivity master plan.

By bringing together multiple government departments and ministries on a single interface, Gati Shakti enables real-time data sharing, elimi nates duplication of efforts, and strengthens inter-departmental coordination.

The initiative is expected to significantly improve project execution efficiency and contribute to boosting overall economic growth.

■ INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Odisha hosts seminar on disability empowerment



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: On the eve of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities organised a state-level seminar Tuesday at the SOA University conference hall. RS Gopalan, Departmental Commissioner and Principal Secretary, attended as the chief guest. Odisha is marking the occasion with a three-day fes-

tival at SOA University In his address, Gopalan stat-

ed that to bring meaningful transformation in the lives of persons with disabilities, collective responsibility is essential. Along with effective implementation of plans and forward-looking schemes, thinking is also necessary.

'The development of persons with disabilities contributes directly to the progress of the state and the nation. Therefore, it is important to ensure accountability and make service delivery more inclusive," he said.

He advised that more beneficiaries should be included in

the various welfare schemes implemented by the government for persons with disabilities, as this will help achieve

the intended goals.

He also expressed hope that discussions with representatives from Goa regarding the initiatives taken in their state and the positive outcomes achieved would help Odisha in framing better strategies for the development of persons with disabilities.

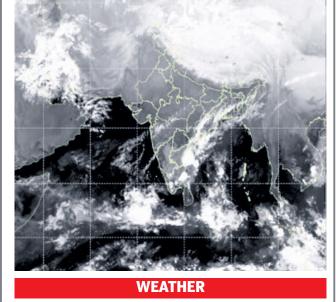
On the occasion, prominent speakers included Shruti Mohapatra, founder of Swabhiman; Prof PK Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA University; Justice Durgaprasanna Choudhury, Chairman of Lingaraj Temple Administration; Sushri Parul Patawari, Departmental Director; and G Subramanyam from Sightsavers India.

In the seminar's open session, Taha Hajik, Secretary to the Disability Commissioner of Goa; Advocate Sushri Kanchana Pamnani of the Mumbai High Court: Sushri Pallavi Kadam, Executive of NAB India, Mumbai; Vijayini Mishra, Assistant Professor at Maitree College, Delhi University; Prof Dayal Singh Panwar, National President of Saksham; Mahan thesh GK, Managing Trustee and Founder of Samarthanam Trust, Bengaluru; and Durjyadhan Nahak, Professor at Delhi University, shared their in-

Deputy Secretary Sannyasi Behera welcomed the guests. On the occasion, outstanding sportspersons who excelled at the state and national levels were felicitated. This was followed by a cultural programme presented by students with disabilities. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Financial Advisor Jayashree Tripathi.

VARIATION **VARIATION** DOLLAR 90.10 \$\times 0.43 | SENSEX 85138.27 \$\div 503.63 GOLD ₹126.558 ♥ ₹757 EURO **104.65** • 0.21 NIFTY **26032.20** • 143.55 SILVER ₹174,616 **†** ₹3,584

MARKET WATCH



	WEATHER		
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	28.2°	26.8°	Partly
Min Temp	20.0°	17.6°	Cloudy sky
Humidity	73%	84%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Student's death triggers arson, violence in Jajpur

Dharmashala/Chadheidhara. Dec 2: Tension flared in Jajpur district Tuesday morning after a 17-year-old college student was run over and killed by a black stone-laden Hyva truck near Kurikana–Dankari under the Jenapur police limits.

The victim, Sanjib Nayak, 17, son of Shatrughna Nayak of Ramperu village, was on his way to college around 9am when he reportedly lost balance on a speed hump and fell onto the road. A stone-laden Hyva truck (OD 04 S 0031) approaching from behind ran over him, killing him on the spot. His mother had earlier died in a separate road accident, locals said.

The incident triggered unrest as irate residents blocked the road with the body and set the truck involved in the crash on fire. They also torched three other trucks belonging to the same company that were following behind. The mob later stormed the company's crusher unit at Rahadpur and vandalised equipment and vehicles.

Journalists who arrived at the scene to take photographs

were allegedly assaulted by miscreants who snatched mobile phones, damaged equipment and abused them, witnesses said.

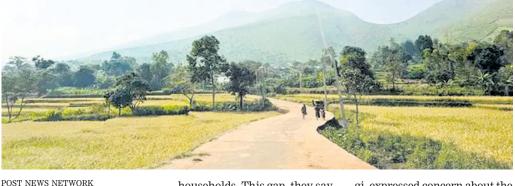
Police said the situation stabilised only after officers assured compensation for the student's family. The body was sent for post-mortem, and an investigation is under way.

According to police, the mob-already angered over alleged extortion activities linked to the company—blocked the road for hours, assaulted several people, shoved women and smashed more than four mobile Jajpur SDPO Laxmidhar

Swain, Jenapur IIC Nirupama Jena, SI Ranjan Behera and two platoons of police personnel were deployed to restore law Sanjib was a first-year arts

student at Jagannath Jew College in Chadheidhara. The college cancelled its annual sports meet and held a condolence meeting, principal Sukanta Kumar Rout said.

Jenapur police registered case (425/25) and initiated further inquiry



Koraput, Dec 2: Tension continues to simmer in the disputed Kotia region as villagers of Matalamba have raised serious allegations against the Odisha government, claiming, while the infrastructure projects such as road construction are being highlighted by the government, the actual livelihood concerns of the people remain largely unaddressed. Villagers expressed their frustration stating that this negligence is enabling Andhra Pradesh to strengthen its presence in the area.

The Odisha government has repeatedly claimed that development work is underway in Kotia Panchayat. However, villagers argue that these claims do not reflect ground realities. They pointed out that despite years of promises, essential livelihood needs like sustainable employment, access to welfare schemes, and basic services have not reached many

households. This gap, they say, is pushing residents to depend on Andhra Pradesh, which is aggressively implementing various schemes and enrolling Kotia residents in its programs.

Villagers allege that Andhra functionaries frequently visit remote villages, offering benefits and ensuring community engagement steps that the Odisha administration has failed to match. This, they believe, is gradually influencing local residents and strengthening Andhra's administrative hold.

Village resident Rukuni Jani, expressing resentment over the situation, said, "Roads alone will not feed our families. The Odisha government talks about development, but we still struggle for regular work, healthcare support, and welfare schemes. Meanwhile, Andhra officials come to our doorstep and include us in their programs. How long can the government

ignore our problems?" Another villager, Kora Pan-

gi, expressed concern about the weakening connection between the people and the Koraput ad ministration, "For years, we have been requesting livelihood support farming assistance, job schemes, and proper ration distribution. But our voices are not heard. Andhra is taking advantage of this neglect. If Odisha does not act now, people will naturally lean toward whoever supports them."

Local residents urged the Odisha government to take immediate, concrete steps to address these gaps, warning that delayed action may further complicate the already sensitive inter-state issue. They demanded regular monitoring. direct communication from district officials, and quick implementation of livelihood programs to restore trust among the people of Kotia.

As the situation unfolds, villagers await a strong and urgent response from the ad-

Odisha neglect fuels Andhra 35 swords, 5 firearms influence to grow in Kotia seized in Rourkela

Rourkela, Dec 2: Brahmanitarang police here busted an illegal arms racket late Monday night as it arrested a trafficker and seized five firearms and 35 swords from his possession.

The accused, identified as Sunil Majhi, 41, alias Rebe of Badamaren Turitola area, was waiting to deliver the weapons to a customer when the police team raided the place and nabbed him.

Two country-made pistols, one country-made revolver, two country-made single-shot pistols, 35 swords and three live cartridges were seized from his possession.

A case (497/25) has been registered in this connection. This was stated here by Rourkela SP Nitesh Wadhwani at a presser held at the district police headquarters Tuesday afternoon.

According to the SP, police received a tip-off around 9 pm December 1 about transaction of illegal arms near Shankha bridge under Brahmanitarang police station. Acting on the tip-off, a special police team comprising inspector Uday Sahu, sub-inspector SK Swain and constables AK Jena and P Pradhan rushed to the spot.

11 arrested for illegal fishing

Kendrapara: Eleven people were for fishing illegally in turtle habitation zones in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Odisha's Kendrapara district, forest officers said. The fishermen, who hail from Kendrapara district, were sent to judicial custody after their arrest Monday



tried to flee but was chased down and nabbed. Officers recovered a country-made pistol and three live cartridges from his waistband.

During interrogation, Majhi allegedly admitted that he procured the weapons and ammunitions from Jharkhand and supplied them to clients across Rourkela and Sundargarh.

Police later raided his rented house at Chutiatola in Kuanrmunda, where they seized an other country-made pistol, two single-shot guns, a wooden-grip revolver and 35 swords. The seizure was made in the presence of witnesses.

Police said Majhi has at least 28 pending cases against him in connection with various offenses

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

by Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)

Chakradharpur, S.E.Railway for and or

behalf of the President of India for the

following works. Manual offers are no

allowed against these tenders, and any

such manual offer received shall be gnored. SI. No. and E-Tender Notice No & Date; Name of work; Tender Value EMD: (1) 70-EL-WT-2025-26, Dtd

01.12.2025; Repair and various high mas

owers at different yards under the jurisdic

ion of Sr. Section Electrical Enginee

(G)/Dangoaposi; ₹ 56,43,057.55

1,12,900/-. (2) 74-EL-WT-2025-26, Dtd

01.12.2025; Provision of one Elevator a

New DRM Office building at Chakradharpu

& Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for 18 years; ₹ 39,00,466,21

78,000/-. (3) 75-EL-WT-2025-26, Dtd 01.12.2025; Air conditioning of Divisiona Control & HQ offices at DRM complex

Chakradharpur; ₹ 31,50,523.94

63,000/-. (4) 77-EL-WT-2025-26, Dtd

01.12.2025; Electrical (G) works in

onnection with Controlling of MBR takeo

point from Karampadu station panel with signalling; ₹ 7,70,656.18; ₹ 15,400/-

(5) 78-EL-WT-2025-26, Dtd. 01.12.2025

Electrical Engineer (G)/Bondamunda

lurisdiction for 02 years; ₹ 44,02,995.35

88,100/-. Tender Document Cost (in

Rs.): Nil for each. Date of Closing

Opening: 31.12.2025 for each. The tender

gov.in The tenderer/bidders must have

Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & musi

be registered under IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF ADVERTISEMENT atalogue No. : NFR-KUR-MOB-2

(1) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-142429-2 25-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face)

Description : ADVSERTISEMEN

RIGHTS THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING ON EXTERIOR SURFACE (FULL FACE OF AREA 989.76 SQ.MTR OF TRAIN NO 68411 (BHUBANESWAR (BBS)

Description : ADVSERTISEMENT RIGHTS

THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING ON EXTERIOR SURFACE (FULL FACE) OF

AREA 742.32 SQ.MTR OF TRAIN NO

68433/68434 (CUTTACK (CTC)-GUNUPUF

(3) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-155973-2-25-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face)

Description: ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS

IN TRAIN NO 68421/68422 ANGUL (ANGL)

PURI (PURI)-ANGUL (ANGL) MEMU (TRAIN EXTERIOR- FULL FACE).

4) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-298969-1

25-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face)

Description: ADVERTISEMENT THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING IN FULL EXTERIOR

SURFACE OF TRAIN NO 68425 (KHURDA ROAD (KUR)-KENDUJHARGARH (KDJR

(5) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-168058-1 25-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face)

Description: ADVERTISEMENT THROUGH

VINYL WRAPPING IN FULL EXTERIOR

SURFACE OF TRAIN NO 68415 (CUTTACE

(CTC)-PURI (PURI)) MEMU OF AREA

(6) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-198650-1

25-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face)

Description: ADVERRTISEMENT

THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING IN FULL EXTERIOR SURFACE OF TRAIN NO

88445/68446 (CUTTACK (CTC)-PALASA

PSA)-CUTTACK (CTC)) MEMU OF AREA

MEMU OF AREA 494.88 SQ.MTR.

989.76 SQ MTR.

742.32 SQ.MTR.

(GNPR)-CUTTACK (CTC)) MÉMU.

BRAHMAPUR (BAM)) MEMU. (2) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-298995-1 25-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face)

Bike mishap leaves rider dead, pillion

POST NEWS NETWORK

seriously injured

Chhatrapur, Dec 2: A man was killed in a road accident near Science College Square at Chhatrapur in Ganjam early morning Tuesday. His pillion rider was critically injured.

The deceased rider has been identified as Dharmendra Kar and the injured pillion Sandeep Das.

As per reports, they were enroute their home at Simulia in Balasore from Bengaluru on a bike when Dharmendra reportedly lost control of his motorcycle, skidded and fell hitting the divider. Seeing them lying critically injured, some passersby called an ambulance and rushed both of them to Chhatrapur sub-divisional hospital.

Dharmendra was nounced dead on arrival by the doctor at the hospital while Sandeep is undergoing medical treatment. Police reached the spot to launch an investigation in the matter.

Pradeep Majhi booked for threatening DWO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Dec 2: An FIR has been registered against former Nabarangpur MP and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Pradeep Majhi for allegedly threatening the District Welfare Officer (DWO), Palaka Rabindra at the District Collectorate.

As per reports, a Class VII student from Kukudi Semala Government Updraded Primary School hostel had sustained severe burn injuries in a pressure cooker blast. However, as per Majhi's allegations, the injured student was not taken to any hospital for treatment for nine straight days.

Later, the MP brought the injured boy to the Collectorate, alleging negligence by school authorities and the DWO.

According to the written complaint by the DWO, Majhi entered the Collector's office with the injured student, his sup porters and media personnel and allegedly issued verbal threats, and made purported remarks referring the officer's caste. The DWO stated that the behaviour caused "mental harassment" and harmed his professional dignity.

