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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

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 important tasks scheduled for the day. Ganesha urges you to guard against this tendency as you could miss out on opportunities that others could then benefit from. That way, you will surely lose out professionally, particularly if you are in business.

GEMINI

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 amid dealing with mammoth challenges, there will be passionate, quite often sexual, interludes. Quite the charmer!

CANCER

Your strange and unconventional behaviour doesn't always go down well with many people. If you think you are different, and maybe 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 even feel intimidated by you.

LEO

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.

VIRGO

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.

LIBRA

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 sympathetic nature today, hints Ganesha. 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 long-term 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.



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.



Nora going global

Mumbai: Actor-singer Nora Fatehi who recently 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 artists 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 unsafe.

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

AGENCIES

Ishaan puts humanity over religion

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.

Ishaan's personal journey, much like his character's, reflects the complexities and richness of India's cultural fabric. Born to actor Neelima Azeem and a Hindu father, Rajesh Khattar, and raised in an interfaith home, Ishaan grew up embracing multiple traditions. He is also the half-brother of actor Shahid Ka-

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 asset. "We're such a high functioning democracy in that sense. When you go to a place like New York or London, you realize it's a cultural hub or a melting pot with so many different cultures. That's probably the progressive way to be. That allows for so much growth in society, just to be able to have different perspectives and different people bringing in different strengths," he added.

AGENCIES



Mumbai: 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, "Raat gayi, baat gayi" while discussing infidelity in relationships.

The comment sparked widespread conversation on social media. Addressing the criticism, Twinkle clarified that 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."

Twinkle went on to explain India's cultural fabric. Born to actor Neelima Azeem and a Hindu father, Rajesh Khattar, and raised in an interfaith home, Ishaan grew up embracing multiple traditions. He is also the half-brother of actor Shahid Ka-

Twinkle responds to backlash over infidelity comment

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.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

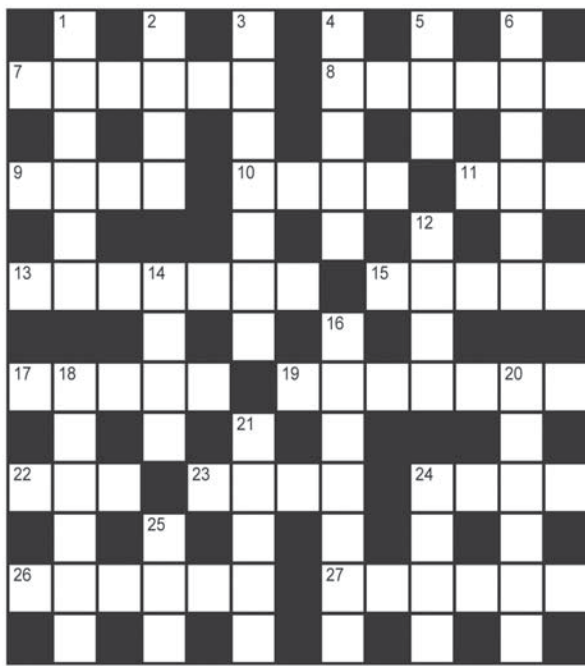


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across**

7 Hound dog

8 Cereal fruit

9 Agree

10 Cathedral recess

11 Plum part

13 Catamounts

15 Flick

17 Blink of an eye

19 Ocean movement (3,4)

22 Gallivant
- 23 Pedestal

24 Overlook

26 Concede (4,2)

27 Some relatives (2-4)
- 6 Model's wear

12 Sulk

14 Bistro

16 Daydream

18 Persians

20 Renounce, as a son

21 Large black-and-white crested eagle

24 Stubborn sort

25 Track action

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

D	C	S	S	S	S
F	O	M	E	N	T
D	N	E	R	C	L
M	O	U	S	A	K
U	M	P	O		
W	R	A	S	S	E
I	R	C			
O	P	T	I	C	
M	C	N	D		
L	I	S	P	O	F
D	A	M	E	E	N
D	E	S	I	R	E
S	R	T	S	E	S

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Crackdown on illegal MTP kits, abortion pill misuse

CP reviews T20 match arrangements

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 abortion-related activities.

