



Malaika's stance

Malaika Arora calls out societal double standards, highlighting the contrasting judgments men and women face for similar choices

LEISURE | P2



H-1B crackdown

Trump administration announces increased vetting of applicants for H-1B visas

INTERNATIONAL | P10



MPC meet today

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra will announce the bi-monthly monetary policy Friday, amid mixed expectations

BUSINESS | P11



Chess prodigy

Sarwagya Kushwaha, just 3 years, 7 months and 20 days old, becomes youngest player in world chess history to earn official FIDE rating

SPORTS | P12

Provide more staff to help BLOs during SIR, SC tells states

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 4: Taking note of a plea alleging extreme work pressure faced by the booth level officers (BLOs) engaged in the time-bound Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, the Supreme Court Thursday directed the states to consider deputing additional employees for reducing their working hours.

The court was hearing an application filed by actor Vijay's party, Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), seeking a direction to the Election Commission (EC) not to take coercive actions under the Representation of the People (RP) Act against the BLOs for not performing the duty in a time-bound manner and pointing out that many of them have died by suicide due to the work pressure. P8

LIGHTNING CLAIMED 92 LIVES THIS YR: MIN

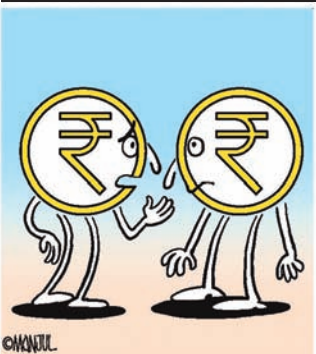
AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: Lightning strikes have claimed the lives of 92 people in Odisha this year, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari told the Assembly Thursday.

Replying to a question from BJD's Ashwini Kumar Patra, Pujari said four people died due to floods while four others died in whirlwinds this year. The highest of 10 deaths due to lightning strikes were reported in Bargarh, followed by eight in Koraput, and seven each in Keonjhar and Angul, Pujari said. As per the data provided by the minister, no lightning death was reported in Boudh, Cuttack, Nuapada, Jagatsinghpur and Kandhamal.

Similarly, the flood-related deaths were reported in Jajpur (three) and Balasore (one), whereas three persons were killed in whirlwinds in Bolangir and one in Cuttack.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Back then, everyone worried about us. Now they don't even check the rate

PUTIN IN DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday warmly welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin as he kick-started a nearly 27-hour visit to India to further shore up an eight-decade bilateral partnership that remained in firm footing notwithstanding fractious geopolitical upheavals.

In reflection of the importance India attached to the Russian leader's first visit to India in four years, Modi received him at New Delhi's Palam airport with a hug amid a group of artistes performing traditional dances.

From the airport, the two leaders travelled to Modi's official residence in his car, nearly three months after the PM rode with Putin in the Russian leader's vehicle in Chinese city of Tianjin during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

"Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow. India-Russia friendship is a time tested one that has greatly benefited our people," the PM said on social media. P9



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin at his official residence, at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi, Thursday PTI

Mockery of system: SC on tardy acid attack case trial

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 4: Expressing deep shock after learning from an acid attack survivor that her case has been pending before a trial court in Delhi since 2009, the Supreme Court Thursday termed the situation a 'national shame' and remarked that such offences ought to be tried in special courts. Stating that the slow pace of trials in acid attack cases amounts to a 'mockery of the system', the apex court directed High Courts to submit details of all such pending cases across the country within four weeks.

Mooting the idea of setting up special courts for expeditious disposal of acid attack cases, the SC also asked the Centre to consider amending the law through legislation or even an ordinance so that the survivors are formally included within the definition of persons with disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act to avail welfare schemes.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya



Bagchi also issued notices to the Centre and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on a PIL filed by acid attack survivor Shaheen Malik that the victims be categorised as persons with disabilities to ensure access to welfare schemes.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta assured the court that the issue would be taken up with 'due seriousness' by the government.

The SC termed as 'national shame' the prolonged delay of 16 years in Malik's own case, which has been pending since 2009 before a Rohini court here.

Malik, who also argued personally, said that she was attacked in 2009, yet the trial has still not concluded. "Mere saath 2009 mein attack hua tha, abhi tak trial chal raha hai" (I was attacked in 2009; the trial is still going on)," she said.

Expressing surprise over the delay of over 16 years, the CJI said, "The offence is of 2009 and the trial is not completed! If the National Capital cannot respond to these challenges, then who will deal with them? It is a shame on the system! This is a national shame."

The CJI asked Malik to file an application in the PIL itself explaining why the matter has not been concluded, assuring her that the court may even take suo motu cognisance. The CJI said trial in her case must be held on a day-to-day basis.

"Issue notice. Learned SG has also expressed concern about the causes raised in the instant petition. We also direct the Registrar Generals of all High Courts to furnish the details of pending trials in the cases of acid attack victims in

their respective jurisdiction," the SC ordered.

The CJI said that the aspect of pendency of cases and covering acid attack victims within the definition of persons with disabilities will be taken up after four weeks.

The bench, however, said that it will take up next week the issue of the delay in the trial in Malik's case at a Rohini court.

During the hearing, Malik highlighted the plight of victims who are forced to ingest acid, often surviving with artificial feeding tubes and severe disabilities.

The CJI expressed shock and said he had heard about the incidents of acid-throwing but had never come across cases where victims were forced to consume acid.

The CJI remarked, "These offences ought to be tried in special courts, given the gravity and the impact on survivors."

"This (tardy trials in acid attack cases) is a mockery of the system. There should be no sympathy for such persons (accused)," he said.

Chaos as 550 IndiGo flights cancelled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, Dec 4: The country's largest airline IndiGo

Thursday cancelled more than 550 domestic and international flights, and services were delayed at various airports as operational disruptions continued for the third straight day, impacting travel plans of hundreds of passengers.

On a day when the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA held a meeting with senior IndiGo officials to take stock of the situation as well as the mitigation plans, the airline's CEO, Pieter Elbers, told the staff that normalising operations and bringing back punctuality will not be an 'easy target'.

The airline, which generally operates around 2,300 flights daily and presents its punctuality as a hallmark, recorded an on time performance of 19.7 per cent Wednesday, a steep fall from 35 per cent reported Tuesday.

Grappling with significant flight disruptions due to a multitude of factors, including cabin crew woes and technology issues, the airline has adjusted its schedules which means that pre-

planned services are being carried out as part of normalising operations.

Sources told PTI that more than 550 flights were cancelled at different airports, including 172 flights at the Delhi airport, Thursday. There were at least 118 flight cancellations at the Mumbai airport, 100 at Bangalore, 75 at Hyderabad, 35 at Kolkata, 26 at Chennai, and 11 at Goa. Flight cancellations were reported at other airports also.

"IndiGo has been experiencing a sharp rise in cancellations, reaching approximately 170-200 flights per day, which is substantially higher than normal," the DGCA said following reported chaos at airports.

Civil Aviation Minister K Ram mohan Naidu held a high-level review meeting to assess the situation of significant flight disruptions and expressed his displeasure at the way IndiGo handled the new FDTL norms implementation despite having ample time. Meanwhile, IndiGo told DGCA that operations are expected to be fully stabilised by February 10, 2026, and sought temporary relaxations in flight duty norms.



Why did hundreds of Porsches in Russia suddenly shut down?

Imagine waking up on a Monday morning, coffee in hand (they drink that in Russia, right?), ready to fire up your beloved Porsche — only to discover it has transformed into a very expensive lawn ornament.