Following the complaint, the police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

table occurrence (o) or occurrence or an occurrence or an occurrence or	
SAHID NAGAR BRANCH / Liabilities due Name & Address of Borrowers as per Notice	Date Notic Po
l) (For Cash Credit) Borrower: M/s. Maa Tareeni Auto Deals, ₹ 63,83,337.25 At: Plot No.: 1799/9621, Kaibalya Nagar, Mancheswar, as on 17.09.2025	18
Bhubaneswar, Prop.: Mr. Guru Prasad Mallick , S/o.: Mr. Maguni + interest & Charan Mallick, At: Plot No.: BE/20, Banker's Enclave, Prachi Vihar, expenses thereon	I
Palasuni, PO.: GGP Colony, P.S.: Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-Ac.0.050 Dec, sit Pandara under Ne Mallick, S/o.: Mr. Maguni Charan Mallick, 2) Mrs. Bishnupriya Dist.: Khurda, Stat Mallick, W/o.: Mr. Guru Prasad Mallick, Both are At: Plot No.: BE/ORD Royleys Explaints (March. Thakura No. 1904).	uated w Cap us: Sti d Mal l

Residential Property situated over Plot No.: 3801/11816, Khata No.: 1330/9422, admeasuring Area:

at Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahar Unit No.: 38 pital Thana No.: 28, Tahasil/SRO: Bhubaneswar titiban, Kissam: Gharabari, standing in the name Ilick, S/o.: Mr. Maguni Charan Mallick, Bounded Land, South: Road and House No.: BE-84, East House No.: BE-85, West: House No.: BE-84 & Thakurani Land

Authorised Officer Bank of India

Bank of India BOI

P.S.: Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-751010

Place: Bhubaneswar

Date: 03.12.2025

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Sambalpur Zone, Near Sarlakani Chowk PO.: Dhanakauda, Dist.: Sambalpur - 768006 (Odisha) SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the Symbolic/Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of India, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BÁSIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on 24.12.2025, for recovery of the below mentioned amount due to the Bank of India ,respective branch ,from the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price, EMD amount and Property details are as mentioned here under:

Date & Time of E-Auction: 24.12.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 5 (Five) minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded

Last date for submission of EMD & Documents: 24.12.2025 upto 4.30 P.M. Date & Time of Inspection of Property: 24.12.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.

For inspection please contact the Respective Branch Head or Recovery Department, Zonal Office, Sambalpur (Mrs. Lilima Panda, Mob.: 8144002101, Mr. Sujit Kumar Badhai Mob.: 7004717984)

BRANCH / Name & Address of the **Description of the Properties** Borrower/Guarantor / Total Dues ROURKELA BRANCH, ROURKELA /

Branch Head: Sudam Pattanaik - 8917440362 (M) Borrower: Mrs. Rinku Sahu, Resident of At/PO: Kuarmunda, PS: Birmitrapur, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha-769004 / Total Dues: Rs.14,62,995.93 as on 12.05.2025 Plus Further Interest, Costs and Incidental

MAIN ROAD BRANCH, ROURKELA /

Branch Head: Gagan Raj Thapa - 9178221168 (M) Borrower: Mr. Amit Kumar Agrawal / Guarantor: Mrs. Asha Agrawal, Both are the resident of At: Janta Niwas Lane, Plant Site, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh, PIN-769001 Total Dues: Rs.63,57,000/- as on 02.05.2025 Plus Further Interest, Costs and Incidental Expenses.

MAIN ROAD BRANCH, ROURKELA /

Branch Head: Gagan Raj Thapa - 9178221168 (M) Borrower: Mrs. Sana Arju / Co-Borrower: Mr. MD Irfan | Apartment of "AL-SATTAR PALACE" with super-built Ekhlague, Both are Resident of At: Flat No.: 1-B, 1st Floor, Al-Sattar Palace, Behind Old Razak Talkies, Main Road, having an area of undivided Share Ac0.004 dec ou Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh-769001 / Total Dues: of total area of Ac.0.05dec in Khata No. 492/401 in Rs.30,04,000/- as on 17.01.2025 plus further interest, Mouza RTU 35 Rourkela, P.S.: Plant site, Tahasil costs and incidental expenses thereon.

Bidding" process through the website: https://baanknet.com.

Place: Sambalpur

Date: 02.12.2025

Registrar office Rourkela, Dist: Sundargarh, Odisha standing in the name of Mrs. Sana Arju.

on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of

property/ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement

does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold

with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not

be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and

satisfy themselves about the property before submission of the bid.Particulars specified in the schedule above have been stated to the

best of information of the Authorised Officer / Bank. Authorised Officer and / or Bank will not be answerable for any error, mis-statement

or omission in this public notice. The auction will be online E-Auction Sale/Bidding and shall be done only through "Online Electronic

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofindia.co.in/tenders

All the part & parcel of land & building situated ove Plot No.: 1239/5047, Khata No.: 6/102, Mouza Kuarmunda, PS: Biramitrapur, Dist.: Sundargarh Odisha, Area: Ac. 0.05 Dec, Kissam: Gharbari recorded in the name of Mrs. Rinku Sahu, Bounded by North Road to Kuarmunda Panchayat, South: Mr. Umesl Chandra Mistry, East: Road, West: Mr. Amulya Jena

All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated a Mouza: Raiboga, Tahasil/SRO: Birmitrapur, Dist. Sundargarh, Odisha Bearing Khata No.: 341/451 Plot No.: 1984, Area: Ac. 0.120 Dec., Kissam Gharabari recorded in the name of Mrs. Asha Agrawal (Guarantor), Bounded by North: Road South: Plot No.: 1983/P (House of Hariram

Agarwal), East: Plot No.: 1985 (Land of Dhulichand Marwari) West: Road

All that part & parcel of the property consisting o Flat Bearing No. '1-B' in first floor of the residentia up area 862 sqft. Constructed on plot No.- 511/2598

Rourkela(Panposh), within the registration Sub

₹45,50,000/-₹4,55,000/-Symbolic

Authorised Officer

Bank of India

eserve Price

EMD / Type of

Possesion/Prop. ID

₹29,35,800/-

₹2,93,580/-

Symbolic

BKID0000141

₹30,60,000/-

₹3,06,000/-

Symbolic

BKID0000142

Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee (for al BKID0000143 sl. nos.), Trips/Days : 1096 (for all sl. nos.) Mininum Increment : 0.2% (for all sl. nos.) ot Status: New in Draft Catalogu Terms and conditions of E-Auction: To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance

Lot start date & time: 12.12.2025 a

Lot end date: 12.12.2025 (for all sl. nos End time: At 1130 hrs. (for sl. no. 1), 1140 hrs. (for sl. no. 2), 1150 hrs. (for sl. no. 3) 1200 hrs. (for sl. no. 4), 1210 hrs. (for sl. io. 5) and 1220 hrs. (for sl. no. 6).

Note: Prospective bidders are advise o visit the www.ireps.gov.in and check the upcoming e-Auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager PR-860/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

Tunki Waterfall languishes in neglect despite growing footfall



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Dec 2: Mayurbhanj district, known for its natural beauty, is home to several scenic locations that remain largely ignored by the Tourism Department. One such spot is Tunki Waterfall in Khunta block, which continues to attract visitors despite lacking formal recognition as a tourist destination.

Situated at the foothills of Similipal, the waterfall and surrounding mountain range offer picturesque views that draw tourists from within and outside the district. The site sees heavy footfall from November to February, when visitors enjoy picnics and the pleasant forest ambience. Yet, Tunki Waterfall has not received official tourism tag so far.

Located about 10 kilometres from Bholagadia panchayat, the waterfall flows perennially. Water cascades nearly 40 feet from the hilltop into a 10-foot-deep natural pool below, creating a continuous rumbling sound as it flows downstream. Tourists often bathe in this pool and hike to the hilltop to visit a Shiva linga. Nature enthusiasts say the surrounding landscape, with its dense greenery, is a major attraction.

Various small caves along the trail also house idols of deities, adding a spiritual dimension to the site. During Shivaratri, special puja is held at Tunki Mahadev, drawing devotees from several regions who observe fasts and offer prayers by lighting diyas. Despite its popularity, the location

suffers from absence of basic facilities. There are no proper roads, toilets or lighting arrangements for visitors. As a result, tourists must return before dusk due to the presence of wildlife, including elephants, tigers, bears and reptiles. During the picnic season, hundreds

of visitors come to enjoy the natural beauty and have feasts, making the area vibrant and lively. Local communities, mostly tribal families living at the foot of the hill, depend on agriculture, supported year-round by the continuous flow of water from the falls. In the Rabi season, vegetable cultivation forms a major part of their income.

With tourist numbers increasing every year, residents and visitors have called on the administration and the Odisha government to prioritise development of the area. They say Tunki Waterfall has the potential to become a significant tourist destination, attracting travellers from across the state. country and abroad if given proper attention and infrastructure support.

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Sahid Nagar Branch under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section

Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act,in respect of time av SAHID NAGAR BRANCH Name & Address of Borrowers (For Cash Credit) Borrower: M/s. Maa Tareeni Auto Deals,	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the
Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time av	anable to redeem	the secured as	sets.
general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the proper under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said re cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the paranch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expension	erty described here rules. The Borrowe property will be subj ses thereon. The I	in below in exerc rs in particular ar ect to the charge Borrower's atter	ise of powers conferred on him/ nd the public in general are here of the Bank of India, Sahid Nag ntion is invited to provisions
eceipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay			
oan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the N			





Always do what you know to be the best even if it is the most difficult thing to do.



THE MOTHER

Trump-Maduro Tensions

ensions between the US and Venezuela have reached a seemingly critical level over what the US administration ostensibly calls its war against narco-terrorism. Earlier, US President Donald Trump squarely blamed Venezuela for smuggling into the country fentanyl – synthetic opioid – even though Venezuela does not even produce it. The US has already expanded its military presence in the Caribbean Sea and is reportedly planning a regime change in Venezuela. Since September, it has launched over 20 strikes on boats which, it alleges, are smuggling narcotics. At least 80 people have been killed in this offensive. However, the US public and a few Republicans do not endorse such blatant aggression on false pretexts.

A poll conducted between 19 and 21 November showed that 70 per cent of respondents opposed US military action in Venezuela, while 56 per cent believe any military action would have no effect on the amount of drugs entering the US.

The new US offensive has wide global implications, as some countries have now suspended—or curtailed—part of their intelligence sharing with the US over the boat strikes. Adding to the international condemnation, Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez recently denounced US military presence in the region, calling it an "exaggerated and aggressive" threat. He went on to "appeal" to the people of the US to stop the "madness."

Colombia has taken a similar stance against the boat strikes and growing US naval presence in the Caribbean. Colombian President Gustavo Petro previously accused US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Trump of being "wrong" about the people targeted on the boats. Petro has also argued that the fight against drugs must be subordinated to the human rights of the Caribbean people.

It is no secret that the US has been overseeing a massive military build-up in the region with about 15,000 US troops currently stationed in that area under the guise of fighting "narco-terrorism." Since early September, Trump has also presided over wanton extrajudicial executions in the Caribbean Sea, repeatedly ordering the bombing of what he claims are drug-trafficking boats. Apart from violating both international and US law, the strikes have only succeeded in terrorising local fishermen.

Against this backdrop Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro brandished a sword, believed to have been used by late military officer Simon Bolivar, who played a key role in securing Venezuela's independence, at a rally in the country's capital - Caracas - recently to ramp up support for his counter-offensive against the US. He expressed his resolve to defend "every inch of this blessed land from imperialist threat or aggression no matter where it comes from." It is a do or die situation for him as the US does not recognise his rule.

The US Department of State officially designated the Cartel de los Soles, "headed by Maduro and other high-ranking individuals of the illegitimate Maduro regime," as a "Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)." A statement authored by Rubio—a key figure in the US-Venezuela tensions-said "neither Maduro nor his cronies represent Venezuela's legitimate government." The Trump administration, much like the Biden administration, does not recognise Maduro as the legitimate leader of Venezuela. Maduro became President of Venezuela following Hugo Chavez's death in 2013. He was sworn in for a third term in January, despite widespread concern over the legitimacy of the country's election results.

An avowed anti war politician, Trump now is weighing the possibility of taking up arms against the Maduro regime, but prior to that he wants to give hints of a dialogue with Maduro. Asked by reporters if he plans on speaking with Maduro, he nodded saying he would "do things the easy way," if lives can be saved. But, if it does not yield results, "we have to do it the hard way."

The US military action in the Caribbean Sea with the ulterior aim of effecting a regime change in Venezuela is being justified by Trump and his administration as an inevitable step to curb the flow of drugs into the US. But the President's approach has drawn plenty of criticism and concern, even from within his own party, since the US under Trump is turning into a rogue state.

The last bit that we heard on this issue is Trump on his Truth Social platform where, on 29 Nov 2025 at 7:43 AM, he wrote: To all Airlines, Pilots, Drug Dealers, and Human Traffickers. Please consider THE AIRSPACE ABOVE AND SURROUNDING VENEZUELA TO BE CLOSED IN ITS ENTIRETY. Thank you for your attention to this matter! PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

This above message has confused Caracas as much as it has caught the whole world at a wrong time. No one is clear about Trump's intent or the meaning of this message.

WISDOM CORNER

You do not need to leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. Do not even listen, simply wait, be quiet still and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked, it has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet.

▲▲ The highest and most beautiful things in life are not to be heard about, nor read about, nor seen but, if one will, are to

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

Acceptance looks like a passive state, but in reality it brings something entirely new into this world. That peace, a subtle energy vibration, is consciousness.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- state to be part of the United State. 3 U.S. presidents call it their home
- settings and cities today, the neon light was invented by French inventor and engineer, Georges Claude. They were first displayed at the Paris Motor Show
- 1927: First Laurel & Hardy movie released. Putting Pants on Philip, a short silent film starring the comedy duo marked the beginning of a
- 1979: Ayatollah Khomeini takes office. The Iranian religious leader
- **1984:** Bhopal Gas disaster. A gas leak from a Union Carbide India Limited pesticide plant in the city of Bhopal, India killed over 2000

FOCUS CORRUPTION

AMERICAN KLEPTOCRACY

orruption may simply be a way of life for US President Donald Trump, but it is the defining issue of his presidencv. From doling out pardons and policies in exchange for cash donations or favors to encouraging foreign governments and non-state actors to invest in his family's crypto product, Trump's corruption schemes have reached heights of novelty and scale unseen in American history. The significance of this corruption cannot be appreciated without recognizing the role it plays in Trump's effort to dismantle "the system." That mission is being pursued through methods reminiscent not only of Russian President Vladimir Putin's kleptocratic Kremlin, but also of Soviet-era communist power structures. Trump reigns through capricious, personalized power and indifference to the law. Blatant nepotism, petty graft, and payto-play lobbying and influence

schemes are all on the table. Trump's second administration makes what we saw under his first seem mild. The president and his appointees are restructuring the government to make corruption easy, lucrative, and unpunishable, and to destroy impartial, accountable government. Self-enrichment and anti-system goals go hand in hand. Trump's meme coin is a case in point, since it allows anyone in the world to pay him under the table in exchange for personal favors. The Trump family has already generated as much as \$1 billion from their crypto ventures, exhibiting the kind of rapaciousness that we saw from the oligarch-kleptocrats who "grabitized" (prikhvatizatsiya) Russian state resources after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This is no accident. Trump embodies the fusion, and sometimes committed marriage, of two previously distinct worlds: the West and the former Soviet bloc. The systemic corruption that brought us this president has been percolating globally for decades, through the meshing of these worlds. The deregulatory and outsourcing agenda that swept the West in the 1980s, starting under President Ronald Reagan and British PM Marga-



By using his office as a cash cow, Trump has made no secret of his own interests. And he can get away with it through a tried-and-tested Soviet practice: appointing incompetent and inexperienced subordinates who owe their master everything

ret Thatcher, found vast new theaters in former Soviet and Eastern bloc states in the 1990s.