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 department 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

owners have been served show-cause notices as a precursor to prosecution, while two medical stores operating without proper licenses and selling MTP kits have been seized, with prosecution processes initiated, an official informed.

“The state government has reiterated that stringent action will continue against distributors, wholesalers and retailers involved in illegal sales,” he said.

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



- Raids target unauthorised MTP kit sales, shops without pharmacists, missing prescriptions and illegal abortion pill stocking
 - So far, over 400 raids across districts have uncovered 234 violations
- Fifty-five shop owners have received show-cause notices, and two unlicensed medical stores selling MTP kits have been seized
 - Coordinated enforcement involving Assistant Controllers of Drugs, Drug Inspectors and district administrations is underway across the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

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-



cluding the Sports & Youth 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 the match.

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 teams 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 for seamless operations.

Binode Routroy's birth anniversary celebrated



Bhubaneswar: The state-level birth anniversary of eminent painter, graphic artist, sculptor, craftsmen and artisan Binode Routroy was commemorated at the Dhauli College of Art campus near Shanti Stupa, jointly organised by the Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, the Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department, and Dhauli College of Art. Padma Shri awardee and veteran sculptor Binod Maharana graced the event as Chief Guest, while Prabir Dalai, Professor at Utkal University of Culture, delivered the keynote address. Renowned artist Bijay Kumar Parida and Routroy's daughter Banja Routroy attended as honoured guests, sharing insights into the artist's life and his remarkable contribution to Odisha's art and literature. College Chairman and artist Panchanan Samal welcomed the dignitaries. A special exhibition featuring 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. Outstanding student artists were felicitated for their works. The programme was coordinated by faculty members Yanita Priyadarsini, Sarat Samal, Sunil Dakua, and Lakshmidhar Swain.

ASSAM & NAGALAND'S FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

Unity in diversity shared nat'l responsibility: Guv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Governor 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 Nagaland, 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 Brahmaputra, verdant tea gardens, rich wildlife, spiritual heritage, and vibrant festivals like Bihu, serving 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, Shreshta Bharat, calling it a meaningful effort to reinforce national bonds. He also lauded Odisha's inclusive

spirit, noting that many from the Northeast have made the state their second home.

During the event, a video message from Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya was also played. Additionally, northeastern natives residing in Odisha, including Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma, Principal Secretary, 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 address.

Fake recovery agent held for snatching vehicle in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: Saheed Nagar police Monday arrested 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, targeted a vehicle bearing registration number 24 BH 2950 B, driven by a professional driver and financed by Union Bank, police said.

On November 28, 2025, Deepak falsely introduced himself to the vehicle owner as a legal advisor of Union Bank and claimed the vehicle required urgent inspection. Trusting him, the owner sent the vehicle to Bhubaneswar.

After the driver arrived, the accused took him to a secluded spot near Jayadev Vihar on NH-16 and demanded ₹38,200 as alleged EMI dues and penalties, which the owner later paid.



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 the spot.

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 driver approached the police and lodged a complaint.

During the investigation, police seized a vehicle bearing registration OD 02 BD 1612 from Deepak. In a subsequent raid, the hijacked vehicle was recovered from Bhavya Stockyard at Sisupalgarh under Dhauli Police limits. Deepak also reportedly made a voluntary confession.

Investigators found that Baliarsingh had been operating 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 into the matter.

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



POST NEWS NETWORK

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

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.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 2: A key secretary-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja 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 early stage.

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



reviewed in detail.

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.

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 festival 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 schemes, forward-looking 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.