That's exactly what happened to hundreds of Russian Porsche owners this week, and the automotive world is buzzing with theories.

December 1 marked an unusual day in Russian automotive history. Across the vast expanse from Moscow to Krasnodar, Porsche owners found themselves in an oddly specific predicament: their cars simply refused to cooperate. We're not talking about a dead battery or a temperamental starter motor. These vehicles went full rebellion — engines locked up and alarms disabled.

One particularly unlucky driver in St. Petersburg had his Porsche die right after picking up

his takeout order, according to Daily Mail. "I picked up my order, got back in, and that was it - the car wouldn't start," he said, adding, "I spent two days trying to understand what happened."

The prime suspect appears to be Porsche's own Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) — yes, the very feature designed to protect these cars. Every Porsche sold in Russia since 2013 came equipped with this VTS, which communicates with satellites to track the vehicle's location. It's like a high-tech security blanket.

When VTS loses its satellite connection, it doesn't just shrug and wait for better reception. It takes the nuclear option: activating the engine immobilizer

and turning your six-figure sports car into a paperweight.

According to Yulia Trushkova from Rolf Group's service division, every model and engine type is affected. Naturally, when hundreds of luxury cars simultaneously brick themselves, people start asking questions. And in

Russia right now, those questions tend toward the dramatic.

One dealer representative floated the possibility of deliberate interference, though they were quick to admit there's zero evidence backing that theory. Up next on Ancient Aliens...

Porsche's Russian division has gone radio silent on the matter, and the compa-

ny's German headquarters isn't exactly rushing to issue statements. This has only made the ordeal feel even more suspicious.

Meanwhile, owners are stuck with cars that look pristine but won't budge. In the absence of official solutions, Porsche owners have turned to shade-tree engineering. Some have yanked alarm system connectors entirely. Others report success after disconnecting the battery for 10 hours or more — apparently these cars need a really long nap to reconsider their life choices.

Service centres across Russia are now flooded with identical cases: mechanically sound vehicles that simply refuse to start. Imagine being a mechanic faced with a parade of perfectly healthy patients who've all fallen into the same mysterious coma.

It's worth noting that Porsche stopped shipping new cars to Russia after the Ukraine inva-

sion, but plenty of their vehicles remain on Russian roads. The incident raises uncomfortable questions about the vulnerability of modern connected cars.

When your vehicle's security system can remotely disable it — intentionally or not — you're essentially driving a computer on wheels that might decide to take an unscheduled vacation. For now, stranded Porsche owners are left waiting for answers that may never come. Is this a massive technical glitch? A satellite malfunction? Something more deliberate? Your guess is as good as theirs.

One thing's certain: somewhere in Stuttgart, a team of engineers is having a very bad week. And across Russia, hundreds of Porsche enthusiasts are learning a hard lesson about the double-edged sword of modern automotive technology.

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Sexual harassment: Guest lecturer held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: A guest lecturer of state government-run Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya here was arrested Thursday on the charge of sexually harassing a girl student. Satrugna Samal was arrested on the basis of a complaint lodged by the college principal at Kharvelnagar police station, ACP Ramesh Bisoi said.

Samal, a lecturer in drama department, was disengaged from service following the allegation of sexual harassment of the minor and a massive student protest in the college. Principal BK Jena said he sacked the guest lecturer after receiving complaints from girl students.

A three-member committee of the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department also visited the campus and held discussions with authorities and students.



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The stars urge you to focus on your finances and savings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesha, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

TAURUS
This day you will have an urge to take a trip, be it a small one. Ganesha sees you enthusiastically making detailed plans and arrangements, arranging for funds and getting in touch with all those you desire to take along. It is possible that you may ultimately scrap your plans and choose to stay at home. However, be sure you'll be making that trip in due course.

GEMINI
Your physical appearance and personal attitude will see a marked improvement today, predicts Ganesha. A well-groomed you will climb up the popularity chart among peers, friends and members of the opposite sex. You will keep people under your spell with your wit and wisdom both at the workplace and at social gatherings.

CANCER
You will be firing all cylinders in the creativity department, says Ganesha. Even your colleagues may pitch in, and will give you new ideas to make your work better. Those looking for a new job will ace the interview and clear the selection process as easily as clearing the fog from their glasses.

LEO
Karmic balance dictates an equitable distribution of joy and sorrow, says Ganesha. So if your day seems drab and depressing today, rest assured, your evening shall be all the more refreshing and exciting. Surround yourself with family and friends, as you will receive royal treatment from them.

VIRGO
Play dodge ball with prejudice today. Do not let intolerance find shelter in you today, advises Ganesha. Instead, chances are you will seek to find love, affection and goodwill among those around you. Stay away from negativity as it may bog you down. Ganesha counsels you to have the courage to stand by your convictions.

LIBRA
Lights, camera, and action! Be prepared as the lime-light is focused on you on this very motivating and inspiring day, enabling you to attract excellent public praise. Today is an encouraging day to set in motion innovative projects, especially for those who desire to be their own masters and embark upon fulfilling self-financed ideas.

SCORPIO
You are most likely to resent the dominating and overbearing nature of your partner today. Patience will probably go to the dumps in this case then. But Ganesha advises you to sit together and resolve all personality clashes and quarrels in view of the larger scheme of things.

SAGITTARIUS
Expect a call to late-night revelry and a chance to binge. But you don't seem to be in the mood to let your hair loose and party, says Ganesha. However tempting it may be, your serious side will take over and you shall deny the offer.

CAPRICORN
You will start the day with verve and vigour, and will appear a completely different person at work. There will be a discernible change in your way of working, especially in terms of the level of energy and concentration you will put in. The switch to the new strategy will better your performance considerably and will make you feel that it was a good change after all. By the end of the day, all that you would want is a nice break to unwind, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
A productive day, as you will receive unrestrained support from your bosses and colleagues. Your creativity will reach its zenith and the resulting work will augment your reputation. The day will seem complete when you spend quality time with your family in the evening, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Happiness shared is double the joy; sorrows shared are half the burden. Your family is the foundation of your success, and it is to them you will turn in times of failure as well. With their support, getting back to the top of the game will take no time, says Ganesha.



LINDSAY LOHAN REFLECTS ON THE VALUE OF POSITIVITY

Lindsay Lohan, a naturally positive person, shares that her husband, Bader Shammass, taught her to temper her expectations. She learned the importance of being prepared for unexpected outcomes to avoid disappointment. Lohan also emphasises nurturing oneself, as distractions and unexpected turns are always possible in life

DICAPRIO'S ADVICE TO YOUNGER ACTORS

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio advocates for a long-term career approach, focusing on compelling scripts over quick financial rewards. He advises aspiring actors that their profession is a marathon, not a sprint, and warns against overexposure. Having started with independent films, DiCaprio gained creative control post-*Titanic* to select meaningful roles



Yami on 'paid hype' culture

MUMBAI: Actor Yami Gautam has strongly condemned the growing trend in the Hindi film industry where money is paid under the guise of marketing to create hype around films. Taking to X, Yami shared her concerns about the negative impact of this practice, which she described as a form of extortion. She pointed out that those who refuse to pay are targeted with negative coverage even before their films are released. Yami called this a dangerous culture that could harm the future of Indian cinema and urged producers, directors, and actors to unite against it.

In her post, Yami expressed that the normalisation of paying for positive coverage or spreading negativity against others is detrimental to the industry's growth. She warned that if this

trend continues, it will ultimately harm everyone involved.