American-style privatization got ahead of itself in Russia, with the sell-off of state-owned assets occurring in the absence of the necessary legal and regulatory infrastructure. Thus, public assets that once belonged to everyone ended up in the hands of a few men. This new class of oligarchs then created a new class of Westerners: high-octane, high-income professional "enablers" whose job was to offshore, launder, and hide the unprecedented avalanche of dirty money flooding into the world's financial system from ex-communist countries - and to polish oligarchs' images.

These ill-gotten gains stashed in offshore locations such as the UK, Switzerland, Austria, Malta, Cyprus, and the US - underpinned and continue to underpin Kremlin influence operations in the West. Kremlin operatives have long helped gut the Republican Party from within. Right-wing media channels have also been infiltration targets. While the West used to be the source of ideas and values that could gain a foothold elsewhere, one need only listen to American influencers to see that the flow has reversed.

Consider how the "Department of Government Efficiency", set up by Trump as part of his effort to dismantle the system, emulated communist practice. Under the Soviet system, it was common for party organizations wielding informal power to override official government agencies and functions. Despite having been neither confirmed nor vetted by Congress, Elon Musk was allowed to pursue an unprecedented purge of the federal government. The illegality of his conduct hardly mattered; as under communism, the party leader is the only source of control. Of course, this model of informal, extra-legal power - through direct reporting to the leader - does have a lesser American precedent in the 1980s Iran-Contra scandal. In that case, the Reagan White House circumvented the federal government and Congress when it authorized a handful of trusted operatives to sell arms to Iran to fund the Contra rebels in Nicaragua – funding that had been

expressly outlawed by Congress. But there is an essential difference between the Iran-Contra scheme and DOGE. When the former was exposed, Congress and both political parties denounced it, and at least some of those responsible were held to account. Today, neither the Republican-led Congress nor Supreme Court tried to stop DOGE. Under such a model, conflict-of-interest rules seem quaint.

By using his office as a cash cow, Trump has made no secret of his own interests. And he can get away with it through a

appointing incompetent and inexperienced subordinates who owe their master everything. His cabinet's near-farcical amateurishness makes its members political putty. With an obedient cadre that is fully implicated in his corrupt and unlawful behavior, Trump has been systematically dismantling the government agencies that would otherwise be monitoring corruption and foreign influence operations and enforcing rules to curb them.

That is why Attorney General Pam Bondi has disbanded the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative and the Task Force KleptoCapture, created in 2022 to enforce Western sanctions against Russia and Putin-allied oligarchs; redirected prosecutions under the Foreign Corruption Practices Act and the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act; dissolved the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force; curtailed enforcement of the Foreign Agent Registration Act: and dismantled the cryptocurrency enforcement unit.

The Trump family's focus on crypto is telling; it is a striking case where the missions of multiplying personal wealth and destroying the system converge. The technology's practical uses seem to lie almost entirely in circumventing anti-money laundering and anti-corruption rules. Transactions are anonymized. and even regulators are often in the dark about who is behind many crypto exchanges, where they are located, and who their customers are. It is anyone's guess who is driving the massive surges in \$TRUMP coin's valuations.

Trump's corruption may help bring down the system, especially given the growing risks that crypto poses to financial stability. And that is the point. In his first term, Trump helped destabilize the US and the international system; today, he actively seeks to destroy democratic institutions and the rules-based world order. Soviet leaders would have marveled at his methods.

The writer is a social anthropologist at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Janine R. Wedel

THE TRUMP

FAMILY'S FOCUS

ON CRYPTO IS

TELLING; IT IS A

STRIKING CASE

WHERE THE

MISSIONS OF

MULTIPLYING

WEALTH AND

DESTROYING

THE SYSTEM

CONVERGE

PERSONAL

Adulthood should begin much later than 18



Melvin Durai

ASIDE FROM ADULTHOOD BEGINNING AT AGE 32, IT'S ALSO REMARKABLE TO ME THAT IT LASTS UNTIL AGE 66

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

often wondered whether the way we treat people at different ages makes any sense scientifically. In many countries, vou become an adult at age 18. That's when you can vote, sign your name to a legally binding contract, and declare your independence from your parents (while continuing to live in their home).

If you commit a serious crime at age 18, you will be put on trial as an adult, facing a lengthy prison sentence. Commit the same crime at age 17 and you may be treated as a juvenile and given a lighter punishment, a reward from the justice system for not waiting a year to misbehave.

Is there really a big difference between a 17-year-old and an 18-year-old? I don't think so. Of course, you have to draw the line between adolescence and adulthood somewhere. But why not make it 32? After all, 32 is the age when many people get serious about finding a marriage partner and potentially moving out of their parents' homes.

You may find it ridiculous, but I have science on my side. A new study led by University of Cambridge's MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit and published in the journal Communications found that there are four pivotal turning points in how the human brain develops and reconfigures over a lifetime.

Neuroscientists at Cambridge compared the brains of 3,802 people from birth to age 90 to identify these turning points. which result in five major eras (or periods) of brain structure during a person's lifetime.

We begin life with a childhood brain, which lasts only until age 9 (the first turning point). Our brain then transitions into the adolescent phase, which lasts all the way until the age of 32 (the second turning point). That's when the adult phase begins. This is the longest era for us, continuing

for more than three decades. At age 66 (the third turning point), the "early aging" phase of the brain begins. The fourth turning point occurs around age 83, when our brain shifts to the "late aging" phase.

"These eras provide important context for what our brains might be best at, or more vulnerable to, at different stages of our lives," said Dr. Alexa Mousley, a Gates Cambridge Scholar who led the research. "It could help us understand why some brains develop differently at key points in life, whether it be learning difficulties in childhood, or dementia in our later years.

Among the four turning points, the strongest occurs around age 32, when the brain shifts from adolescence to adulthood, according to the scientists.

"Around the age of 32, we see the most directional changes in wiring and the largest overall shift in trajectory, compared to all the other turning points," Mousley said.

It may come as no surprise to you, but I have very little knowledge about neuroscience. I didn't even know that we have wires in our brains. But apparently we do -- and these wires change direction at age 32. It makes sense then, considering the scientific evidence, to change the drinking age, voting age and even marriage age to 32. I certainly don't want any of my kids to get married before their brains are developed enough to know better than to get married.

Aside from adulthood beginning at age 32, it's also remarkable to me that it lasts until age 66. Retiring earlier than that should not be a requirement, in my view. Only when the "early aging" phase begins should anyone be compelled to retire. Some people may choose to retire sooner, but others may keep working into their 70s and 80s. As a neuroscientist might say, "Their brains are just wired differently.'

1818: Illinois joins the Union. The midwestern state became the 21st

1910: First public demonstration of neon lights. Seen in most urban

was a leader of the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

people and affected thousands of others. It is said to be the world's worst industrial disaster.

Overburdened officers

Sir, The persistent deaths of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) across India due to their demanding and stressful job in connection with the ongoing special intensive review (SIR) 2025 electoral rolls raise serious and contentious concerns, leading to significant political controversy and public outcry. Such unfortunate deaths call for intervention from bodies like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). SIR requires massive mobilisation of field staff, generating substantial administrative pressure — especially in regions with large populations and high migration. SIR is essential for preventing voter fraud and ensuring democratic credibility. However, the tragic deaths of BLOs force a reconsideration of whether electoral integrity should come at the cost of overburdened officers as many of whom lack training, digital skills, and logistical support. BLO deaths during the SIR exercise are a stark reminder that electoral preparedness must prioritise not only procedural accuracy, but equally the well-being of the frontline staff who work on the field, doing door-to-door verification of voters

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Inclusive health financing

Sir, Ensuring fair and affordable health care for all people requires understanding the unique needs of persons with disabilities. Around 1.3 billion people worldwide live with disabilities, yet many still struggle to access essential treatments, assistive devices, and basic medical services. When health financing systems do not consider accessibility and affordability, families face high out-ofpocket expenses and can easily fall into financial hardship or social exclusion. This year, as the world observes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, the WHO is highlighting the importance of inclusive health financing. By designing systems that include disability-related needs, budgeting for accessible services, and using proper data to guide decisions, countries can build stronger and fairer health systems. When persons with disabilities are included in planning and policy discussions, health care becomes more equal. more effective, and more supportive for everyone.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD



TWO STATES





Struggles emerge over toxic ash disposal

The incineration of entire 358 tonnes of matter -- 337 tonnes of toxic waste, 19 tonnes of contaminated soil and 2.2 tonnes of packaging material -- from the defunct Union Carbide factory had concluded in the beginning of July this year, over six months after the consignment was brought to the unit from Bhopal

Indore, Dec 2: Nearly five months after the toxic waste, soil and packaging material linked to the Bhopal gas tragedy was incinerated at a plant in Pithampur in Madhya Pradesh, around 900 tonnes of ash generated in the process is still lying without disposal.

The incineration of entire 358 tonnes of matter -- 337 tonnes of toxic waste, 19 tonnes of contaminated soil and 2.2 tonnes of packaging material -- from the defunct Union Carbide factory had concluded in the beginning of July this year, over six months after the consignment was brought to the unit from

The waste was burned in an incinerator using a scientific process, mixing lime and other materials, producing approximately 900 tonnes of ash, offi-

They said the state government had planned to bury the generated ash in a landfill cell under construction on the premises of the Pithampur plant, located near Tarpura, a village with a population of about 20,000, in Dhar district.

However, nearly two months back, the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed the state government to find an alternative site to dispose of the ash saying its disposal near human habitation is "unacceptable"

According to officials, the ash is currently safely stored in the plant's leak-proof stor-

At least 5,479 people were killed and thousands were maimed after the highly toxic methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide's pesticide factory in Bhopal on the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, making it one of the biggest industrial disasters in

The Jabalpur bench of the high court October 8 this year rejected a proposal to bury the ash of the toxic waste in a landfill cell being constructed on the Pithampur plant's premises, stating that the facility was too close to human habitation.

"The present containment site for the toxic ash in proximity to human habitation is unacceptable to this court,' the HC said.

In its order, the court referred to an interim application filed by an intervener, which stated that tests had found mercury levels in the toxic ash to be above the permissible limit.

The application has been filed by the intervener, which discloses that the tests conducted on the toxic ash still reveal the presence of mercury, which is higher than the permissible limits as disclosed in the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board's report dated August 12, 2025, the HC said.

It also directed the state government to file a report citing alternative sites for containment of this ash.

Under the circumstances, the state is directed to file a re-



Nearly two months back, the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed the state government to find an alternative site to dispose of the ash saying its disposal near human habitation is 'unacceptable'

port citing alternative sites for containment and also inform the court whether a global tender was floated in order to obtain the best technical expertise of companies/agencies, which may have unimpeachable technical prowess in executing a work of this nature and have dealt with similar cases of containment of toxic chemical waste, it said

The government officials refuse to comment on the disposal plan, saying the matter was sub judice. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, an official, however, told PTI Tues-

day that the contract awarded to a private company for the disposal of Union Carbide waste includes burying the ash in a dedicated landfill cell within the Pithampur plant premises, and that all safety standards are being observed

is in its final stages, he said. Pithampur, about 30 km from Indore, is a major industrial area in the state. This industrial area houses approximately 1,250 units, employing thousands of workers, including migrant workers from var-

during this construction. The

construction of this landfill cell

ious states across the country Social activists in Pitham pur are not in favour of burying the ash in a landfill cell at

a waste disposal unit adjacent

to human habitation. Over the past four decades, several plans to dispose of the toxic waste at plants in India and abroad were made and cancelled amid protests. However, it was finally incinerated and reduced to ashes this year at a waste disposal plant operated by a private company in Pithampur.

The State Pollution Control Board officials claimed that emissions of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen fluoride, and nitrogen oxides, as well as mercury, cadmium, and other heavy metals, were found to be within standard limits during the incineration of the

Rahul flags 'menace of drugs, illegal liquor, farmers plight' in Guj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday flagged the issues of "rising menace of drugs and illegal liquor" and the plight of farmers in Gujarat, and claimed that the state is "sinking" despite a double-engine government being in place.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said that during the Congress party's ongoing 'Jan Aakrosh Yatra' in Gujarat, people, especially women, have repeatedly stated that the "rising menace of drugs, illegal liquor, and crime" has deepened the sense of insecurity in their lives.

"Gujarat is the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, where traditions of truth, morality, and justice have prevailed, but over the past few vears, the future of the state's youth is being pushed toward the dark world of drugs and crime," Gandhi said in a post on X in Hindi. Women are taking to the

streets in large numbers because criminals are receiving protection from those in power, while they themselves are met only with neglect, he claimed.

"Gujarat is asking — why is the BJP government silent? Which BJP minister is providing cover for all this? Why are Gujarat's traitors being shield-

ed?" he said. Gandhi said that another major issue that came up in every meeting during the yatra is that of the farmers.

"The recent devastating floods have ruined thousands of Gujarati families and destroyed farmers' crops. When Modi ji was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, his talk of relief packages never stopped. Today, Gujarat is sinking, there's a double-en gine government, he is the Prime Minister, yet neither adequate relief is in sight nor any empathy," Gandhi claimed

There is intense public out rage in Guiarat — every family is worried about their children's future. Every family is askingwhy aren't farmers' loans being waived, why isn't the drug trade being cleaned up?" he said. The Congress will continue to listen to the people's concerns and re lentlessly expose the failures and corruption of the BJP gov ernment, Mr Gandhi said.