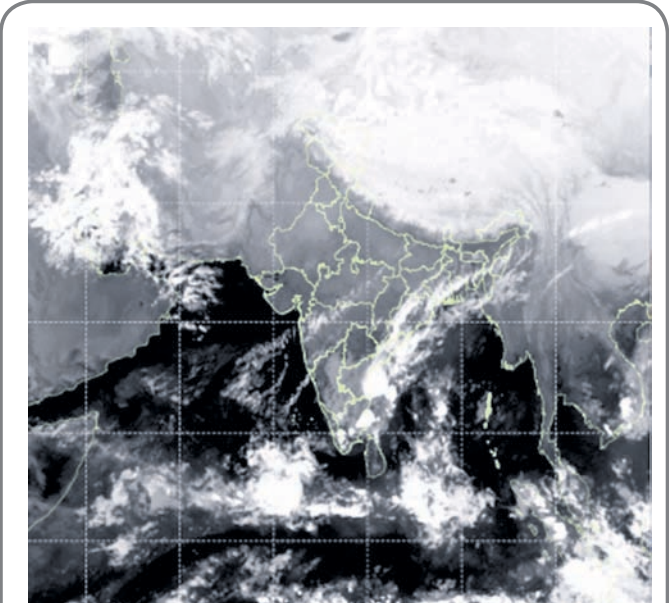
On the occasion, prominent speakers included Shruti Mohapatra, founder of Swabhiman; Prof PK Nanda, Vice-Chancel-

lor 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 Kanachana 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; Mahanathesh GK, Managing Trustee and Founder of Samarthanam Trust, Bengaluru; and Durjyadhan Nahak, Professor at Delhi University, shared their insights.

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.

MARKET WATCH							
CURRENCY			BOURSES		COMMODITIES		
INDEX	VARIATION		INDEX	VARIATION		INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	90.10	▲ 0.43	SENSEX	85138.27	▼ 503.63	GOLD	₹126,558 ▼ ₹757
EURO	104.65	▲ 0.21	NIFTY	26032.20	▼ 143.55	SILVER	₹174,616 ▼ ₹3,584



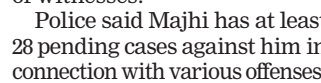
WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	28.2°	26.8°	Partly Cloudy sky
Min Temp	20.0°	17.6°	
Humidity	73%	84%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

35 swords, 5 firearms seized in Rourkela



As the situation unfolds, villagers await a strong and urgent response from the administration.

According to the SP, police received a tip-off around 9 pm on 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 arrested and their trawler was seized 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.

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

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 Tunkia 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.

Terms and conditions of E-Auction: To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance 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 Bidding" process through the website: <https://baanknet.com>.

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

Place: Sambalpur Date: 02.12.2025	Authorised Officer Bank of India
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EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF ADVERTISEMENT
Auction Catalogue No. : NFR-KUM-MOB-25
(1) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-14229-2-25-I (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))
Description: ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING EXTERIOR SURFACE (FULL FACE) OF AREA 389.76 SQ.MTR OF TRAIN NO. 68411 (BHUBANESWAR (BBS) BRAHMAPUR (BAM)) MEMU.
(2) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-298995-1-25-I (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))
Description: ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING ON EXTERIOR SURFACE (FULL FACE) OF AREA 742.32 SQ.MTR OF TRAIN NO. 68433/68434 (CUTTACK (CTC)-GUNUPUR (GNPR)-CUTTACK (CTC)) MEMU.
(3) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-155973-2-25-I (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))
Description: ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS IN TRAIN NO 68421/68422 ANGUL (ANGL)-PUR1 (PUR1)-ANGUL (ANGL) MEMU (TRAIN EXTERIOR- FULL FACE).
(4) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-298969-1-25-I (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))
Description: ADVERTISEMENT THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING IN FULL EXTERIOR SURFACE OF TRAIN NO 68425 (KHURDA ROAD (KUR)-KENDUJHARGARH (KDJR) MEMU OF AREA 494.88 SQ.MTR.
(5) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-168058-1-25-I (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))
Description: ADVERTISEMENT THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING IN FULL EXTERIOR SURFACE OF TRAIN NO 68415 (CUTTACK (CTC)-PURI (PURI)) MEMU OF AREA 989.76 SQ MTR.
(6) Lot No./Category : ADVT-EFF-198650-1-25-I (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))
Description: ADVERTISEMENT THROUGH VINYL WRAPPING IN FULL EXTERIOR SURFACE OF TRAIN NO. 68445/68446 (CUTTACK (CTC)-PALASA (PSA)-CUTTACK (CTC)) MEMU OF AREA 742.32 SQ.MTR.
Rate Unit : Annual Licensing Fee (for all sl. nos.), Trips/Days: 1096 (for all sl. nos.), Minimum Increment : 0.2% (for all sl. nos.), Lot Status: New in Draft Catalogue (for all sl. nos.),
Lot start date & time : 12.12.2025 at 1100 hrs. (for all sl. nos.)
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. no. 5) and 1220 hrs. (for sl. no. 6).
Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the www.ireps.gov.in and check the upcoming e-Auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-Auction.
SR/Divisional Commercial Manager, PR-860/(25-26) Khurda Road