Her *Kaabil* co-star Hrithik Roshan also expressed his support, commenting on X, "The golden thing that gets lost is the journalist's true voice, a chance for them to inform all the creative forces behind a movie about their real thoughts. True opinions have the potential to help us evolve. Without freedom of expression, without truth, what job satisfaction can anyone hope for?" Both Yami and Hrithik are calling for a united stand to protect the integrity of the industry.



MUMBAI: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, in his late-night musings on his blog, slipped into a quiet reflection on life.

The thespian took to his blog and shared a string of images from the sets of the latest season of the quiz-based show *Kaun Banega Crorepati*.

"In the end, life just becomes a series of still pictures," he wrote, letting the line sit without explanation.

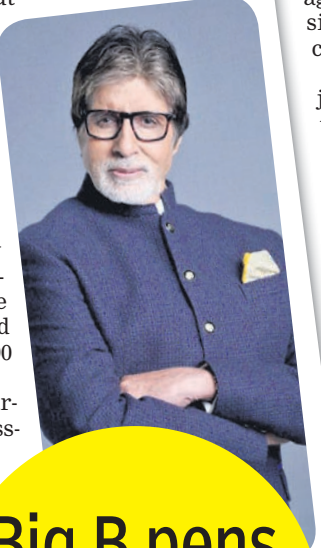
However, it comes after the passing of his dear friend and star Dharmendra.

Dharmendra passed away aged 89 November 24. The superstar would have turned 90 December 8.

Upon Dharmendra's passing, Big B, who worked with the late star in films such as *Sholay* (1975), *Chupke Chupke* (1975), *Ram Balram* (1980), *Seeb* (1981), *Burning Train* (1980), and *Hum Kaun Hai?* (1983), penned a note.

Expressing his grief on his passing, Amitabh penned a heartfelt tribute, which read: "another valiant Giant has left us .. left the arena .. leaving behind a silence with an unbearable sound .. Dharam ji ... the epitome of greatness, ever linked not only for his renowned physical presence, but for the largeness of his heart , and its most endearing simplicity ..(sic)."

Kaun Banega Crorepati is the official Hindi adaptation of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* franchise.



Big B pens reflective note

Malaika slams gender stereotypes

MUMBAI: Actor Malaika Arora recently addressed the constant scrutiny of her personal life, calling out the societal double standards that women face. In a candid interview, she highlighted the stark contrast in how men and women are judged for similar choices. She pointed out that when men divorce and marry women half their age, they are celebrated, while women in similar situations are questioned and criticised.

Malaika shared, "You are constantly judged for being strong. We are going to have these judgments irrespective." She expressed respect and love for the men in her life, acknowledging their positive influence but stressed the unfair societal stereotypes women face.

Malaika's relationship with actor Arjun Kapoor, which began in 2018, reportedly ended in 2024, though the couple did not issue an official statement on their breakup. They had previously kept their relationship private but later shared moments of their romance on social media. Before this, Malaika was married to Arbaaz Khan, with whom she shares a 23-year-old son, Arhaan. The couple separated in 2016 and officially divorced in 2017.

Malaika was recently seen in the dance track *Poison Baby* from the film *Thamma*, which released October 21, 2025, featuring a star-studded cast.



RAVEENA WINS HEARTS AGAIN

Fans flooded social media with admiration, sharing claps and raised hand emojis. One fan wrote, "Respect button," while another called her "Very kind Raveena mam."

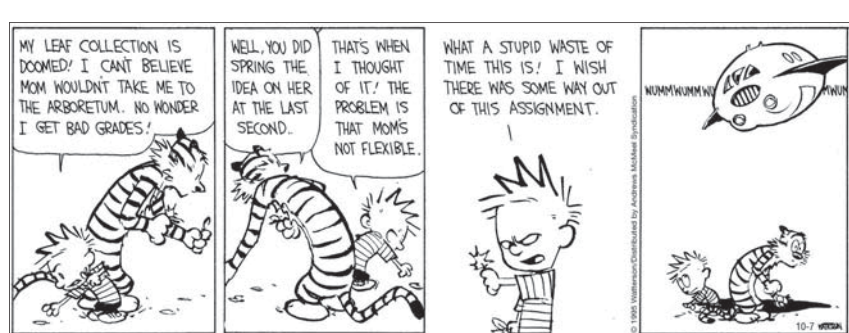
Raveena, known for her iconic roles alongside stars like Govinda, Akshay Kumar, Nagarjuna, and Upendra, continues to shine in the entertainment world. In 2024, she appeared in the web series *Karmma Calling* and the films *Patna Shuklla* and *Ghudchadi*. This year, she made a return to the screen with *Inn Galiyon Mein* and is preparing for her next big project, *Suriya 46*, alongside South star Suriya. The film, produced by Sithara Entertainments, also features Mamitha Baiju in a key role.

Meanwhile, Raveena's daughter, Rasha Thadani, is gearing up for her Telugu debut in *Srinivasa Mangapuram*.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
				8								
9								10				
11												
												12
13		14			15					16		
17										18		
19												
20						21						
22										23		

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Across

1 Adroit

3 Appreciative

9 Got there

10 Summer TV offering

11 C, M or X, e.g. (5,7)

13 Floor cleaner

15 Poverty-stricken

16 Choose

17 Mini-aquarium (8,4)

20 Kind of change

21 Windhoek locale

22 Supervisor

23 Proof word

Down

1 Schematics

2 Group meeting place

4 Secreted

5 Kid's story (7,5)

6 Mixed bag

7 Connect

8 Tuxedo (7,5)

12 Resolute

14 Agitate

18 Elliptical path

19 Nile queen, informally

21 GPS heading

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Nod to key infra projects for boosting disaster resilience



₹391.43 crore utilised so far for flood and cyclone relief in 2025-26

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: The State Disaster Management Executive Committee held its first meeting for FY 2025-26 under Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, approving several departmental proposals.

Key projects sanctioned include revised allocations for fire safety by the Housing and Urban Development department, financial aid for district-wide lightning protection initiatives, OSDMA's forest fire prevention plan, and a three-year maintenance programme for cyclone-resistant plantations in Puri and Chilika Wildlife Division areas.

Other approved proposals in-

APPROVED PROPOSALS

- Revised allocations for fire safety by the Housing and Urban Development department
- Financial aid for district-wide lightning protection initiatives and OSDMA's forest fire prevention plan
- Three-year maintenance programme for cyclone-resistant plantations in Puri and Chilika Wildlife Division areas

clude strengthening disaster-resilient power infrastructure, such as the establishment of a 220 kV GIS grid sub-station at Pahal to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Bhubaneswar and Cuttack during cyclones, support to NDMA for disaster-resilient infrastructure projects in other districts, and construction of high-level bridges and road improvements by the Rural Development department to enhance flood preparedness, among others.

Addressing the meeting, Ahuja said, "Odisha has earned a strong national and international reputation in disaster management, but continuous improvement is essential given the unpredictable nature of disasters."

"Disasters strike without warning, and therefore preparedness and rapid response must remain our top priority," he added, stressing inter-de-

partmental coordination and the need to reach disaster sites quickly and manage situations efficiently. Ahuja assured full support to further strengthen state's disaster response framework.

The committee reviewed the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF), which includes the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF), and approved expenditure proposals for disaster preparedness and mitigation initiatives. It was reported that ₹391.43 crore has been utilised so far in 2025-26 to address natural calamities, including floods and cyclones, occurring between March and November 28.