Gujarat honours 115 'Cultural Soldiers' for preserving heritage

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad. Dec 2: In a ceremony that celebrated Gujarat's deep cultural legacy. Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi Sunday felicitated 115 individuals dedicated to preserving the state's heritage, describing them as "soldiers of culture" who keen Guiarat's identity alive. The event, held in Gandhinagar's Sector 12 and organised by Atulya Varaso, honoured these

so Identity Award 2025. Sanghavi said the ceremony was "not merely an award function but a sacred effort to revive our identity, our roots, and our sense of belonging". He applauded the organisation's extensive work — from heritage walks and literary outreach to cultural awareness initiatives — that has helped connect children, youth, and elders with Gujarat's rich his-

HEIGHT OF SUCCESS

Gujarat's 3 feet tall doc gets 1st job

Overcoming odds, legal woes,

sibility in maintaining heritage sites, Sanghavi stressed that cleanliness cannot be seen as the job of sanitation workers alone.

"Preserving our historical treasures requires all of us. Even a simple habit of not littering can bring transformative change," he said, assuring that the government will support and strengthen such efforts with adequate resources and planning.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER **BALASORE WILDLIFE DIVISION**

Control Room:+91-9437691870, Office Order No.287/1F (Accounts)/ F.No.-190/2024 Balasore, Dated the 1th December 2025.

"D" & "C" Class (As per Appexure)

Dt.15.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M

Dt.16.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Wildlife Division, Balasore

03 (Three) Calendar Months
Rs.6,000/- towards cost of bid as

e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.DFO-BLS-01/2025-26

No of Works

Class of Contractor

Tender Paper Cost

Date & Time of availability of bid

Last date/time for receipt of bid

Date of Opening of Bid

Name and addresss of the Office Invitina Bid

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

All other details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://www

Sd /- Divisional Forest Officer

OIPR-08036/11/0018/2526

Balasore Wildlife Division, Balasore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER JHARSUGUDA KENDU LEAF DIVISION

AT/PO-BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, PIN-768202 Mob:8280342658, Email:dfokljsd@gmail.com BID IDENTIFICATION No.DFOKL/JSG-01 of 2025-26

E-Pocurement Notice No.01, Dated 28.11.2025

No.MM-321:The Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda K.L. Division, or behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover /Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE

Tender Cost Class of Contractor

. Nature of Work Construction of Forest Guard Quarters Rs.6000/-

4. Availability of bid

"C" & "D" Class Contractors 18.00 Hours of 03.12.2025 to 17.30 Hours

of 16.12.2025 document in the website : 11.30 Hours on dt.17.12.2025

6. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further de tails can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only. Any Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Cancellation of tender will be displayed in the

> Sd./- (Salvinder Singh, OFS-1 (SB) Divisional Forest Officer

OIPR-08054/11/0025/2526

website said only.

Jharsuguda K.L. Division

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-1030 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHORDHA

Invitation for Bids Bid Identification No. SEMIDKHD 15/2025-26 The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Khordha, on behalf of

the Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover Syster in Online Mode only for Civil Works in Check Dams under Impt. to Check Dar MIPs under ERM Scheme as detailed in the table below from the eligible class

Civil works in Check Dams under Impt. to Check Dams and MIPs under ERM Scheme 2 Nature of Work in different Blocks of Khordha District No. of Works Rs.5.08 to 42.36 Lakhs : Rs.4000/- & 6000/- through online only : D class, C and B Class as applicable 10.00 A.M. of Dt.03.12.2025 to 5.30 P.M. o Availability of Bid Documents Dt.11.12.2025 Last date and time for receipt 5.30 P.M. of Dt.11.12.2025 of Bids in the portal

Date of opening of Bids : 11.30 A.M. of Dt.12.12.2025
The bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further detail can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum corrigendum/cancellation of Bid can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to deter/reject/accept any or all the bids withou assigning any reason whatsoever. The authority shall in no way be held liable for such action nor will make any obligation to inform the bidder the groun

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Minor Irrigation Division, Khordha OIPR-32042/11/0025/2526



Quarter at Phulbani Division Office Rs.6000/-

'C" & "D" Class Contractors Availability of bid document in 18.00 Hours of 06.12.2025 to

17.30 Hours of 15.12.2025 Date of Opening of Tenders :- 11.30 Hours on dt.16.12.2025

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Furthe details can be seen from the Website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only. Any Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Cancellation of tender will be displayed in the website said only

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

PHULBANI KENDU LEAF DIVISION

AT/PO/PS:PHULBANI, e-mail Id: dfoklplb@gmail.cc BID IDENTIFICATION No. F.E.&CC/PLB/01 (online)/20

OIPR-08069/11/0004/2526

OIPR-34091/11/0109/2526

Tender Cost :-

Class of Contractor :-

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER NO. B-776 CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO. I, CUTTACK GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. S.E. CTC (R&B)-55 of 2025-26

The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.I, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Road works as mentioned below

Road Work Nature of Work Class of Contractor "B" Class Rs.10000/- (Online)

From 03.12.2025 to 5 P.M. of 17.12.2025 Available of bid documents in the website Date of Opening of Bid 11 A.M. of 18.12.2025

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Furthe details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website

Sd./- (Er. Md. Shahbaz) Superintending Enginee Cuttack (R&B) Division No. I



Email: chilika@chilika.com

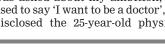
e-PROCUREMENT Tender Call Notice No. 1753/CDA/2025 Dtd.01.12.2025

	01	. Name of the Work		Repairing of Self Propelled Barge (M.V. Sollery)
	02	2. Estimated Cost	:	Rs.24.89 Lakhs (Excluding GST)
l	03	03. Period of Completion		3 (Three) Calendar Months
	04	Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal		04.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 18.12.2025 upto 5 P.M.
	05	Last date/time for submission of Bids in the portal		18.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
	06	Date & time of opening of Bids		On 19.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M. in the O/o. the Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority, Plot No. 493(P), Palaspalli, Bhubaneswar - 751020
	07	Name and address		Addl. Chief Executive Chilika Development Authority, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Plot No.

Further information and other details are available fo downloading from the e-procurement portal "https:// tendersodisha.gov.in". Addendum/Corrigendum if required will be available only in the website e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Sd./- Addl. Chief Executive Chilika Development Authority OIPR-08138/11/0011/2526

disclosed the 25-year-old physi-



pointment as a medical officer. The man from a farming family, detected with 72 per cent locomotor disability, fought lengthy legal battles, leading up to the Supreme Court, to become a doctor and faced several other overwhelming odds, but the thought of giving up the

Ahmedabad, Dec 2: Standing

three feet tall and aged just 25,

Gujarat resident Ganesh Baraiya

has scripted an inspiring tale of grit and determination, fulfilling

his childhood dream of becoming

a doctor and securing his first ap-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

fight never crossed his mind. His efforts have borne fruit and Baraiva last week joined Sir Takhtasinhji General Hospital, a government facility in Bhavnagar district, as a Medical Officer

"Since childhood, whenever I was asked about my ambition, I used to say 'I want to be a doctor','

cian, a resident of Gorkhi village in Bhavnagar district.

He humbly acknowledged the roles played by his mentors, family members and friends in his extraordinary journey."My mentor guided me throughout my journey of becoming a doctor. As I stand here at Sir T General Hospital (as the medical facility is popularly known), treating patients, I dedicate my achievement to my mentors Dalpat Katariya and Revatsinh Sarvaiya of Nilkanth Vidyapeeth, my parents and my friends," Baraiya said.

Baraiya said it was Katariya who convinced him that he could be the world's shortest doctor.

And then began his remarkable journey to become a doctor at Nilkanth Vidyapeeth in Bhavnagar, where he pursued Class 12 science stream. According to Katariya, Principal of Nilkanth Vidyapeeth in Talaja, Baraiya's journey has been one of determination

and resilience. "After fighting long legal battles, dreams do come true," said Katariva, basking in the success of Locomotor disability refers to a

comotor disability has proved that

condition that results in the loss or restriction of movement of limbs or body parts. Baraiya was born to farmer Vith-

thalbhai Baraiya. Katariya recalled magicians once offered money to the family to make the dwarf child perform in a circus, and his father constantly feared the boy might be abducted.

Baraiya was admitted in Class 9 at Nilkanth Vidyapeeth, where the young boy developed the ambition to become a doctor. After pursuing studies in science stream, Baraiya cracked the medical entrance National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in 2018. However, the youngster faced a

rude jolt when the Medical Council of India (MCI) denied him admission to MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) programme due to his disability. "The school decided to fight a legal battle against MCI (now Nation-

al Medical Commission), but my

father was reluctant initially due

to financial conditions. The school's management then decided to cover the court expenses for my case," the diminutive doctor stated. "With the school's support, I challenged the decision in the Gujarat High Court, which upheld the MCI's stance. We then approached

In the meantime, he enrolled in a BSc programme.

maintained.

the Supreme Court in 2018," he

Tender (O.I.T.)

493(P), Palaspalli, Pokhariput

Road, Bhubaneswar - 751020

national



India showed the world through Operation Sindoor that it is capable of giving a befitting reply to those who do not understand the language of peace and goodwill. Operation Sindoor is being discussed not only on Indian soil but also in other countries around the world

DELHI HC TO HEAR PLEA ON AIR POLLUTION CONTROL TODAY

The Delhi High Court will hear Wednesday a plea seeking urgent steps to control hazardous air pollution levels in the national capital



cannot read or write are visiting people's homes as BLOs You (poll body) are sending peo-

ple who do not even know how

to write or read AADITYA THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) LEADER

I am confident that, true to our cultural values, we will continue Divyang brothers and sisters and make them equal partners in the progress

KT PARNAIK | ARUNACHAL GOVERNOR There is

no barriei between languages, but vested interests have created a rift between

them. I once again extend my invitation to the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, esteemed Mr Stalin, to visit the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN JNION EDUCATION MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

3 killed as truck hits vehicles

Biinor (UP): Three people died after a speeding truck hit a motorcycle and a pickup vehicle and dragged them for nearly 25 metres on the Dhampur-Sherkot highway in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor Tuesday, police said. Additional SP (East) AK Srivastava said the incident occurred near Mubarakpur Kunda when the container truck, travelling from Dhampur, first rammed into a motorcycle and then collided with a pickup before dragging both vehicles along the road.

Man shot dead in Ranchi; friend held

Ranchi: A 25-year-old man was shot dead allegedly by his friend following an altercation in Jharkhand's Ranchi, police said Tuesday. The incident occurred at Sithio in Dhurwa police station area late Monday, they said. The deceased has been identified as Arshad Ansari.

Al warns of delays amid tech outage

New Delhi: Check-in systems of Air India and other airlines faced glitches due to a third party system disruption at various airports, resulting in flight delays Tuesday evening. It also said that airport teams are working diligently to ensure a smooth check-in experience for all passengers and while the system is progressively getting restored.

Voter ID cards found in drain, trigger row

Nabadwip (WB): Around 50 voter identity cards were recovered from a drain at Nabadwip in West Bengal's Nadia district Tuesday, a police officer said. With the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being done by the Election Commission in West Bengal, this led to a political row between leaders of the ruling Trinamool **Congress and Opposition** BJP, with each pointing at the

Delhi's air turns hazardous again

other, alleging conspiracy.

New Delhi: Air quality in Delhi deteriorated further Tuesday evening, reaching an AQI of 372 and edging closer to the 'severe' mark, with more than 15 locations already in that category. The 24-hour average AQI Tuesday at 4 pm stood at 372, compared to 304 Monday and 279 Sunday, report said.

uote (17) 'Underutilisation of open correctional institutions serious issue'

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Supreme Court Tuesday said the underutilisation of open correctional institutions in the country is a "very serious issue" as the states are facing the difficulty of overcrowding in jails.

The concept of semi-open or open correctional institutions was introduced to assist prisoners in their rehabilitation in the society.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta also allowed an application filed

by the state of Kerala seeking permission to allot 257 acres of a 457-acre land for an open prison for the BrahMos project and other facilities.

The Kerala government said land measuring 180 acres is needed for the BrahMos project, while an area of 45 acres is required for the Sashastra Seema B al (SSB).

It said the remaining 32-acre area is needed to set up a national forensic sciences laboratory. Senior advocate K Parameshwar, who is

THE CONCEPT OF SEMI-OPEN OR OPEN **CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS WAS INTRODUCED TO ASSIST PRISONERS IN THEIR** REHABILITATION IN THE SOCIETY

amicus curiae in the matter related to congestion in jails. said the application filed by the Kerala government

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing in the court for the Centre, said the BrahMos project is a "national defence project". The bench

should be allowed.

allowed the application filed by the Kerala government.

During the hearing, the bench said the amicus has flagged the issue of open correctional institutions (OCIs).

"Now, the amicus has high lighted the issue of underutilisation of the OCI facilities in the country. It is a very serious the states are facing the difficulty of overcrowding of prisons and on the other hand, the OCIs are available and are not being utilised," the bench said.

It asked Raju why the government cannot frame a policy on it. The amicus said, "They (Centre) have done that. The Union has framed not only a manual, they have also given draft model prison rules.'

He said the Centre has written consistently to all the states, asking them to utilise their OCIs to the fullest, so that

other jails are less crowded The amicus said at least in

six or seven states, the OCIs are running below 50 to 60 per cent of their capacity. He said in three or four states, women prisoners are not allowed to enter OCIs.

The amicus said it is for the states to work it out. While hearing the matter earlier, the apex court had observed that establishing open prisons can be one of the solutions to overcrowding in jails and also addressing the issue of rehabilitation of prisoners.

LS to discuss 'Vande Mataram', electoral reforms next week

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Lok Sabha will take up a debate on the 150th anniversary of National Song 'Vande Mataram' Monday and on electoral reforms Tuesday, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said.

The decision was taken after an all-party meeting and a **Business Advisory Committee** (BAC) chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, signalling that the logjam prevailing in both Houses over the Opposition's demand to discuss the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is likely to be broken.

"During the All Party Meeting Chaired by Speaker Lok Sabha today, it has been decided to hold discussion in Lok Sabha on 150th Anniversary of National Song 'Vande Mataram' from 12 Noon Monday 8th December and discussion on Election Reforms from 12 noon Tuesday 9th December," Rijiju said in a post on X.

Later, addressing the media, Rijiju said, "I am happy that the all-party floor leaders' meeting called by the Speaker was very fruitful and we all agreed that there will be a special discussion on the 150th anniversary of National Song Vande Mataram Monday. The discussion will start at 12 noon and go on for the full day. It was also agreed that Tuesday, 9th December, there will be a discussion on election reforms.'

"When we discuss reforms in elections, you can discuss and talk about many issues related to elections and their process in our country. For a parliamentary democracy, the election pro-

cess is extremely important. So finally, everybody has agreed to the discussion and my special appeal to all the members, especially the Opposition parties, is to cooperate fully with the decision taken. We all will take part," he said.