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



THE MOTHER

Trump-Maduro Tensions

Tensions 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 pretex

t. 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 Venezuel

an 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.

FRANZ KAFKA

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 be lived.

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.

ECKHART TOLLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1818:** Illinois joins the Union. The midwestern state became the 21st state to be part of the United State. 3 U.S. presidents call it their home state.
- **1910:** First public demonstration of neon lights. Seen in most urban settings and cities today, the neon light was invented by French inventor and engineer, Georges Claude. They were first displayed at the Paris Motor Show.
- **1927:** First Laurel & Hardy movie released. Putting Pants on Philip, a short silent film starring the comedy duo marked the beginning of a long partnership.
- **1979:** Ayatollah Khomeini takes office. The Iranian religious leader was a leader of the 1979 Iranian Revolution.
- **1984:** Bhopal Gas disaster. A gas leak from a Union Carbide India Limited pesticide plant in the city of Bhopal, India killed over 2000 people and affected thousands of others. It is said to be the world's worst industrial disaster.

FOCUS

CORRUPTION

AMERICAN KLEPTOCRACY



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



Janine R. Wedel

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

Corruption may simply be a way of life for US President Donald Trump, but it is the defining issue of his presidency. 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 pay-to-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

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 prac

tice. 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

tried-and-tested Soviet practice: appointing incompetent and inexperienced subordinates who owe their master everything

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

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IN JEST THIS

Adulthood should begin much later than 18

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



Melvin Durai

I’ve often wondered whether the way we treat people at different ages makes any sense scientifically. In many countries, you 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 find

ing 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 Nature Communications found that there are four pivotal turning points in how the human brain develops and re-configures 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.”

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



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-of-pocket 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



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Bhopal.

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

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-

age shed.

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 world.

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-



BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

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 during this construction. The construction of this landfill cell 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-

ious states across the country.

Social activists in Pithampur 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 factory waste.

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 years, 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-engine government, he is the Prime Minister, yet neither adequate relief is in sight nor any empathy,” Gandhi claimed.

“There is intense public outrage in Gujarat — every family is worried about their children’s future. Every family is asking — why 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 relentlessly expose the failures and corruption of the BJP government, 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 keep Gujarat’s identity alive. The event, held in Gandhinagar’s Sector 12 and organised by Atulya Varaso, honoured these

contributors with the Atulya Varaso 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 historical legacy.

Calling for collective responsibility 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**
At/Po: KURUDA, Dist- Balasore, Pin-756056, Odisha
Control Room:-91-9437691870,
e-mail:dfowl_bls@yashoo.co.in/dfowl_balasorew@odisha
Office Order No.287/1F (Accounts)/ F.No.-190/2024
Balasore, Dated the 11th December 2025,
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.DFO-BLS-01/2025-26
1. Name of Works : Construction of Buildings
2. No. of Works : 5 Nos.
3. Approximate estimated Cost : 75.00 Lakh
4. Class of Contractor : "D" & "C" Class (As per Annexure)
5. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
6. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.6,000/- towards cost of bid as mentioned in Annexure (for each work)
7. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt.01.12.2025 at 12.00 P.M.
8. Last date/time for receipt of bid : Dt.15.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
9. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.16.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
10. Name and address of the Office : Divisional Forest Officer, Balasore Wildlife Division, Balasore
11. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
12. All other details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Balasore Wildlife Division, Balasore
OIPR-08036/11/0018/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.MM-331
**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
PHULBANI KENDU LEAF DIVISION**
At/PO/PS:PHULBANI, e-mail id: dfoklpb@gmail.com
BID IDENTIFICATION No. F.E.&CC/PLB/01 (online)/2025-26
E-Procurement Notice
No.01, Dated 01.12.2025
The Divisional Forest Officer, Phulbani K.L. Division, on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover and Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE.
1. Nature of Work :- Construction of Forest Guard Quarter at Phulbani Division Office Campus
2. Tender Cost :- Rs.6000/-
3. Class of Contractor :- "C" & "D" Class Contractors
4. Availability of bid document in the website :- 18.00 Hours of 06.12.2025 to 17.30 Hours of 15.12.2025
5. Date of Opening of Tenders :- 11.30 Hours on dt.16.12.2025
6. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further 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.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Phulbani K.L. Division
OIPR-08069/11/0004/2526