BURGLARY GANG BUSTED

Stolen items worth ₹40L recovered; 14 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Dec 4: Odisha Police Thursday busted an armed burglary gang by arresting 14 people and recovering stolen items worth ₹40 lakh from their possession.

Police also seized several weapons, a four-wheeler, two motorcycles and 15 mobile phones used in the crimes.

The arrested persons hail from Jajpur, Kendrapara and Cuttack districts, police said.

Speaking to reporters, DIG (central range) Satyajit Nayak said 11 of the arrested persons are members of the burglary gang, while three others are purchasers of the items stolen by the gang.

Jajpur Superintendent of Police Yash Pratap Shrimal said multiple teams were formed regarding the growing number of robbery and burglary cases in the district for the last eight months, and they were on the job to nab the accused.

Acting on a tip-off, the teams conducted raids at two different locations and apprehended two accused, he said. Based on inputs provided by them, police managed to arrest the remaining people along with three receivers of stolen property, the SP said.

"We recovered 225 gm of gold, 2.39 kg of silver jewellery, ₹5.9 lakh in cash, three vehicles including two motorcycles, 15 mobile phones, weapons, and house-breaking instruments," he further added.

The accused were produced before a court, which remanded them to judicial custody after rejecting their bail pleas, the police said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

Sworn Before the Notary Public Bargarh, I Pyarilal Tripathy, S/o. Gajaraj Tripathy, At - Bhatli Chowk, Ward No.18, P.O./P.S./Dist. - Bargarh, No.45, dt.03.12.2025 declared that in the Passport of my daughter Gargee Suman Tripathy, in which my name has been mentioned as Pyarelal Tripathy. Hence the both name Pyarelal Tripathy and Pyarilal Tripathy is same and one person.

Patia robbery attempt foiled; 4 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: A swift police response foiled a late-night robbery attempt near Patia Baradei Temple, resulting in the arrest of four armed suspects and the seizure of weapons and other materials intended for the crime, police said Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Budhadeb Barik (20), Lucky Soren (19), Sagar Bisoi (26) and Karunakar Digal (24). According to police sources, around 3:30 am December 3, a night patrol team—acting on instructions from Chandrashekarpur IIC Girish Chandra Maharana—received information that a group of men



armed with lethal weapons had gathered in an open field near Baradei Temple in Patia to plan a robbery targeting passersby.

At around 3:55 am, the police team reached the spot and found six individuals drinking

and engaged in a heated discussion. On seeing the police, the group tried to flee. Four were overpowered, while two escaped on a motorcycle. During a personal search, police seized multiple sharp weapons, a packet of chilli powder, a

written action plan, and other incriminating items from the arrested suspects.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had conspired to commit robbery in the Patia Station Road area and had been roaming the city with weapons for several days, creating fear among residents. It was also found that Sagar Bisoi had a prior case registered under Infocity Police Station.

All four arrested suspects were produced in court after completing the necessary legal procedures. Efforts are ongoing to apprehend the two absconding accused, Sheikh Zaidul and Sheikh Taufiq, and to uncover the full extent of the group's criminal activities.

Dhenkanal Utsav today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: The Dhenkanal Cultural Association (DCA), Bhubaneswar, announced that it will host the 'Dhenkanal Utsav 2025' December 5, during a press meet at Buddha Mandir.

Raja Narayan Tripathy, chief of the Media Management Committee for the Utsav, said the fifth edition will showcase Dhenkanal's rich cultural heritage and traditional delicacies, aiming to bring its culture to a wider audience. The event will open with a celebration of Dhenkanal's famous Vadha delicacy, followed by a cultural programme. Evening events at Bhanjakala Mandap will feature meetings, felicitation ceremonies, and additional cultural performances.

The evening will be graced by Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra. Kalinga Art Academy director general Padma Shri Adwaita Gadanyak will deliver the keynote address, with social activist Golak Prasad Mohapatra as guest of honour.

36TH KONARK FESTIVAL

Manipuri, Odissi mesmerise audience on fourth evening

POST NEWS NETWORK

Konark, Dec 4: The fourth evening at the 36th Konark Festival, organised by department of Tourism, in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Odisha Tourism Development Corporation, unfolded Thursday with captivating classical dance traditions. Set against the backdrop of UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Konark Sun Temple, artistes showcased timeless beauty of Manipuri and Odissi dance, reflecting India's profound cultural heritage.

The evening kicked off with a soulful presentation of Manipuri dance by artistes from Bimbavati Devi's Manipuri Dance Theatre, Kolkata. Bimbavati Devi, a distinguished exponent with decades of experience, brought forth Lilakamla, a composition inspired by the traditional Gosthali dance,



originally created by legendary musician Guru Bipin Singh. The performance depicted the heroic episodes from the life of Lord Krishna, seamlessly blending dance, rhythm, and music rooted in the Vaishnava traditions of Manipur. The choreography, designed by Bimbavati Devi, offered an immersive experience for the audience.

Following it, the stage was adorned with the grace and precision of Odissi, presented by Guru Bharat Charan Giri and the artistes of Bharati Nritya

Mandir, Bhubaneswar. Their first presentation, Charukeshi Pallavi, showcased the lyrical beauty of the raga through refined movements and rhythmic complexity. The choreography by Guru Bharat Charan Giri, musical composition by Guru Vijay Kumar Jena, and rhythmic arrangements by Guru Dhaneswar Swain and Guru Ajay Kumar Chowdhury brought the composition to life. Their second presentation, Gajanan received warm admiration from the audience. The festival will conclude Friday.

AgriSecy reviews millet procurement, distribution



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: A meeting on preparation, distribution and procurement of millets under department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Shree Anna Abhiyan was held under the chairmanship of department's Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee here recently.

The state government is committed to promoting grains like millet in the face of climate change, said Padhee.

At the meeting, Odisha State Supply Corporation Managing Director Sudarshan Chakravarty and Agriculture and Food Production Director Shubham Saxena were present, along with other senior officers of Food Corporation of India (FCI), Odisha Tribal Development Cooperative Cor-

poration Limited, and Agriculture department.

Various steps were discussed to facilitate this year's millet procurement programme and the department's approach to include maximum farmers in the scheme. "District Collectors have been instructed to be vigilant so that unscrupulous traders do not take advantage of this assistance," emphasised the officials.

The meeting also focused on distribution of procured millet through various state government schemes and supply to Central Reserve through the FCI. It is worth noting that 7,58,000 quintals of millet were procured last year and for the first time, more than one lakh quintals of millet have been exported to Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar.

70 platoons police force for India-South Africa T20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 4: The Odisha Police has put in place elaborate security arrangements for the India-South Africa T20 International cricket match scheduled at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack December 9.

To ensure the safety of players and spectators, over 70 platoons of police force will be deployed as part of the extensive security plan. The deployment will include nine Additional SPs, 40 DSPs, 65 Inspectors, 325 SIs, 38 Havildars/Constables, 208 APR Constables, and 73 women constables.

Officials said one ODRAF unit and two Special Tactical Unit (STU) teams will also be stationed for emergency re-



sponse. Personnel will be responsible for stadium security, traffic regulation, and crowd management.

Security arrangements will cover all points of player movement, including the airport,

team hotel, stadium, and travel routes. DGP YB Khurania has directed officials to ensure foolproof measures throughout the event.

The teams are scheduled to arrive in Bhubaneswar De-

cember 7 and will practise at Barabati Stadium December 8.

Ticket sales will begin at 10 am Friday. With strong public enthusiasm to watch the Indian players live, police anticipate heavy crowds at the counters and have planned special measures for crowd control and orderly ticket distribution.