Rijiju said after both the discussions are over, "we will propose to take it up in the Rajya Sabha".

"In any case, the discussion can be initiated in either of the Houses. But we have decided that it will be taken up in the Lok Sabha first. Otherwise, both Houses have the privilege to take up any matter. After all, they are complementary to each other; both Houses are extremely important," he said.

According to a source, the debate Vande Mataram is likely to be held in Rajya Sabha December 9 and the debate on electoral reforms may be held December 11. Just ahead of the BAC meet-

ing, Birla met party leaders to break the deadlock in the House over the Opposition's demand for a discussion on SIR. 'The BAC meeting discussed

the debates to be held on Vande Mataram and electoral reforms, (with) the Opposition's SIR discussion debate clubbed under electoral reforms. On Monday, the House will take up the debate on Vande Mataram and then Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will debate electoral reforms," Congress' chief whip K Suresh told reporters after the BAC meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will initiate the debate on 150 years of Vande Mataram,





Children play on a waterlogged road following heavy rain triggered by Cyclone Ditwah, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Several parts of northern Tamil Nadu Tuesday continued to witness rains and the death toll due to rain-related incidents across the state increased to 4 and standing crops on more than

'Tata Group donated ₹758cr to BJP after semiconductor units' approval'

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Tata Group donated ₹758 crore to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) weeks after the Union government announced over ₹44,000 crore in subsidies to two of its semiconductor units, an investigation by *Scroll.in* has revealed. The donations were made in April 2024, days before the general election.

The timing of the donations, made just days before the general elections, raises questions about the connection between the funding and government approvals.

The two Tata semiconductor units, located in Assam and Gujarat—both BJP-governed states-received Union Cabinet approval in February 2024.

Soon after the approval, the Tata Group directed this significant contribution to the BJP. According to Scroll. *in*, the report traces the route through which these funds were channeled. While the Congress party also received



Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw with Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran and other representatives of Tata Group and PSMC Taiwan while singing agreement for semiconductor fabrication facility in Dholera Twitter/Ashwini Vaishnaw

donations, the amount was much lower compared to the BJP's share.

In recent years, the BJP has become the largest beneficiary of political funding through electoral trusts and the now-suspended electoral bonds system. The Tata Group made these

donations through a political

trust, a mechanism introduced by the UPA government in 2013 to allow both companies and individuals to contribute to political parties. Although electoral trusts are required to disclose both the sources of funds and the parties receiving them, tracking the exact origins of donations remains a complex challenge.

CM) to my house. He enjoyed

the breakfast, which had his

Mysuru taste," Shivakumar

added. Saturday's breakfast at

Siddaramaiah's official resi-

dence, held as part of efforts by

the Congress high command to

ease tensions in the leadership

dispute between the two, report-

Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna Tuesday. The NIA has previously arrested seven people associated with this case. The matter is linked to a "white collar" terror module that was unearthed by the Jammu and Kashmir police.

RED FORT BLAST

Delhi court extends

NIA custody of accused

Amir Rashid Ali again

New Delhi, Dec 2: A Delhi

court Tuesday extended the po-

lice custody of Amir Rashid Ali

a Jammu and Kashmir resident

accused of facilitating the Red

Fort blast, for seven more days.

to a seven-day NIA custody

ahead of the expiry of his 10-day

Ali, arrested November 16 in

connection with the Red Fort

blast, was produced before the

remand November 27.

On November 26, he was sent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

On November 10, 15 people were killed in an explosion near Red Fort in Delhi. More than two dozen people were injured in the blast caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) inside a Hvundai i20 car driven by an alleged suicide bomber, Umar Un Nabi. The car was found to be registered under the name of Amir Rashid Ali.

"Amir had come to Delhi to facilitate the purchase of the car which was eventually used as a vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device to trigger the blast", the NIA had previously

disclosed in a statement. The agency had confirmed the identity of the deceased driver to be Umar Un Nabi, a resident of Pulwama district and Assistant Professor in the General Medicine department of Al-Falah

The agency has also seized another vehicle belonging to Nabi that is currently being examined for evidence in the case. The NIA has so far examined 73 witnesses, including

'Nati koli saaru', idlis on Sidda's breakfast menu at DKS's residence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 2: 'Nati koli saaru' (country chicken curry), considered one of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's favourites. along with steaming hot idlis was on the breakfast menu at Deputy CM D K Shivakumar's residence Tuesday, according

to official sources. The spread also included 'nati koli' fry, vada and pongal,

among other items, they said. In an apparent show of unity, Siddaramaiah visited Shivakumar's residence for breakfast, iust days after the two leaders shared a meal amid a simmering power tussle in the state

Congress. Siddaramaiah drove to the Deputy CM's residence in Sadashivanagar, where he was received by Shivakumar and his brother DK Suresh, who is a former Congress MP

Suresh and Kunigal MLA H D Ranganath, a relative of Shivakumar, joined them for breakfast, which featured a mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. Speaking to reporters later, Siddaramaiah said Shivakumar had invited him during his visit to the CM's residence for breakfast Saturday.

Asked about the difference between the two meals, the chief minister said, "At his (Shivakumar's) house it was non-veg,

while at my house it was veg. He is a vegetarian, I am a non-vegetarian. I had not prepared nonveg. I told DK to get chicken

from the village as you won't get the original in Bengaluru." "Shivakumar said he had ini-

PAUSE THE LEADERSHIP TUSSLE BETWEEN SIDDARAMAIAH AND **SHIVAKUMAR** IT ALSO SIGNALS SIDDARAMAIAH'S CONTINUATION AS THE CM FOR THE TIME BEING, ESPECIALLY

THE BREAKFAST MEETINGS

ARE SEEN AS A MOVE BY THE

CONGRESS HIGH COMMAND TO

AHEAD OF THE BELAGAVI LEGISLATURE SESSION FROM **DECEMBER 8**

tially invited Siddaramaiah to his residence, but the CM had suggested visiting his place first and reciprocating later. "It was a vegetarian breakfast at the CM's house Saturday," he noted.

The breakfast meetings are seen as a move by the Congress high command to pause the leadership tussle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. It also signals Siddaramaiah's continuation as the CM for the time being, especially ahead of the Belagavi legislature "Today, I invited him (the session from December 8.

edly included idlis and sambar, according to official sources. University, Faridabad.

those injured in the blast.

national



have attended editions of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam and can see the growing enthusiasm and impact each year, with eager participation from both Tamil Nadu and Kashi

C P RADHAKRISHNAN | VICE PRESIDENT

Jammu and Kashmir government Tuesday threw open a new flyover that would ease traffic congestion in Srinagar city

J&K GOVT THROWS OPEN



took up the 'vote chori' campaign across the country. (They) filed cases again on Sonia and

Rahul Gandhi to divert attention from that because they didn't want a debate on 'vote chori' in parliament. They filed a fresh case against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi four-five days ago to avoid debate on the defects in Bihar elections A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

A responsible Opposition has done all it takes to get Parliament to function. We have been gracious and accommodating, even though we are up against a government who mock Parliament DEREK O'BRIEN | TMC LEADER



privacy & put circular wasn't even made public reflects poorly on the govt. Making the app mandatory and unremovable would make each one of our devices susceptible to govt

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT





to track govt activities:

app on phones of 150 crore people to track their activities. But there is no app

> Exactly how tax funds are being

> Political funding & sources You don't trust people who voted for you, but they should trust you.

@talk2anuradha

SHORT **TAKES**

Maha local body polls: **HC** defers vote count

Nagpur: The Bombay High Court Tuesday directed the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) not to hold the counting of votes for the first phase of local body polls December 3, on the ground that the "disclosure of public mood" through the results might affect the subsequent phase of the elections. The results of Tuesday's elections should be published along with the results of the December 20 elections, the HC said. In a subsequent statement, the SEC said the counting of votes for elections to all the 288 municipal councils and nagar panchayats across Maharashtra will begin at 10 AM December 21.

SC expresses concern over 'closure' of DCW

New Delhi: "Where will the women in distress go," the Supreme Court Tuesday asked as it expressed concern over the 'closure' of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW). A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan asked Additional Solicitor General Archana Pathak Dave, appearing for the Delhi government, to do something about closure of

India, Maldives joint exercise begins

the commission.

Kochi: The 14th edition of the Joint Military Exercise **EKUVERIN** between the **National Defence Force** Tuesday. The exercise will December 2025.

Apex court questions Parl panel: Define 'fake news', amend penal provisions to take action

Are they not entitled to certain

benefits and amenities? Why

not concentrate on them? It

is true, even if somebody has

entered illegally, we should not

subject them to third-degree

methods...You are asking writ

of habeas to bring them back,'

The bench said if repatria-

Solicitor General Tushar Me-

hta, appearing for the Centre,

said the plea has not been filed

by an affected person and the

petitioner has no locus to file

On July 31, the top court,

while hearing a batch of pleas

concerning Rohingyas in the

country, had said the first ma-

ior issue to be dealt with in

cases concerning Rohingyas is

whether they are refugees or

It said once that is decided,

"The first major issue is

simple, are they refugees or

illegal entrants," Justice Kant

The bench took note of the

broad issues that arose for its

consideration in the pleas relat-

entitled to be declared as refu-

gees? If so, what protections,

Whether the Rohingyas are

the other issues might be con-

tion is sought then it may give

rise to "logistical issues".

CJI Kant asked.

such a plea.

illegal entrants.

ing to Rohingyas.

sequential.

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Supreme Court Tuesday sharply questioned the legal status of Rohingyas living in India and asked whether "intruders" should be given a "red carpet welcome" while the country's own citizens grapple with poverty.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surva Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made sharp observations while hearing a habeas corpus (bring the person) petition filed by rights activist Rita Manchanda alleging disappearance of few Rohingvas from the custody of authorities here.

Now, the hearing in the case has been adjourned to December 16. The counsel alleged certain Rohingvas were picked up by Delhi Police in May and there was no information about their whereabouts.

"If they do not have legal status to stay in India, and you are an intruder, we have a very sensitive border in the north India side. If an intruder comes, do we give them a red carpet welcome saying we would like to give you all facilities" the CJI asked, adding, "What is the problem in sending them back."

He said India is a country with a lot of poor people, and we should rather focus on them.

"First vou enter, vou cross the border illegally. You dug a tunnel or crossed the fence and entered India illegally. Then you say, now that I have entered, your laws must apply to me and say. I am entitled to food. I am entitled to shelter. my children are entitled to education. Do we want to stretch the law like this," the CJI asked.

The petitioner referred to an apex court order of 2020 in which it was said that Rohingvas must be deported only according to procedure.

"We also have poor people in the country. They are citizens. entitled to," the bench asked. It said the second issue is if

the Rohingyas are not refugees and are illegal entrants, whether the action of the Centre and states in deporting them was

"Even if the Rohingyas have been held to be illegal entrants, can they be detained indefinitely or they are entitled to be released on bail, subject to such conditions as the court may deem fit to be imposed,'

The court said the other issue raised in the petitions is whether the Rohingyas, who have not been detained and are living in refugee camps, have been provided basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation and education.

"If the Rohingyas are illegal entrants, whether the government of India and the states are obligated to deport them in accordance with law," it noted.

The bench segregated the pleas in three groups -- one relating to Rohingyas, another not pertaining to the issue of Rohingyas and one plea that it said pertains to a different matter altogether.

It said the three groups of matters would be determined separately and it would fix those for hearing on consecutive Wednesdays.

The bench indicated that on the point of those who were found to be illegal entrants and on the question of the State's responsibility to deport them, it could only lay down the principles

On May 16, the apex court had rapped some petitioners who had claimed that 43 Rohingya refugees, including women and children, were dropped in the Andaman sea for deportation to Myanmar and said "when the country is passing through a difficult time, you come out with fanci-



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: A Parliamentary panel has asked the government to explore the feasibility of amending the penal provisions for publish ing or telecasting fake news to include cancelling the accreditation of the journalist or the creator found guilty of indulging in such an act, according to a report tabled in Parliament Tuesday.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, chaired by BJP member Nishikant Dubey, also asked the government to define the term 'fake news', and incorporate suitable clauses in the existing regulatory framework for the media to combat misinformation and protect freedom of speech.

The report on 'Review of Mechanism to curb Fake News also asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to consult all the stakeholders while arriving at the definition of fake news.

"There is also a need to amend the penal provisions for publishing/telecasting fake news in relevant Acts/Rules Guidelines for each form of media (print, electronic, digital).' the committee said

It said the ministry may explore the feasibility of cancelling the accreditation of a journalist/creator if found guilty of creating and/or propagating

"Needless to say, all these should involve and emerge from a consensus-building exercise among media bodies and the relevant stakeholders," the Committee said.

The report said that in the light of the ambiguity related to the term 'misinformation/ fake news', the committee feels there is a need for defining the term 'fake news' per se in a subtle manner," according to the report.

It also asked the government to incorporate suitable clauses in the existing regulatory mechanism for print, electronic and digital media while maintaining the delicate balance of combating misinformation and protecting freedom of speech and individual rights as guaranteed under the Constitution.

The Committee also said that having a fact-checking mechanism and internal ombudsman in media organisations will go a long way in strengthening the role of self-regulatory mechanism and checking the menace of misinformation/ fake news.

It asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to ensure that the fact-checking mechanism and internal ombudsman are made mandatory in all print, digital and electronic media organisations of the country.

Jolt to CBI as court frees Rubaiyya Sayeed kidnapping accused PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Dec 2: The CBI was left red-faced Tuesday when a special court set free Shafat Ahmed Shangloo, a day after the agency arrested him in connection with the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiyya Say eed -- the daughter of the then home minister Mufi Moham med Sayeed.

Shangloo was produced before the special TADA court where the CBI sought his judi cial custody, claiming he was wanted in the Sayeed kidnapping case.

The accused was represented by a team of lawyers, including advocates Anil Raina, Suhail Dar and Yogesh Bakshi, who contended that Shangloo was never wanted by the CBI and also produced the agency's chargesheet in which the investigating officer was of the view that no case was made our against him.

Raina and Dar told reporters after the hearing that Shangloo had been set free as all contentions of the CBI were found "not to be true". A relieved Shangloo later told reporters that he was a businessman and a passport was issued to him in Srinagar in 2016. "I was never involved in any case. I spent almost 10 years in Delhi and was a frequent traveller between Kashmir and Delhi in connection with my business." he said, add ing that he was issued a passport in Srinagar in 2016 after a proper police verification.