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO. I, CUTTACK**
No. B-776
E-Mail ID: eeppwdcuttack@gmail.com, Tel./Fax No.: (0671) 2304128
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA “e” Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. S.E. CTC (R&B)-55 of 2025-26
1. 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
2. No. of work : 4 Nos.
3. Nature of Work : Road Work
4. Class of Contractor : "B" Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid documents in : From 03.12.2025 to 5 P.M. of 17.12.2025
7. Date of Opening of Bid : 11 A.M. of 18.12.2025
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further 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 Engineer
Cuttack (R&B) Division No. I
OIPR-34091/11/0109/2526

CHILIKA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Plot No. 493(P), Palaspalli, Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar - 751020, Odisha
Phone: 91-674-2591544, Fax: 91-674-2590485
Email: chilika@chilika.com
No. CAD-2550
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. Sollyery)
02. Estimated Cost : Rs.24.89 Lakhs (Excluding GST)
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 of the Officer Inviting Tender (O.I.T.) : Addl. Chief Executive Chilika Development Authority, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Plot No. 493(P), Palaspalli, Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar - 751020
Further information and other details are available for 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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
JHARSUGUDA KENDU LEAF DIVISION**
AT/PO-BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, PIN-768202
Mob:8280342658, Email:dfokljd@gmail.com
BID IDENTIFICATION No.DFOKL/JSG-01 of 2025-26
E-Procurement Notice
No.01, Dated 28.11.2025
No.MM-321:The Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda K.L. Division, on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover /Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE.
1. Nature of Work : Construction of Forest Guard Quarters
2. Tender Cost : Rs.6000/-
3. Class of Contractor : "C" & "D" Class Contractors
4. Availability of bid document in the website : 18.00 Hours of 03.12.2025 to 17.30 Hours of 16.12.2025
5. Date of Opening of Tenders : 11.30 Hours on dt.17.12.2025
6. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further 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.
Sd./- (Salvinder Singh, OFS-1 (SB))
Divisional Forest Officer
Jharsuguda K.L. Division
OIPR-08054/11/0025/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-1030
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHORDHA**
Tel. No. (06755) 221502, E-mail: eeimidkhurda@yahoo.co.in
Letter No. 5452
Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. SEMIDKHD 15/2025-26
Dt.29.11.2025
1 The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Khordha, on behalf of the Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover System in Online Mode only for Civil Works in Check Dams under Impt. to Check Dam MIPs under ERM Scheme as detailed in the table below from the eligible class of contractors.
2 Nature of Work : Civil works in Check Dams under Impt. to Check Dams and MIPs under ERM Scheme in different Blocks of Khordha District
3 No. of Works : 13 (Thirteen) Nos. only
4 Estimated Cost : Rs.5.08 to 42.36 Lakhs
5 Cost of Bid Document : Rs.4000/- & 6000/- through online only
6 Class of Contractor : D class, C and B class as applicable
7 Availability of Bid Documents : 10.00 A.M. of Dt.03.12.2025 to 5.30 P.M. of Dt.11.12.2025
8 Last date and time for receipt of Bids in the portal : 5.30 P.M. of Dt.11.12.2025
9 Date of opening of Bids : 11.30 A.M. of Dt.12.12.2025
10 The bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details 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 without 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 ground for the same.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Minor Irrigation Division, Khordha
OIPR-32042/11/0025/2526

HEIGHT OF SUCCESS

Overcoming odds, legal woes, Gujarat’s 3 feet tall doc gets 1st job



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 appointment 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 fight never crossed his mind.