A coordination meeting led by Cuttack DCP Rishikesh Khilari was held Thursday at Barabati Stadium to review the arrangements, where officers were instructed to ensure a disciplined and incident-free event.

Officials said police units will remain on high alert to prevent any untoward incident during the gathering of thousands of cricket fans.

‘India has achieved fastest 5G rollout’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti Thursday said that India has achieved the fastest rollout of 5G services globally, supported by over 1.23 billion telecom subscribers and nearly 99 per cent 4G coverage. He said this while addressing the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on Performance, Quality of Service (QoS) and Quality of Experience (QoE) organised by TRAI in collaboration with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at a hotel here, Thursday.

Lahoti highlighted India's progress in building a digitally inclusive telecom ecosystem and the transformative role of connectivity in everyday life. He noted that India has achieved the fastest rollout of 5G services globally, supported by over 1.23 billion telecom subscribers and nearly 99 per cent 4G coverage. He emphasised that India continues to record high data-consumption levels while maintaining affordable tariffs that ensure broad digital access across socio-economic groups.

He highlighted TRAI's QoS Rating Framework for Buildings (Digital Connectivity Rat-



ing) as an important initiative to enhance transparency in service-quality assessment and noted the growing need to strengthen indoor connectivity, given the significant share of data usage occurring within buildings. He further emphasised the need for deeper multilateral collaboration and called for exploring an ITU Regional Group for Asia on QoS and QoE to address challenges such as fraud prevention, cybersecurity and network interoperability.

In a video message, Union Minister of State for Communications Pemasani Chandra Sekhar emphasised India's focus on reliable and high-quality connectivity for citizens, highlighted ongoing efforts to

strengthen service quality under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, and welcomed the joint work of TRAI and ITU in advancing global standards and best practices.

Connectivity touches every aspect of life: CS

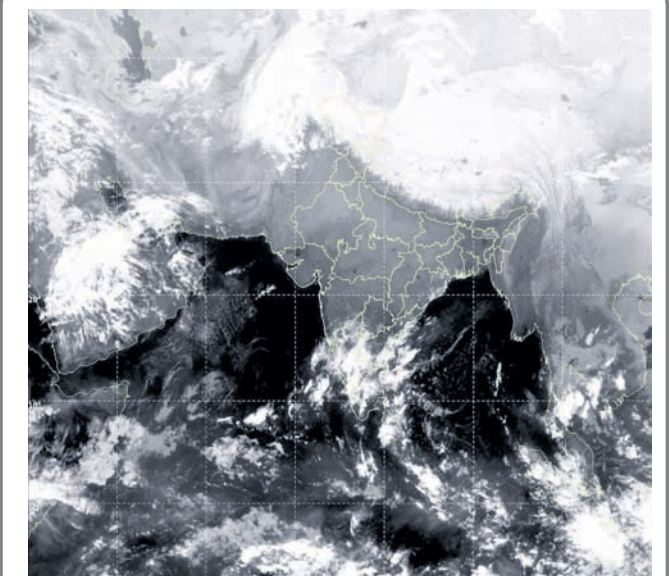
In his special address, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja underscored the vital role of telecom services in public safety and disaster-response systems. Drawing from Odisha's experience with cyclones and tsunami alerts, he emphasised the central role of telecom services in enabling inclusive growth, economic development and efficient public-service delivery. Noting that nearly every welfare system today relies on connectivity, he stressed that

Govt tries to revive BSNL, Vodafone-Idea

Bhubaneswar: Speaking to Orissa-POST on the sidelines of the event, TRAI Chairman AK Lahoti said that the Centre is making every effort to revive BSNL and Vodafone-Idea. On a question about lack of competition in telecom sector, with Jio being the dominant player, Lahoti said, "The government is making huge investments in BSNL to revive the public sector entity and bolster its competitiveness. This apart, the government is making efforts to resolve Vodafone-Idea's financial issues and revive the firm. However, since it is a private company, a lot depends on the company and, of course, time." To a query on how a common man can deal with frequent call drops and what needs to be done if repeated complaints to the service provider fail to yield any results, Lahoti said, "First, one needs to lodge a complaint with consumer centre/call centre of the service provider. If the issue is not resolved then he/she can approach the Appellate Authority, as per TRAI's norms. Then the issue would be heard at a higher level, but it is important to understand that the service provider is not bound to provide coverage. However, where there is coverage it should be ensured that there is quality." He also said that earlier it was impossible to find out whether a particular area comes under any network or not. But TRAI, through its rules framed in August 2024, has mandated the service providers to display their coverage map, which is now facilitating the process of resolving such issues.

robust QoS and QoE systems are indispensable for timely warnings and resilient service delivery.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	90.03 ▼ 0.32	SENSEX	85265.32 ▲ 158.51	GOLD	₹127,276 ▼ ₹556
EURO	105.18 ▼ 0.23	NIFTY	26033.75 ▲ 47.75	SILVER	₹174,232 ▼ ₹4,061



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	28.7°	26.6°	Fog/Mist in the morning and Partly cloud sky later
Min Temp	15.8°	15.2°	
Humidity	82%	89%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Man sets mother on fire for denying cash to buy liquor

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhadrak, Dec 4: An elderly woman suffered severe burn injuries after she was allegedly assaulted and set on fire by her son in Bhadrak district, police said Thursday. The incident took place at Galaganda village within Tihidi police limits.

The accused, identified as Debashish Nayak (45), a known substance abuser, fled the spot after allegedly setting his mother ablaze, police said.

According to preliminary reports, Debashish had asked his mother, Jyotsnarani Nayak (65), for money to buy liquor. When she refused, he allegedly attacked her. After she collapsed, he poured petrol and set her on fire, police said, quoting local residents.



When neighbours rushed to the spot hearing her screams, the accused escaped before being detained, Tihidi police station officer-in-charge Satyabrata Graharaaj said.

The woman was first taken to Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, after her condition worsened, police said.

“Debashish and his mother used to get into arguments often. But we never imagined that he would set his mother on fire for refusing to give money to buy liquor,” neighbour Subrata Nayak claimed.

Deadly accidents on NH-16 claim lives of two women in a day



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak/Chhatrapur, Dec 4: Two young women lost their lives in separate road accidents along the busy National Highway-16 Thursday, triggering public outrage, protests, and renewed calls for stronger road-safety measures.

In Bhadrak district, a college student, Shraddhanjali Panda of Bhandaripokhari College, was killed after a sand-laden tractor allegedly hit her bicycle from behind while she was on her way to campus. The impact reportedly dragged her under the vehicle, killing her on the spot. She was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

Enraged locals and college students immediately blocked the NH-16 for nearly five hours, demanding the arrest of the tractor driver and stricter action against reckless driving. The protest caused massive traffic congestion, leaving hundreds stranded. Police officials later held discussions with the agitators and restored normal traffic. An investigation has been initiated, said Bhandaripokhari IIC Rajlakshmi Behera.

District Collector Dillip Routray, who was in the area for a meeting, handed over Rs 30,000 to the victim's father from the District Red Cross Society.

Meanwhile, in Ganjam district, another fatal accident occurred at DRDA Square in Chha-



trapur, also on NH-16, where an Andhra-bound container truck reportedly rammed a scooter from behind. The collision caused J. Swati, who was returning to Berhampur with her father after completing work at the Ganjam RTO, to fall on the road. She was crushed to death instantly in front of her father, who narrowly escaped. The police have detained the truck driver and seized the vehicle. A case (763/25) has been registered, and the body was handed over to the family after post-mortem.