Telecom-based safety alert system across NHs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: State-owned National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) Tuesday said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Reliance Jio to introduce a telecom-based safety alert system across the NH network.

In a statement, NHAI said that using Jio's existing 4G and 5G network, travellers will receive warnings on their mobile phones as they approach identified risk locations such as accident-prone stretches, stray-cattle zones, fog-affected areas and emergency diversions. The initiative aims to strengthen road safety by providing timely information to Nation al Highway users, enabling them to adjust speed and driving behaviour well in advance, it added.

According to the statement. alerts will be sent through SMS WhatsApp and high-priority calls to NH users. The system will be integrated in a phased manner with NHAI's digital platforms, including 'Rajmar gyatra' mobile application and emergency helpline number 1033, it said. The automated system will work for all Jio mobile users on or near the National Highways and provide early warning to National Highway commuters before they enter a hazardous zone. The solution will use existing telecom towers and can be deployed quickly, without additional roadside

2-phase Census to begin in April 2026

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases, the first between April and September 2026 and the second in February 2027, the Lok Sabha was informed Tuesday.

Giving details of the exercise in response to a question by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the two phases will be -- Phase I-House Listing and Housing Census followed by Phase II-Population Enumeration (PE).

The first phase from April to September 2026 will be conducted in a period of 30 days in accordance with the convenience of state/UT govern-

"Population Enumeration

will be done in February 2027 with reference date 00:00 hours of 1st March, 2027 except for the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where it will be done in September, 2026 with reference date 00.00 hours of 1st October, 2026," he said.

In another response, he said the Census will be conducted through digital means in which data will be collected through mobile apps along with online provision for self-enumeration.



A C-17 transport aircraft of the IAF on Tuesday airlifted a para field hospital unit from Agra to Colombo, while the Indian Army deployed an integrated task force -- a self-contained composite HADR contingent -- under Operation Sagar Bandhu to provide critical relief, restore essential services and support families in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka

RDO TESTS HIGH-SPEED FIGHTER ESCAPE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: The DRDO has successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system at controlled velocity, validating some of the key safety parameters including complete aircrew recovery.

The test has placed India in "an elite club of nations" with advanced in-house escape system testing capability, the defence ministry said Tuesday. In a rocket-sled test, the sys-

tem coupled with a rocket propulsion mechanism is run at a high speed on a pair of rails to simulate a moving aircraft in mid-air, a senior official Defence Minster Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO, IAF, Aeronautical

Development Agency, and HAL

on the successful test. He de-

scribed it as a significant milestone for India's indigenous defence capability towards self-reliance.

"Defence Research and Development Organization (DR-DO) has successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of

fighter aircraft escape system at precisely controlled velocity of 800 km/h-validating canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew-recoverv at Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory

The test has placed India in "an elite club of nations" with advanced inhouse escape system testing capability, the **Defence ministry said**

(TBRL), Chandigarh," the defence minister's office said in a post on X.

The complex dynamic test, conducted at a rail track rocket sled facility in Chandigarh. was conducted in collaboration with Aeronautical Development Agency and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, and it propelled India into "an elite club of nations" with advanced in-house escape system testing capability, the ministry said in

a statement.

"A dual-sled system with the LCA aircraft forebody was propelled to precisely controlled velocity through phased firing of multiple solid propellant rocket motors," it said.

The test was witnessed by officials from the Indian Air Force (IAF), and the Institute of Aerospace Medicine.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has "conducted a successful high-speed rocket-sled test of fighter aircraft escape system at controlled velocity," the ministry said.

"The test at rail track rocket sled facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh, validated canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew-recovery," the ministry said.

It further said "the canopy

fragilisation pattern, ejection sequencing and complete air crew recovery process was simulated using an instrumented anthropomorphic test dummy, which recorded critical loads. moments, and accelerations that would be experienced by ejected pilots".

The entire sequence was captured through onboard and ground-based imaging systems.

"Dynamic ejection tests are significantly more complex than static tests such as 'net test' or 'zero-zero test', and real measure for evaluating ejection seat performance and efficacy of canopy severance system," the ministry said.

Department of Defence R&D Secretary and DRDO Chair man Samir V Kamat also congratulated the DRDO team associated with this successful demonstration.

Indian Army and the Maldives (MNDF) commenced here be conducted from 2 to 15

international



Our diplomats are actively working with all partners to ensure that European countries and other participants in the Coalition of the Willing are meaningfully involved in developing decisions

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY

CYCLONE DITWAH DEVASTATES 3L KIDS

Nearly 300,000 children are among the 1.4 million affected by Cyclone Ditwah, UNICEF here said. As of Monday, 390 people have been killed, with 352 missing, in catastrophic floods and landslides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16





AMIR KHAN MUTTAQI | FOREIGN MINISTER,

Putin's visit offers an op portunity for **Delhi to reassert** the strength of its

despite recent developments, and make headway in new arms deals MICHAEL KUGELMAN | AUTHOR IN ATLANTIC



COUNCIL THINK TANK, USA



PENNY WONG | MINISTER FOR FOREIGN

SHORT TAKES

UK-US zero tariff deal

London: UK has secured a 0 per cent tariff rate for all UK medicines exported to the US for at least three years, officials have said, in return for the UK spending more on new medicines. Under the deal, the US agreed to exempt UK-origin pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical ingredients, and medical technology from import taxes, the officials said Monday. The Trump administration said in return UK drugs firms committed to invest more in the US and create more jobs. The UK government said the 0 per cent rate on all of its pharmaceuticals exports was the lowest offered to any country. As part of the deal, it said the country's National Health Service will spend around 25 per cent more in new and effective treatments - the first major increase in such spending in over two decades

Canada joins EU defence fund

Toronto: Canada has joined a major European Union defence fund, Prime Minister Mark Carney's office has said, as the country looks to diversify its military spending away from the United States. The plan allows Canadian defence companies access to a 150 billion euro (USD 170 billion) EU loan programme, known as Security Action for Europe, or SAFE. That would allow Canadians firms to secure cheap, EU-backed loans to procure military equipment. "Canada's participation in SAFE will fill key capability gaps, expand markets for Canadian suppliers, and attract European defense investment into Canada," Carney said in a statement. Canada is the first non-EU country to gain access. Carney has said he intends to diversify Canada's procurement and enhance the country's relationship with the EU.

Pak-China anti-terror drill

Islamabad: Pakistan and China have launched the latest edition of the annual counter-terrorism exercise in the northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the The exercise, called Warrior-IX, started Monday at the National Counter Nowshera district, marking the ninth round of the Warrior series between the Pakistan army and China's People's Liberation Army. the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

Khan is alive but subjected to 'mental torture': Sister

The development comes amid rumours on social media about Khan's health as his family was constantly being denied from meeting him in prison for more than a month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad/Lahore, Dec 2: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan's health is "perfectly fine" but he is being subjected to "mental torture in solitary confinement", his sister Dr Uzma Khan said Tuesday after meeting him at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

The development comes amid rumours on social media about Khan's health as his family was constantly being denied from meeting him in prison for more than a month.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said in a statement after Uzma's meeting with the 73-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician that Khan has been "put in solitary confinement and he is being subiected to mental torture".

"Praise be to Allah! His health is perfectly fine. However, he was very angry and said that they are subjecting him to mental torture," she said.

She also claimed that Khan said the authorities were "mentally torturing" him as he is kept in his cell for most part of



Praise be to Allah! His health is perfectly fine. However, he was very angry and said that they are subjecting him to mental torture DR UZMA KHAN EX-PM IMRAN KHAN'S SISTER

the day and allowed to go out only for a brief time. She also quoted Khan as saying that he was not allowed to communicate with anybody.

An unannounced ban was placed on meeting Khan, who has been in prison since August 2023 in multiple cases, for more than a month.

Adiala Jail authorities, however, claimed that he is in "good health".

The PTI in a statement earlier Thursday said that one of the sisters of Khan, Dr Uzma Khan, was permitted to meet him after a large number of party supporters gathered outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government deployed the entire Rawalpindi police force along Adiala Road to thwart the PTI

The government has already imposed Section 144 (ban on gathering of four or more people) in Rawalpindi and Islam-

The station house officers of eight police stations in Rawalpindi along with senior officers are present outside Adiala Jail.

"An eight-kilometre stretch has been completely sealed Schools and colleges are closed. Residents are being required to show their ID card to pass through the area," an official of Punjab government told PTI.

A group of lawyers also held a demonstration outside the Islamabad High Court against the government for keeping Imran Khan in isolation.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said compliance with Section 144 would be ensured in Islamabad and Rawalpindi at any cost.

"Whether they come to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) or the Adiala jail, action under Section 144 would be carried out without any discrimination," the minister said.

Putin meets Trump envoys

Moscow, Dec 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin met US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner in the Kremlin Tuesday for talks on a possible way to end the deadliest European conflict since World War Two.

Just before the meeting, Putin warned Europe that it would face swift defeat if it went to war with Russia, and he dismissed European counter-proposals on Ukraine as being absolutely unacceptable to

A leaked set of 28 US draft peace proposals emerged last week, alarming Ukrainian and European officials who said it bowed to Moscow's main demands on NATO, Russian control of a fifth of Ukraine and restrictions on Ukraine's army

European powers then came up with a counter-proposal and at talks in Geneva, the United States and Ukraine said they had created an "updated and refined peace framework" to end the war.

"I am so pleased to see you," Putin told Witkoff and Kushner when they met Tuesday.

"It is a magnificent citv." Witkoff told Putin after earlier strolling with Kushner and the Russian leader's envoy Kirill Dmitriev on Red Square near the mausoleum of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin.

Dmitriev and Putin aide Yuri Ushakov were also at the Kremlin meeting, along with interpreters.

Just before the Kremlin meeting, Putin accused Europe of seeking to undermine Trump's peace efforts by making proposals that it knew were unacceptable to Russia.

UK doctors to examine Khaleda Zia's condition

Bangladesh's ailing former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, who has been living in self-exile in London for over a decade, is preparing to return home soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Dec 2: A team of medical experts from the UK will visit Bangladesh to assess the treatment of ailing former prime minister Khaleda Zia. who continues to remain in a critical condition at a private hospital here, her personal physician said Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters in front of Evercare Hospital, AZM Zahid Hossain said the UK specialists would join the international medical board already supervising Zia's treatment.

"Experts from the UK will come today (Tuesday) to examine her," he said, adding that India, China, the US, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan have also extended their medical assistance. Hossain said a medical board comprising doctors from the UK, the US, and Bangladesh is overseeing Zia's care. A five-member Chinese team arrived Monday and met the medical board, its head Dr Shahabuddin Talukder told local media earlier.

Hossain reiterated that there was no scope to take the 80-vear-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson abroad at this stage.

"We have made all preparations, but the most important thing to remember is the current condition of the patient and, above all, we do not have any opportunity to do anything that is outside the medical board's recommendations at the moment," he said.

Hossain said the board was continuously monitoring Zia. "She is properly receiving

the treatment being adminis tered to her. We hope she will recover this time based on the treatment she is receiving and the prayers of the whole nation," said Hossain, also a member of the BNP Standing Committee.

The three-time prime minister was admitted to the private hospital November 23 after being diagnosed with infections affecting her hear and lungs.

Meanwhile, security was tightened around Zia on early Tuesday. Police erected a barricade at the main gate of Evercare Hospital around 2 am, with more than two dozen personnel deployed to regulate patients' movement and reinforce security.

Hong Kong orders

fire that killed 156

judge-led inquiry into

Hong Kong, Dec 2: Hong

Kong's leader said Tuesday a

judge-led committee will in-

vestigate the cause of the city's

deadliest fire in decades and re

view oversight of building ren-

ovations blamed for fanning an

inferno that killed at least 156

Police have arrested 15 peo

ple on suspicion of manslaugh

ter in a criminal inquiry into

people.

India boots fleet with Heron MK II drones



Tel Aviv, Dec 2: India has signed up to procure additional satellite-linked Heron MK II drones under emergency provisions, aiming to significantly enhance its defence capabilities following their effective use during Operation Sindoor, according to an Israeli defence

industry source. The Heron MK II Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), already in service with the Indian Army and Air Force, will now be incorporated into the Indian Navy, said the source working with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

In September, the defence ministry issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the acquisition of 87 MALE drones, with a

focus on an indigenous "Make in India" programme that allows foreign collaboration.

"For us, India is a major customer," the unnamed IAI official said. "Our partnership spans over three decades and generations of systems. After Operation Sindoor, all

three branches of the Indian Armed Forces have selected the Heron MK II for emergency procurement, the official stated, but did not disclose the numbers. "We are very proud that all

three branches decided to purchase and operate the Heron Mark II." he said.

The Heron MK II is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance or MALE UAV capable of reaching an altitude of 35,000 feet and remaining in the air for 45 consecutive hours. It is operated by the Israeli Air Force and over 20 other entities globally.

Regarding the 'Make in India' initiative, the IAI official said, "We are fully aware of 'Make in India' and are collaborating closely with our local partners to meet those requirements."



People attend a rally against austerity measures in next year's draft budget, in Sofia. Tuesday

last week's tragedy at the Wang Fuk Court complex, and 12 have also been arrested in a corruption investigation. It is unclear if any of those people were ar rested on both counts.

Authorities have pointed to substandard plastic mesh and insulation foam used during renovation works at the high rise estate for fuelling a blaze that quickly spread to seven of its eight towers, where more

than 4,000 people live.

"In order to avoid similar tragedies again, I will set up a judge-led independent committee to examine the reason behind the cause and rapid spreading (of the fire) and related issues," John Lee, Hong Kong's chief executive, told a

Investigators have complet ed sweeps of all but two of the burnt-out towers, finding resi dents' bodies in stairwells and on rooftops, trapped as they tried to flee the smoke and flames. Around 30 people are still missing. Some groups in the Chinese-ruled city have called for more transparency and accountability, amid warnings from authorities that any attempts to politicise the disas ter would be severely punished.

A student from one of the groups was detained and later released on bail, and local me dia reported two others were being investigated for possible sedition. Police have not commented on the cases.

UN report flags AI's rising inequality risk

A UN report cautions that AI's boom may fuel a new digital divide, leaving the world's poorest further behind

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Dec 2: Behind the hoopla over the promise of artificial intelligence lay difficult realities, including how such technology might affect people already disadvantaged in a data-driven world.