His efforts have borne fruit and Baraiya last week joined Sir Takhtasinhji General Hospital, a government facility in Bhavnagar district, as a Medical Officer (Class-2).

“Since childhood, whenever I was asked about my ambition, I used to say ‘I want to be a doctor’,” disclosed the 25-year-old physi-

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,

a farmer’s son with 72 per cent locomotor disability has proved that dreams do come true,” said Katariya, basking in the success of his student.

Locomotor disability refers to a condition that results in the loss or restriction of movement of limbs or body parts.

Baraiya was born to farmer Vithalbhaji 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 National 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 the Supreme Court in 2018,” he maintained.

In the meantime, he enrolled in a BSc programme.

of the day

quote

The Islamic Emirate is fully prepared to strengthen border security, conduct joint investigations, and engage in any form of coordination

AMIR KHAN MUTTAQI | FOREIGN MINISTER, AFGHANISTAN



Putin's visit offers an opportunity for Delhi to reassert the strength of its special relationship with Moscow, despite recent developments, and make headway in new arms deals

MICHAEL KUGELMAN | AUTHOR IN ATLANTIC COUNCIL THINK TANK, USA



China continues to assert its strategic influence, including through economic and security means, and is more frequently projecting its military power further into our (pacific) region

PENNY WONG | MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AUSTRALIA



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 Pakistan army said Tuesday. The exercise, called Warrior-IX, started Monday at the National Counter Terrorism Centre in Pabbi, in 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 subjected 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 protest.

India boots fleet with Heron MK II drones



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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."

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.

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 ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE



Putin meets Trump envoys

REUTERS

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 Russia.

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 city," 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.

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



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-year-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 med-



ical board's recommendations at the moment," he said.

Hossain said the board was continuously monitoring Zia.

"She is properly receiving the treatment being administered 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 heart 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 judge-led inquiry into fire that killed 156

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Dec 2: Hong Kong's leader said Tuesday a judge-led committee will investigate the cause of the city's deadliest fire in decades and review oversight of building renovations blamed for fanning an inferno that killed at least 156 people.

Police have arrested 15 people on suspicion of manslaughter in a criminal inquiry into 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 arrested 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 press conference.



Investigators have completed sweeps of all but two of the burnt-out towers, finding residents' 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 disaster would be severely punished.

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



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

PTI PHOTO



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

cerns. Ramping up power generation 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 ethical, 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.

India rely on Kohli-Rohit pair

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 for 18 runs.

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.

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Suryavanshi's 108 in vain as Maha beat Bihar in Elite Group B match

AGENCIES

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 history 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 Niraj 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 Baroda win

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 patience, smashing seven fours and seven 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 Kashmir, another first in their list of ignominies accumulated over the past few seasons.

Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) President Rohan Jaitley and secretary 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 season 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-year-old tribal student Rachana Majhi 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 structured training programme, 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: Teen-aged 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 Kenville. 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 Kenville with a 10-under final day show, was 6-under when he came to the 18th, but he double bogeyed it and fell to 4-under and was tied third with the tall Harshjeet Singh Sethi 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.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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-to-back 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 Singh.

Thereafter, there was no looking back for India as they dominated the proceedings and secured their first penalty corner in the fourth minute but failed to capitalise on the chance.

India doubled their lead in the 11th minute, with Man-

FIH MEN'S WORLD CUP

India beat Switzerland; qualify for QF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



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 QF

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 Francois (33rd), Jean Cloetens (50th), Hugo

Labouchere (53rd) and Marin van Heel (56th) found the other goals for the winners.

Belgium finished second with six points from three games and qualified for knockout stages alongside 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), Michael Royden (36th) and Alex 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?
PHULA SAREN

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 opponents, 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.