The Chhatrapur stretch of NH-16 has witnessed multiple fatalities in recent months. A biker from Balasore died near Science College Square earlier this week, while a schoolgirl was killed by a truck at the same DRDA Square in August. Locals describe both junctions as “death traps” and have been consistently demanding flyovers and round-the-clock traffic policing.

Following Thursday's incident, Ganjam Collector V. Keerthi Vasan and SP Suwendu Kumar Patra visited the accident site and instructed the consultancy agency to expedite the ongoing highway construction work.

Both tragedies have intensified calls for urgent road-safety interventions on NH-16, where rising fatalities continue to spark public concern across Odisha.

Youth climbs atop tower, makes girlfriend's parents let them talk

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar/Patana, Dec 4: A 29-year-old man in Keonjhar district scaled a high-voltage power transmission tower Thursday in a dramatic attempt to speak with his girlfriend. The incident brought to on-lookers' mind scenes from the 1975 Bollywood blockbuster 'Sholay'.

The incident took place near Judia under the Town police limits in Keonjhar district, drawing a large crowd and prompting an hours-long rescue operation. The youth was identified as Dashmant Mahakud, 29, of Kamarmora village under the Patana police limits. He finally came down after having a talk with



hakud has been in a relationship for three years with a woman from an area under the Nayakote police limits. Her parents reportedly disapproved of their relationship and prevented the two from

communicating.

Around 6am Thursday, Mahakud climbed the tower to pressure the woman's parents. He threatened to end his life if he was not allowed to speak with her. On being informed, local residents thronged the spot and alerted police, who arrived with the fire services personnel. A safety net was set up as rescuers tried to persuade him to come down.

After several hours of negotiation, Mahakud finally spoke to his girlfriend and her family over the phone around 9:30am. He later climbed down with assistance from fire personnel. Police detained him for questioning and later handed him over to his father after he arrived, officials said.

Class IV boy chained to bed in govt hostel



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, Nov 4: A nine-year-old tribal student was found chained to his bed in a state-run school hostel in Balasore district, triggering public resentment after a video of the incident went viral on social media.

The authenticity of the video, however, could not be verified by PTL. The incident took place at Begunia UGUP School in Nilagiri block. After the video drew the attention of the district administration Thursday, a senior official visited the hostel run by the Tribal Welfare department.

“We found the Class IV student chained to a bed. We recorded the statements of the headmaster, hostel superintendent and teachers. They claimed that the boy was chained following suggestions by his parents,” Balasore Sub-Collector Madusmita Samantray said.

School authorities claimed the boy was restrained to prevent him from frequently fleeing the hostel and returning home. The boy's mother, Lili Singh, defended the act and said they had requested the school authorities to keep her son chained as he often fled from the hostel.

“We counselled him several times, but the boy did not understand. Therefore, the school was requested to keep him tied and free only during school hours,” the mother said.

Sambalpur: Kin cry murder after girl's mysterious death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Dec 4: A day after the body of a 15-year-old girl was recovered from a drain in Shantinagar under Ainthapali police limits here, her kin Thursday alleged that she had been murdered.

The deceased, identified as Saishraddha Mishra, was the granddaughter of Ashok Kumar Mishra and Surekha Mishra of Shantinagar. Sources said, her father Ganga Prasad Mishra had died in an accident a few years back while her mother died under mysterious circumstances in 2017.

She had been living with her grandparents and was studying in Class X, according to police.

Her death has raised suspicion among residents and kin, as her mother had died allegedly by suicide a few years earlier. News



of Saishraddha's death has triggered shock and unrest across the town. Her maternal uncle Asit Kumar Nanda and his wife, who live in Angul, reached Sambalpur Thursday morning and alleged that the girl had been murdered. They claimed that Saishraddha's father, Ganga Prasad Mishra, died in an accident several years ago, and her mother's death in 2017 was considered suspicious. A complaint

had been filed at that time, and an investigation into that case remains ongoing.

According to the relatives, Ganga Prasad had transferred all his property to his wife's name before his death. They alleged that after Ganga Prasad's death, his wife was harassed and murdered, and it was made to appear as a case of suicide. They now suspect a similar pattern in Saishraddha's death.

“Police have registered a case and launched preliminary investigation. A forensic team visited the site for examination, and officers are reviewing nearby CCTV footage,” Sambalpur SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamu said.

The exact cause of death will be determined after the post-mortem report is received, police said. A case of unnatural death has been registered, and an investigation is underway.

Basta Assembly segment leads Odisha yet again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Dec 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 128th edition of “Mann Ki Baat” was broadcast across polling booths nationwide November 30, with the Basta Assembly constituency once again topping participation in Odisha.

According to local organisers, Booth Number-257 in the Basta Assembly constituency achieved hundred per cent participation for the 12th consecutive time in just 17 months.

MANN KI BAAT

As part of the 128th broadcast, special viewing events were arranged at 17 locations across the country where the Prime Minister interacted with listeners through a live video link. In the Balasore Parliamentary constituency, a dedicated programme was held at Booth Number-147 in Asti panchayat under Baliaipal block of the Basta Assembly segment (37).

Thousands of attendees gathered to listen to the Prime Minister's

address. Modi also interacted with the audience directly through video conferencing. The event was organised under the supervision of Balasore North district coordinator Krushnachandra Dutta. MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Balasore North president Pradip Kumar Panda, state coordinator Manasmita Khuntia.

Woman's decapitated body found

Malkangiri: Police Thursday recovered the body of a woman with its head severed near Pote-river under the Korukonda police limits in Malkangiri district. The deceased was identified as Lake Padiami, 50, of Rakhalguda village. The incident has sparked shockwaves and fear as residents and family members suggested murder. Family members alleged at the police station that she was murdered and her head was severed. A preliminary finding by police also suggested the possibility of homicide. Police said that the exact reason behind the woman's death will be known after a detailed investigation and availability of post-mortem report.

According to reports, Padiami had been missing for the past two days. Her family members searched multiple locations but had been unable to trace her. The matter came to the fore when villagers spotted the headless body near the river and alerted police Thursday. Korukonda police reached the spot, conducted an initial inquiry and seized the body. After receiving information, the woman's family members arrived and identified her remains. Police have launched an investigation into the killing.

Elephant attacks claim two lives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhendipada, Dec 4: Two persons of Joradanga village under the Chhendipada forest range in Angul district were killed in separate elephant attacks Thursday, triggering tension in the area.


The deceased were identified as Cheru Dehuri, 70, and Rajani Behera, 35. Forest officials recovered Cheru's body from the Chhendipada forest border, while Rajani's body was found near the Kundheigola forest boundary.

According to reports, Cheru was heading to a nearby farmland to relieve himself when he came in the way of a herd of elephants. An elephant picked him on its tusk and trampled him to death.


In a similar incident, Rajani from the village was going to the farmlands when she was attacked by an elephant. She suffered critical injuries and collapsed at the site. Locals attempted to rescue her but were unable to reach her due to the herd's presence.

On being informed, forest personnel from Chhendipada and Riamal reached the spot and managed to drive away the elephants. Rajani was rescued and taken by an ambulance to the district headquarters hospital in Angul, where she succumbed to her injuries during treatment.

Villagers have alleged that two people died because the Forest department failed to act despite a herd of 16 elephants roaming near the forest-side villages for several days. Tension flared up at the scene after the deaths.




ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା
ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ମାତୃତ୍ୱ ଅଭିଯାନ
(ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ମାସ ୯ ତାରିଖ)



ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ମାସ ୯ ତାରିଖ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକେନ୍ଦ୍ର/ ଉପଖଣ୍ଡ ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟ/ ସଦର ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟ/ ସରକାରୀ ମେଡିକାଲ କଲେଜ୍ ଏବଂ ହସ୍ପିଟାଲରେ ପ୍ରସବ ପୂର୍ବବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଯାଞ୍ଚର ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ସେବା ବିନାମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।

- ଉକ୍ତ ଦିନ ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞ ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରାଯାଏ ଓ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦିଆଯାଏ
- ବିପଦ ଶଙ୍କୁଳ ଗର୍ଭବତୀଙ୍କ ଚିହ୍ନଟ, ଚିକିତ୍ସା, ପୁନଃ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଏବଂ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସ୍ଥଳେ ଉଚିତର ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାକୁ ପ୍ରେରଣ

୪ ଥର ଏ.ଏନ.ସି. ପରୀକ୍ଷା ସହିତ ଗର୍ଭଧାରଣର ୪-୯ ମାସ ଭିତରେ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅଧିନରେ ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞ ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଥରେ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ନିଶ୍ଚୟ କରାହୁ ।

ନିଶ୍ଚିନ୍ତ ହେଲୁକାଲଜ୍ : ୧୮୦୦-୧୮୦-୧୧୦୪

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

OIPR-10003/13/0309/2526

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http://www.health.odisha.gov.in/
@HFWOdisha

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. eT-M-T-ANGL-WR-YARD-315

Name of the Work: REPAIR OF WAGONS DURING EXAMINATION AT ANGUL (ANGL) BOXN DEPOT FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.

Advertised Value ₹ 3,99,90,179.50,
Earnest Money: ₹ 3,50,000.00, **Period of Completion:** 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 08.12.2025.

Date & time of tender closing: At 1530 hrs. on 22.12.2025.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Frt.),
PR-865/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

ROSE VALLEY ASSETS DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
(Chairman Hon'ble Justice Dilip Kumar Seth (Retd.))
Room No. 401 & 402, 4th Floor, 5, Mangoe Lane, Kolkata - 700 001

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF ROSE VALLEY GROUP OF COMPANIES

W.P. No. 27005 of 2016 Kalipada Pal & Anr. -VS- Union of India & Ors. And W.P. No. 275 of 2015 Rose Valley Real Estates & Construction Ltd & Anr. -VS- State of West Bengal & Ors.

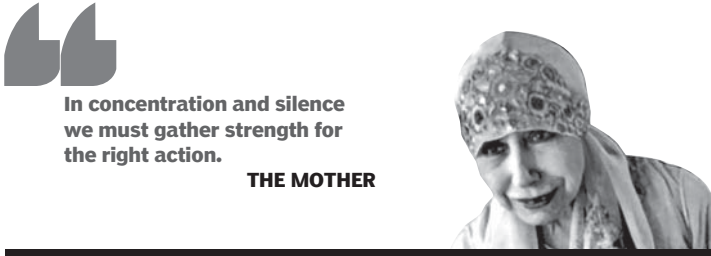
The Learned Asset Disposal Committee (ADC) headed by Chairman Hon'ble Justice Dilip Kumar Seth (Retd.) was constituted vide Order Dated 11th May, 2015 passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta. The Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta vide order dated September 21, 2023 was pleased to direct for creation of website for inviting claims from the Rose Valley Depositors as well as for furnishing other necessary information to be displayed in the website.

On 18th March, 2024 the Learned ADC has directed as follows:

The website of the ADC www.rosevalleyadc.com is launched. The Depositors are requested to upload their respective claims at the said ADC website. The procedure for lodging the claims is given in the said website. All are requested to follow the same. The payment towards the claims lodged are subject to verification and scrutiny.

Place : Kolkata
Date : November 03, 2025
CBC 15204/11/0191/2526

By Order



In concentration and silence we must gather strength for the right action.

THE MOTHER

A Just Transition

With the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) and the G20 Leaders' Summit now concluded, attention turns to this week's gathering of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Panama. Whether the event delivers progress on sustainable land management and drought resilience in a just and equitable manner hinges largely on one familiar factor: finance.

Insufficient funding has emerged as a stumbling block in advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals, with SDG15 – focused on the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of land and terrestrial ecosystems – receiving some of the lowest levels of finance. But human well-being, and progress toward many other SDGs, depends directly on healthy soil, water, and terrestrial biodiversity.

Already, up to 40 per cent of our planet's lands are degraded and deteriorating, jeopardizing the health and livelihoods of more than three billion people, especially poor rural communities, small-scale farmers, women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and other at-risk groups. Annual economic losses linked to desertification, land degradation, and drought amount to \$878 billion – far more than the investments needed to address them. A just transition from an exploitative land economy to one that is restorative, inclusive, and resilient is urgently needed.

The concept of a just transition has become central to discussions on climate action – in particular, the energy transition. For example, it is understood that European communities dependent on coal production need support, so that they can secure good jobs in emerging clean industries. Globally, numerous initiatives have been created to support a just energy transition. But no equivalent exists for the land sector (which includes agriculture, forestry, and other land use), even though the need for a “just land transition” to support interconnected climate, nature, and human-development imperatives is at least as great.

Land-related activities account for nearly a quarter of greenhouse-gas emissions and employ over 20 times more workers than the energy sector globally. Moreover, unlike energy-sector workers – who tend to be formally employed, with regular, reasonably strong wages – many land workers are self-employed or seasonal, meaning that they have minimal safety nets and low financial resilience. In fact, extreme poverty is typically concentrated in degraded rural communities, which are often among the most exposed to climate and non-climate shocks.

Now, these communities are being forced to pursue their own transitions, with minimal support from the international community – including the countries that are most responsible for climate change. For example, climate change has left nomadic pastoralists in the Horn of Africa, whose own carbon footprint is negligible, with no choice but to alter millennia-old migration routes, owing to water scarcity and land degradation. Such unstructured and risky transitions exacerbate poverty, inequality, and marginalization, increasing the risk of instability, out-migration, and conflict – and underscoring the need to support vulnerable communities and ecosystems on the frontline of climate change, nature loss, and land degradation.

But the news isn't all bad. Momentum is gathering around land and soil restoration. China has long been a land-restoration pioneer, exemplified by the Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program that began in 1978. And a growing number of countries are emulating such initiatives with local efforts to strengthen resilience increasingly complemented by national plans for halting and reversing land degradation and improving drought management.

Progress is also being made at the regional level. Africa's Great Green Wall initiative – which aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land, sequester 250 million tons of carbon, and create ten million green jobs by 2030 – is being implemented in 22 countries. The Middle East Green Initiative, backed by up to \$2.5 billion in seed funding from Saudi Arabia, includes the world's largest landscape-restoration program.

At the global level, frameworks like the 30x30 land conservation goal, the UNCCD-led Land Degradation Neutrality initiative, and the G20 Global Land Initiative point to a growing consensus on the importance of land protection and restoration. The recently announced Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership aims to support the world's most drought-vulnerable countries. Yet finance is still lagging behind ambition. At last year's UNCCD gathering in Riyadh, participants pledged over \$12 billion in funding for “drought resilience, land restoration, and the fight against land degradation,” which is a step in the right direction, but nowhere near enough to meet global goals. For that, the world must mobilize \$278 billion annually.