A new report by the United Nations Development Programme notes most of the gains from AI are likely to be reaped by wealthy nations unless steps are taken to use its power to help close gaps in access to basic needs, as well as such advanced know-how.

The report released Tuesday likens the situation to the "Great Divergence" of the industrial revolution, when many Western countries saw rapid modernisation while others fell

behind.

Questions over how companies and other institutions will use AI are a near universal concern given its potential to change or replace some jobs done by people with computers and robots.

But while much of the attention devoted to AI focuses on productivity, competitiveness and growth, the more important question is what it will mean for human lives, the authors note.

It's an issue for communities where most people are still struggling to access skills, electric power and internet connectivity, for older people, for people displaced by war, civil conflict and climate disasters. At the same time, such people may be "invisible" in data that will not take them into account, the report said.



"As a general-purpose technology, AI can lift productivity, spark new industries, and help latecomers catch up," the report says

Better advice on farming, analysis of X-rays within seconds and faster medical diagnoses, more effective weather forecasts and damage assessments hold promise for rural communities and areas prone to natural disasters. "AI systems that analyse pov-

erty, health, and disaster risks enable faster, fairer, and more transparent decisions, turning data into continuous learning and public value," it says. Still, even in wealthy na-

tions like the United States, the potential for data centres to devour too large a share of electricity and water has raised con-

tion to meet higher demand may hinder progress in limiting the emissions of carbon from burning fossil fuels that contribute to global warming, while also causing health hazards. The technology raises ethi-

cerns. Ramping up power genera-

cal, privacy and cybersecurity concerns: researchers have found hackers using AI to automate portions of cyberattacks. There also is the problem of deepfakes that can misinform or facilitate criminal activity.

Asian nations including China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore are well placed to take advantage of AI tools, the report notes, while places like Afghanistan, the Maldives and Myanmar lack skills, reliable power and other resources needed to tap into the computing potential of AI.

Pakistan army said Tuesday. Terrorism Centre in Pabbi, in

business



Looking ahead, there are new challenges that call for joint attention. The digitalisation of the economy, the emergence of new financial products, and evolving structures of beneficial ownership require continued cooperation between jurisdictions. Confidentiality and cybersecurity must also be maintained with great care

'BHARAT TAXI' BEGINS PILOT OPERATION

'Bharat Taxi', a ride-hailing app service backed by eight top cooperative organisations, Tuesday began a pilot operation in the national capital, as it looks to rival established players like Ola, Uber and Rapido to provide reliable transportation services. The soft launch includes cars, auto and bikes, with more than 51,000 drivers registered so far on the app.





this app (Sanchar



protect them from fraud and theft JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

FTAs that we have signed, we are seeing positive traction on that front. Good trade pickup after the recent FTAs



ANANT GOENKA | FICCI PRESIDENT





SHORT **TAKES**

Govt to divest 6% stake in BoM

New Delhi: The government Tuesday decided to exercise green shoe option with clear intention to divest 6 per cent stake in Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) through offer-for-sale following overwhelming response from investors on the first day of subscription. The OFS of BoM opened for subscription earlier Tuesday for non-retail investors at a floor price of ₹54 per share. On the first day, it subscribed over 400 per cent of the base size 38.46 crore shares, triggering exercise of green shoe option of additional subscribed 4.07 times of the base size, reflecting strong market confidence. Given the oversubscription, the government has exercised the green shoe option in full taking the total divestment to 6 per cent of BoM's paid-up capital, an official statement said. This will ensure that BoM achieves the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norms, it said. "Offer for sale in Bank of Maharashtra received overwhelming response in the markets today. The issue was ubscribed to 400 per cent of the base size. The government has decided to exercise

Maruti to set up

the green shoe option,

Department of Investment

(DIPAM) Secretary Arunish

Chawla said in a post on X.

and Public Asset Management

1L charging points New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Tuesday said it aims to drive in multiple electric models across bodystyles and set up charging infrastructure across the country as it looks to attain leadership in the segment. The auto major. which is gearing up to introduce its first electric vehicle model e Vitara next year, plans to set up around 1 lakh charging stations by 2030 in partnership with its dealer partners and charging point operators. "Aligning with our parent company, Suzuki Motor Corporation's vision, we will be launching many more electric vehicles across body types and segments in the coming years," Maruti Suzuki India MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said in an event here. In line with this vision, by 2030, the company aims to establish a network of over 1 lakh charging points in partnership with dealers and charge point operators, he added. "We will be the leader in electric mobility in the country, and as a market leader, all our efforts will be to make EV adoption easier for all our customers," Takeuchi said. With the preparedness of the charging network, the automaker is set to commence sales of the e Vitara in 2026, he added. "All our efforts will be to expand the market size of EVs in the industry," Takeuchi said. He noted that as the company

steps into the electric mobility

domain, it aims to enter with

full readiness in terms of the

product and the ecosystem.

Rupee slumps 43 paise, hits all-time low of 89.96

Mumbai, Dec 2: The rupee hit the psychological 90-a-dollar level in intraday trade before settling 43 paise down at an alltime low of 89.96 against the US dollar Tuesday, largely owing to continued short-covering from speculators and sustained importer demand for the American currency.

Forex traders said multiple pressures, like foreign fund outflows from equities and lingering uncertainty over the Indo-US trade deal, are keeping investor sentiment fragile.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 89.70, then lost its ground and fell to a record intraday low of 90.00 against the US dollar, down 47 paise over its previous close. At the end of trade Tuesday,

the rupee settled at a record low of 89.96 against the greenback, down 43 paise over its previous

On Monday, the rupee depreciated by eight paise to close at 89.53 against the US dollar.

"The 90 level is a major psychological barrier -- and a cluster of buy-stop orders likely sits above it. This is precisely why the RBI must remain active below 90; if the pair starts sustaining above this zone, the market could quickly shift into a higher trending phase toward 91.00 or even higher,' said Anindya Banerjee, Head Commodity and Currency, Ko-

At this stage, it is essential for the central bank to prevent



speculators from becoming too comfortable with a one-way trend, as that can trigger an unnecessary spike in USD-INR volatility. Baneriee added.

According to Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, the rupee hit a fresh all time low of 89.96 amid persistent FII outflows and widening trade deficit.

"Rising odds of rate cut by the Fed in December and any intervention by the central bank may also support the rupee. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹89.60 to ₹90.20," Choudhary said. Meanwhile, the dollar index

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent higher at 99.41. Brent crude, the global oil

benchmark, was trading 0.25 per cent lower at USD 63.03 per

tive, the key support level was 88.80-89.00, immediate resistance at 90.00 and the next major hurdle is at 91.00. "A decisive daily close above 90 may embolden momentum traders and invite fresh speculative flows." Baneriee said.

"The Reserve Bank of India has intervened to curb volatility, but limited room for further support leaves the rupee vulnerable if no agreement is reached, raising risks of a durable breach of 90," said Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tanked 503.63 points to settle at 85,138,27. while the Nifty dropped 143.55 points to 26,032.20.

Foreign Institutional Investors sold equities worth ₹3,642.30 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Global green economy to surpass \$7 trillion in annual value by 2030

New Delhi, Dec 2: The global green economy has surpassed USD 5 trillion and is projected to exceed USD 7 trillion in annual value by 2030, with India expected to clock the highest growth in renewable electricity report said Tuesday.

The World Economic Forum report, developed in collaboration with the Boston Consulting Group, said businesses across industries are already benefiting from the strong growth of the green economy, the second-fastest growing sector over the past decade.

The research indicated that despite economic uncertainty and diverging environments, investment in green technologies continues to reach record highs.

It identified the green economy as one of the world's fast est-growing sectors, outpaced only by tech, and highlights the advantages enjoyed by many companies embracing green solutions.

The WEF said the research shows that companies with green revenues often outperform across multiple financial metrics.

On average, green revenues grow two times faster than conventional business lines across the market, while the cost of capital for companies with green revenues is typically lower, it noted.

Firms generating more than 50 per cent of their revenues from green markets often enjoy valuation premiums of 12-15 per cent on capital markets, reflecting investor confidence in their long-term resilience and profitability, the WEF said.

US sanctions cut Russian oil imports by a third



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: India's imports of Russian oil fell by nearly a third after stringent US sanctions on key Kremlin-linked exporters came into effect November 21, and analysts expect further declines in December as refiners turned to alternatives to avoid breaching

India's crude oil imports from Russia averaged 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) in November and accounted for more than 35 per cent of its total crude import mix, according to real-time data analytics company Kpler. The November imports, which compare with 1.5-1.6 million bpd of Russian oil flow in October, are expected to be a 5-month high, driven by increased imports before the November 21 deadline. "Before November 21, im-

ports were closer to 1.9-2.0 million bpd as buyers moved cargoes ahead of the deadline, after which volumes have slowed. It looks like refiners stocked up on crude ahead of the sanctions. planning to process it once the rules were in force," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling, Kpler.

Post that, flows were tracking

around 1.27 million bpd, down 570,000 bpd month-on-month "Based on current loadings and voyage activity, we expect December arrivals to be in the range of 1.0 million bpd, he said. "This aligns with our earlier view that, in the short term, Russian flows could ease toward around 800,000 bpd be fore stabilising.

India, the world's third-larg est oil importer, emerged as the biggest buyer of discount ed Russian crude after Westerr countries shunned Moscow fol lowing its February 2022 inva sion of Ukraine. Traditionally reliant on Middle Eastern oil, India dramatically increased Russian imports as sanctions and reduced European demand made the barrels available at steep discounts, pushing its share from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of total crude imports. In November, Russia remained the country's top sup plier, accounting for more than a third of all crude oil imported

after US sanctions on Rosnef and Lukoil and their major ity-owned subsidiaries took effect from November 21, effectively turning crude linked to these firms as a "sanctioned molecule".

But this could now change

Gold declines ₹1,670 amid weak global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 2: Gold prices plunged ₹1.670 to ₹1.31.530 per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday, amid weak trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at ₹1,33,200 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

"Gold edged lower Tuesday as traders booked profits after prices hit a multi-week high in the previous session, while a cautious approach adopted by traders before the important US macro data due later this week also contributed to the decline.' Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

However, silver extended its rally for the sixth straight session and soared ₹4.360 to ₹1.81.360 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at ₹1,77,000 per kilogram Monday, as per the association.

Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said that domestic bullion prices are drawing support from an extremely weak Indian rupee that has slumped



to a record low of 89.95 against the US dollar on trade deal uncertainty.

On the global front, spot gold fell by USD 45.17, or 1.07 per cent, to USD 4,187 per ounce, while silver was trading 1.77 per cent lower at USD 56.97 per ounce.

"Gold eased to around USD 4,200 on profit-taking, while silver declined nearly 2 per cent to USD 57 as investors took a breather after the metal's accelerated six-day advance and awaited key US data releases later in the week," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, Dec 2: Stock mar-

kets declined Tuesday, with the benchmark Sensex tumbling nearly 504 points due to selling in blue-chip bank stocks and Reliance Industries, and per-

sistent foreign fund outflows. Falling for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 503.63 points or 0.59 per cent to settle at 85,138.27. During the day, the benchmark tanked 588.9 points or 0.68 per cent to hit a low of 85,053. The index had scaled a record high level in intra-day trade in the previous session, but closed lower due to profit booking in

the second half. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined by 143.55 points or 0.55

per cent to 26.032.20. Among Sensex firms, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, Bharat Electronics and Larsen & Tou-

bro were the biggest laggards. However, Asian Paints, Maruti, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance were among the

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1.171.31 crore on Monday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹2,558.93 crore,

BSE SENSEX

Sensex plunges for 3rd day on FII selling

DECEMBER 2, 2025

CHANGE: -503.63 (-0.59%) 85,138.27 -Today's Closing 85,138.27 9:15 am 11 am 1 pm

ASIAN PAINTS	+3.11 %	
MARUTI	+0.78 %	TOP
BHARTI AIRTEL	+0.59 %	GAINERS
HINDUSTAN UNILEVER	+0.55 %	
BAJAJ FINANCE	+0.47 %	



according to exchange data. "FII selling has once again

Previous

85,641.90

gathered pace and in the last three sessions have sold domestic shares worth more than ₹6.000 crore. Valuations at elevated levels and delay in the announcement of the Indo-US trade deal are causing a lot of anxiety amongst the investors who are looking at fresh positive triggers. The rupee's downward spiral is also adding to investors discomfort," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta

Equities Ltd, said.

The rupee breached the psychological 90-a-dollar level in intraday trade before settling 46 paise down at an all-time low of 89.99 against the US dollar Tuesdav.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.49 per cent and midcap index dipped by 0.14 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, services dropped 1.03 per cent, financial services (0.78 per cent), bankex (0.75 per cent), industrials (0.49 per cent) and utilities

BSE Telecommunication, consumer durables, teck and auto were the winners.

A total of 2,563 stocks de clined while 1,586 advanced and 167 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The decline was primarily driven by a sharp contraction in the IIP data, weakness in the rupee, and caution ahead of the upcoming US Fed and RBI policy decisions later in the week Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

surge of 18 per cent YOY, tar

geting core tech talent like Data

Scientists (49 per cent), Solu-

tions Architects (45 per cent),

Full Stack Developers (36 per

cent), and Data Engineers (33

Strategy and Management

Consulting GCCs led with 50

per cent, while IT-sector GCCs

grew by 9 per cent in Novem-

"Shift towards Non-IT sec-

per cent), said the report.

ber, it stated.

White-collar hiring sees 23% y-o-y growth: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 2: White collar hiring in November has surged by 23 per cent, mainly led by non-IT sectors such as education, real estate, hospitality and travel, and insurance, says a

October had registered a 9 per cent year-on-year decline in hiring due to advancement of Diwali dates this year while in November it rebounded with a 23 per cent growth, according to the Naukri JobSpe-

ak Index report. The Naukri JobSpeak Index report is based on Indian job market trends and hiring activity based on new job list-

ings and recruiter searches on Naukri.com. The report further revealed

that while IT hiring remained flat during November, several Non-IT sectors witnessed solid hiring growth. In November, education (44

per cent), real estate (40 per cent), hospitality/travel (40 per cent), and insurance (36 per cent) posted the strongest gains. Notably, high-value roles

(Rs 20 Lakh Per Annum) and unicorn hiring surged in this period, by 38 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively, added the report. Unicorn hiring leapt 35 per cent YOY, led by e-commerce players at 27 per cent. with IT unicorns witnessing a



Hyderabad (41 per cent), and 16 per cent surge. When it came to geographical location, Chennai (49 per cent),

Delhi/NCR (41 per cent) continued to drive the bulk of this growth, revealed the report. Senior cohorts in the experience range of 13-16 years witnessed a 50 per cent YOY growth in hiring by Unicorns,

it stated.

Further, the report revealed that entry-level hiring surged 30 per cent nationally, with non-metros taking the lead.

Ahmedabad topped the chart at 41 per cent, followed by Coimbatore (32 per cent) and Jaipur (31 per cent), said the

Key metro hubs like Mumbai and Bangalore posted 29 per cent and 26 per cent growth,

respectively, it added. Meanwhile, Global Capability Centres witnessed a hiring

tors and demand for high-value roles, continues. One early trend we are observing on the platform is the increased digital hiring adoption among small businesses," Naukri Chief Business Officer Dr Pawan Goyal added.

OrissaPOST

India rely on Kohli-Rohit pair Syed Mushtaq ali trophy Suryavanshi's 108 in vain as Maha

Raipur, Dec 2: The chatter around the volatile dressing room environment notwithstanding, India will rely on Virat Kohli's imperious form and Rohit Sharma's indomitable presence to seal a series victory over a doughty South Africa in the second ODI, here Wednesday.

A record-extending 52nd ODI century by Kohli and a rapid 57 from Rohit paved the way for India's 17-run win in the series-opener at Ranchi, where the home bowlers endured a spirited fightback from the Proteas before managing to stop them.

With the 2027 ODI World Cup two years away, Kohli and Rohit are not only auditioning every match to prove their fitness and form but are also reportedly managing growing differences with head coach Gautam Gambhir.

The issue has dominated the off-field talk and is expected to have the BCCI stepping in at some point.

Having set up two consecutive victories for India in last as many ODIs -- including a nine-wicket hammering of Australia at Sydney in October - Kohli and Rohit have shown they will everything possible to be on that flight to the World Cup in South Africa.

Both the chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Gambhir have remained non-committal about their participation in the World Cup and that has probably been at the centre of the simmering tensions between the two sides.

However, India have a lot more to worry about despite the opening win.

For starters, the combination does not seem perfectly aligned. Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has built an impressive record in List A cricket, was pushed from opening to No 4. He did not look

completely conditioned for the role, with stand-in captain KL Rahul staunchly defending his position at No 6.

Washington Sundar is not new to such experiments as the Tamil Nadu all-rounder, who batted at No 3 in Kolkata Test against the Proteas, has seen plenty of changes in his batting positions. But in the first ODI at No 5, he too was among the batters dismissed in a phase where India slowed down.

And again for an all-rounder, Washington also had another light day in terms of bowling as he sent down only three overs

To his credit, Harshit Rana did a lot of good to his reputation with two wickets upfront

with the new ball but his knack of giving away runs later on will require the all-rounder to bring in more control, especially when only one ball is allowed to play with after the 34th over.

In their bid to restore balance between bat and ball, the ICC's new rule allows only one ball from the existing two to be continued with from 34-50 overs.

Kuldeep Yadav snaffled key wickets for a match haul of 4/68 and even though he was a shade expensive, his variation proved to be the difference as South Africa fell short but then, not by a big margin.

South Africa will indeed take a lot of heart in their inspired comeback after being reduced to 11/3 at one stage.

Teams:

India: KL Rahul (c&wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (wk), Rohit Sharma, Tilak Varma, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Matthew Breetzke, Dewald Brevis, Quinton de Kock (wk), Tony de Zorzi, Rubin Hermann (wk), Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Corbin Bosch, Marco Jansen, Prenelan Subrayen, Ottneil Baartman, Nandre Burger, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi.

beat Bihar in Elite Group B match

Kolkata, Dec 2: The supremely talented Vaibhav Suryavanshi hit a sparkling 61-ball 108 not out but it went in vain as Maharashtra defeated Bihar by three wickets in their Elite Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here Tuesday.

Asked to bat, the 14-year-old opener combined power with patience, smashing seven fours and seven sixes to become the youngest centurion in the his tory of the tournament as he guided Bihar to 176 for three.

In reply, skipper Prithvi Shaw set the tone with a brutal 30-ball 66, while Nirai Joshi (30), Ranjeet Nikam (27) and Nikhil Naik (22) chipped in with crucial contributions to take Maharashtra home with five balls to spare.

Mohd Izhar (2/22) and Sakibul Gani (2/50) claimed two wickets each, while Sakib Hussain (1/40), Suraj Kashyap (1/35) and Khalid Alam (1/34) picked up a wicket apiece to keep Bihar in the contest, but Maharashtra held their nerves.

Earlier, Suryavanshi broke Bihar's record for most sixes in a T20 innings with his tally of seven. The 14-year-old also added 75 runs with Ayush Loharuka (25 not out) for the fourth wicket -- Bihar's highest stand for that wicket in T20 cricket.

Brief Scores:

Maharashtra 182 for 7 in 19.1 overs (Prithvi Shaw 66; Mohd Izhar 2/22) beat Bihar 176 for 3 in 20 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 108; Vicky Ostwal 1/26) by three wickets.

Hardik's unbeaten 77 help

India allrounder Hardik Pandya smashed a 42-ball 77 not out for Baroda as the team chased



The 14-year-old opener combined power with sixes to become the youngest centurion in the history of the tournament

down a 223-run target against Punjab to clinch their second consecutive victory at the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here Tuesday.

Notably, this was Hardik's first outing in almost three months, as he returned to competitive cricket after a long injury layoff. He sustained an injury during India's Asia Cup Super Fours clash against Sri Lanka and has been out of action since. The allrounder subsequently missed the ODI and T20I series against Australia and was unavailable for selection for the ongoing 50-over series against South Africa.

In a first, Delhi lose to Tripura

Delhi team's ongoing domestic season went from bad to worse as minnows Tripura shocked a team full of cash-rich IPL stars by 12 runs in a Group D match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here Tuesday. Earlier this season in Ranji

Trophy, Delhi were soundly thrashed by Jammu and Kash mir, another first in their list of ignominies accumulated over the past few seasons.

Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) President Rohan Jaitley and sec retary Ashok Sharma will have a lot of explaining to do with regards to team selection, choice of support staff, including appointment of Sarandeep Singh, who has proved to be quite a disaster In the case of Ranji Trophy, Delhi will need a miracle to reach the knock-outs this sea son even if they win their last two games outright.

Vedanta's initiative helps Rachana Majhi clinch Gold in Archery



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Bhawanipatna, Dec 2: Vedanta Aluminium's archery training initiative has transformed 17-yearold tribal student Rachana Maihi from a remote village in Kalahandi into a national gold medal-winning archer.

Raised in Chanalima village, Rachana balanced school with farm work alongside her mother after the death of her father. Turning point came in 2021 when Vedanta's coordinators identified her potential during a school visit in Lanjigarh. With no prior exposure to archery, she picked up the bow driven purely by determination.

Enrolled into Vedanta's training prostructured gramme, Rachana received modern equipment, nutrition support and professional coaching. Her coach, Shambhu Nath Parida, said, "Rachana has a rare steadiness. Even under pressure, she stays composed and learns very fast.'

Her progress was swift. Silver at the 2022 Open State Championship, Gold at the 2024 School State Championship, and in 2025, Gold at the SGFI Council National Games, earning her a spot in the Sub-Junior National Championship.

Vedanta Aluminium's archery initiative, launched in 2018, now trains over 300 rural and tribal children with guidance from Olympian Rahul Banerjee. Highlighting the programme's impact, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "Rachana's journey reflects what is possible when opportunity reaches the grassroots.

IGPL AHMEDABAD

Veer Ganapathy takes 3-shot lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Dec 2: Teenaged rookie Veer Ganapathy brushed aside the disappointment of missing the cut last week by grabbing sole lead at the IGPL Invitational with a masterful round of 8-under 64 here Tuesday.

Veer, son of Rahul Ganapathy, former India No 1 who also won professional titles before turning a coach, showed what he has learnt from his father with a bogey-free round. The long-hitting youngster had

six birdies and an eagle to take a three-shot lead over special invitee Santiago de la Fuentes of Mexico at Glade One Resort. Ganapathy missed the cut at the Bharath Classic sanctioned by Asian Tour and the IGPL. Instead of being upset, he worked on his game for bigger prizes.

"I knew I had the game and somehow it did not come together at Kensville. This week I was determined and today all parts of the game worked, and I hope to continue in the same vein," said Veer, who is coached by his father.

Veer birdied the second and then added two more on the sixth and the eighth and capped it with an eagle two on the Par-4 ninth to turn in 5-under 31.

On the back, he birdied the 11th and had back-to-back gains on the 13th and the 14th. He parred the last four, though he could have picked another shot or two. But he also had a couple of good saves. Santiago, winner of the 2024 Latin America Amateur Championship, which gave him a spot at three Majors -- the Masters, the US Open and the Open --, showed why he is seen as a prodigious young star.

The 24-year-old, who studied at Houston, opened with four bridies in a row. He added two more against one bogey on the back nine for a 67, which had him second.

Sachin Baisoya, who lit up Kensville with a 10-under final day show, was 6-under when he came to the 18th, but he double bogeved it and fell to 4-under and was tied third with the tall Harshjeet Singh Sethie and Mysuru golfer, Yashas Chandra, who had five birdies and a bogey. SSP Chawrasia gave glimpses of his greatness as he was tied fifth with Pune IGPL

winner, Kapil Kumar at 3-under. Kartik Singh, Filipino Justin Quiban, also an invitee this week, Indian American Manav Shah and Asian Development Tour winner Karandeep Kochhar were tied eighth with 2-under cards.

FIH MEN'S WORLD CUP

India beat Switzerland; qualify for QF

Madurai, Dec 2: Manmeet Singh celebrated his birthday with a fine brace while Sharda Nand Tiwari converted two penalty corners as India defeated Switzerland 5-0 to continue their unbeaten run and qualify for the quarterfinals in the FIH Men's World Cup here Tuesday.

India finished on top of Pool B with nine points from three games

Manmeet (2nd, 11th minutes), Sharda Nand Tiwari (13th, 54th) and Arshdeep Singh (28th) found the net for India. Switzerland started on a

bright note, earning back-toback penalty corners in the first minute but India defended stoutly. The Indians responded quickly and took the lead in

the second minute as birthday boy Manmeet scored from close range after being fed by Dilraj Thereafter, there was no looking back for India as they dominated the proceedings

but failed to capitalise on the India doubled their lead in the 11th minute, with Man-

and secured their first penalty

corner in the fourth minute



meet brilliantly deflecting in a long ball.

Two minutes later, India extended their lead, converting their second penalty corner through Sharda Nand

Unbeaten Spain storm into OF

Meanwhile in the first match here, Spain thrashed Namibia 13-0 to directly qualify for the quarterfinals by topping Pool D with an all-win record from three matches.

Bruno Avila (5th, 23rd, 47th, 58th minutes) scored four goals. including a hat-trick, while An-

dres Medina (7th, 27th), Albert Serrahima (15th), Nicolas Mustaros (37th), Ton Moran (41st), Josep Martin (44th, 59th), Alex Bozal (54th) and Pere Amat (55th) were the other goal getters for Spain.

In the other Pool D match, Belgium thrashed Egypt 10-0 to qualify for the quarterfinal as the second-best placed side.

Maximilian Langer (18th, 25th, 59th) struck a hat-trick for Belgium, while Lucas Balthazar (4th, 23rd), Benjamin Thiery (28th), Mathias François (33rd), Jean Cloetens (50th), Hugo van Heel (56th) found the other goals for the winners.

Belgium finished second with six points from three games and qualified for knockout stages along side New Zealand, which finished second in Pool C with seven points.

Netherlands qualify from Pool E

Casper van der Veen scored a hat-trick as Netherlands thrashed Austria 11-0 qualify for the quarterfinals from Pool E with an unbeaten record.

Van der Veen (48th, 53rd 54th) scored three field goals, while Finn van Bijnen (21st. 35th), Casper Hafkamp (27th) Joppe Wolbert (31st), Thies Bakker (36th), Jens de Vuijst (39th), Pepijn van der Valk (49th) and Jan van't Land (56th) were the other goal getters for the Dutchmen.

England beat Malaysia 3-1

England defeated Malaysia 3-1 to finish second in Pool E but it was not enough for them to book a quarterfinal berth.

Henry Markham (4th), Mi chael Royden (36th) and Al ex Chihota (57th) scored for England, while Azimuddin Kamaruddin (47th) score for Malaysia.

'I don't want gifts or fame': Phula Saren pleads for a roof

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 2: 20-year-old Phula Saren from Odisha's Balasore district, who was adjudged Player of the Match in the final of the Blind Women's T20 Cricket World Cup in Colombo, said that reality struck her hard upon returning home after India's historic title triumph.

The Blind Women's Cricket T20 World Cup-winning team was accorded a grand welcome on its return to India. Moreover, the Government of Odisha awarded Rs 11 lakh each to the Odisha players after their historic win.

Phula, however, revealed that she was met with an eviction notice, compelling her to plead with the government for a

small home for herself and her family. The world champion is deeply concerned about her parents' struggles, living in a temporary hut on government land in Salabanei village, amid the threat of eviction.

'When I came back with the World Cup, our District Collector told us he felt proud. But now we have received an eviction notice. Where will we go?" Phula told IANS.

"If they remove us, I cannot study, I cannot practice, I cannot play. I will lose everything. I played for India... I made my country proud. But now I don't know where my family will live," said Phula, holding back tears.

Phula's parents are daily wage labourers. The family have no land of their own. "We



live on government land — a small shed my father built. My mother works as a helper in a local lab. My brothers also

work as labourers. There is no stable income."

She added, "My father could not support my education or



When I came back with the World Cup, our District Collector told us he felt proud. But now we have received an eviction notice. Where will we go?

my game. Many times I wanted to quit. I was the only girl from my district to even complete higher studies... people in my village said, She is blind, what will she do?'

"I just want a small house for my family. I don't want big gifts. I don't want fame. I only want a small piece of land so my family can build a house. If we are removed, where will we stay? How will I continue my studies or cricket?

She said that some officials promised help, but nothing materialised. "They said they

would support me... open training facilities... give us land. But nothing happened. Everyone wants credit when I win. But when I need help no one is there.'

"I fought poverty and disability. I fought every barrier to play for India. But now I am scared — not of cricket oppo nents, but of losing my home The government felt proud when I won. Now I request the same government... please don't take away our home. Give us a small land to live on. That is all I want," she pleaded.

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