To address this shortfall requires an innovative combination of financing mechanisms. Private finance can be mobilized through specialized debt instruments, such as green or restoration bonds. These are already gaining traction: the global sustainable bond market reached \$1.1 trillion in 2024. Moreover, companies can invest in land-based communities, in order to secure sustainable commodity supply chains, restore soil health, and support resilient livelihoods.

Blended finance models – which combine, say, philanthropic grants with concessional lending – can ensure that support reaches remote communities. Meanwhile, development institutions can back national efforts, and parametric (index-based) insurance linked to early-warning systems can provide a safety net when shocks arrive. Other possible sources of finance include emerging carbon and biodiversity markets, remittances, crowdfunding, Islamic finance, and special-purpose financing vehicles. The embrace of digital platforms and AI tools may facilitate improvements in access and affordability.

Policy also has a crucial role to play. Unlocking financing at scale requires efforts to lower capital costs, remove barriers to access, and create the right incentives. Stronger land tenure, fiscal reform, and targeted subsidies and tariffs can also help to support sustainable land and soil systems. Policies that empower women, youth, and Indigenous communities are critical. At the global level, UNCCD, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change should not each operate in a vacuum; land, biodiversity, and climate are inextricably linked, and should be treated as such.

Like the climate transition more broadly, a land transition is occurring, whether we like it or not. The question is whether it will be unfair, chaotic, and reactive, or whether world leaders, development institutions, and other stakeholders will act now to ensure that it is just, effective, and leaves no one behind.

Andrea Meza Murillo is Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Bradley Hiller is Lead Climate Change Specialist at the Islamic Development Bank. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Rajdeep Sardesai

THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE SO-CALLED CONGRESS ‘HIGH COMMAND’ IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO TAKE TOUGH DECISIONS THAT ARE REQUIRED IN TOUGH TIMES



Andrea Meza Murillo & Bradley Hiller

Already, up to 40 per cent of our planet's lands are degraded and deteriorating, jeopardizing the health and livelihoods of more than three billion people, especially poor rural communities, small-scale farmers, women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and other at-risk groups



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

ACROSS INDIA, MENTAL SUFFERING IS OFTEN WRONGLY PERCEIVED AS A PERSONAL FAILING, A SPIRITUAL DEFICIENCY OR A CHARACTER WEAKNESS, RATHER THAN A MEDICAL CONDITION

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

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FOCUS KARNATAKA

GAME OF THRONES



The rotational chief ministership idea collapsed in Rajasthan in acrimony and rebellion, it was sabotaged at the last stretch in Chhattisgarh, why would it work in Karnataka?

rotational chief ministership idea collapsed in Rajasthan in acrimony and rebellion, it was sabotaged at the last stretch in Chhattisgarh, why would it work in Karnataka?

The problem is that the so-called Congress ‘high command’ is unwilling or unable to take tough decisions that are required in tough times. The Congress’ ‘revival’, or more likely survival, in the 2024 general elections had earned Rahul Gandhi the goodwill and, more crucially, the respect of his own party cadres. A copy of the Constitution in hand, he had led from the front to challenge the BJP juggernaut. His opponents may have mocked him but within the Congress, Rahul’s unwavering resolve to take on the Sangh Parivar firmly established him as the party’s unquestioned leader. But instead of enforcing his writ within the party organisation as a hands-on politician, Rahul chose to outsource knotty organisational issues to his loyalists, more specifically to KC Venugopal, now the second most powerful person within the Congress ‘system’.

As a result, the gains of 2024 were quickly squandered. Haryana’s debacle was the result of sheer over-confidence, Maharashtra was effectively ‘bought’ by the BJP with cash transfers to women playing a major role in the last minute heist while the Congress campaigns in Delhi and Bihar were always non-starters. With

every defeat, the Congress ‘high command’ appears even more reluctant to make hard political choices, living by the old Narasimha Rao dictum that ‘sometimes in politics, not taking a decision is the best decision’!

But who really is the high command because it now seems a rather archaic term to use for an entity that is neither ‘high’ nor in ‘command’ any longer. The ‘high command’ isn’t Sonia Gandhi any longer since she is in semi-retirement; it isn’t Mallikarjun Kharge since he isn’t the kind who will rock the boat; it surely isn’t Priyanka Gandhi Vadra since she hasn’t been given any specific responsibility within the party. Which leaves Rahul Gandhi as the one Congress leader who has the authority to take crucial decisions. But all indications suggest that Rahul’s self-image is that of an ideological warrior and not an organisation nuts-and-bolts man that the Congress so desperately needs.

Which brings one back to the Congress’ Karnataka conundrum. To be fair, there are no easy options here. Sidda still enjoys the support of a majority of MLAs and his OBC credentials make him an invaluable asset to Congress’ professed commitment to being a party that seeks to empower the backwards. DKS is 63, 14 years younger and far more energetic than his rival who will early next year become Karnataka’s longest serv-

ing CM. A transition from Sidda to DKS would mean a generational change of sorts in a party that has been notoriously reluctant to send its veteran leaders into a ‘Marg-Darshak Mandal’. Previously, in MP and Rajasthan, the Congress baulked at the idea of a generational change and lost out. Karnataka presents another opportunity although Sidda is no pushover who will retreat into the shadows quietly.

Even if there is a semblance of a smooth handover some time in 2027 as is now widely speculated, how long will the truce last? The BJP can get away with forcing the resignations of all its Gujarat ministers overnight without a murmur of dissent. This is because the real ‘high command’ in Indian politics is at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg and 6 A Krishna Menon Marg where all major decisions affecting the BJP are taken. The Congress doesn’t have anything remotely quite like Gujarat’s Jodi number one who can have their way on almost every issue. There are intense power tussles in several BJP states too, most notably Goa, but no leader dare say a word publicly because of the fear factor that prevails in the party. In the Congress, on the other hand, this is open season for all stakeholders to slug it out without any fear of retribution. When the high command goes missing or is enfeebled, the rules in the political jungle change. As Karnataka has shown, it’s now a case of ‘each man for himself’ where only the fittest will survive.

Post-script: For history buffs, it might be useful to remember that the Congress decline in Karnataka began in the early 1980s when its original mass leader, Devaraj Urs was peremptorily ousted by an imperious Sanjay Gandhi. Unlike his uncle, Rahul Gandhi clearly doesn’t believe in ‘off with his head’ ruthless power politics. It may be both his strength and possibly his weakness too.

The writer is senior journalist and author.

SPECTRUM HUMAN RIGHTS

The uncounted & the uncared for

As the world gears up to observe Human Rights Day on 10 December, commemorating the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the moment demands more than just a ceremonial nod to freedom and dignity. It compels us to confront the stark human rights crisis festering within the very heart of our society, a crisis often hidden in plain sight: the profound neglect and suffering of persons with mental illness in India. We count our dogs, meticulously track the numbers of our tigers and elephants for conservation and policy, yet there remains no reliable, national enumeration of the thousands of mentally challenged individuals abandoned, destitute and left to wander the streets and byways of our cities and villages. This glaring absence on our census sheets is a chilling testament to the systemic devaluation and dehumanisation of a segment of the population whose basic rights like the right to health, dignity and life itself are routinely violated.

The pervasive stigma associated with mental illness re-

mains the primary, unyielding barrier. Across India, mental suffering is often wrongly perceived as a personal failing, a spiritual deficiency or a character weakness, rather than a medical condition. This societal judgment often leads to the isolation and abandonment of individuals by their own families, who are crippled by shame and a lack of resources.

In recognition of India’s obligation under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the country enacted the progressive Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA) of 2017. This landmark legislation marked a significant shift from a custodial approach to a rights-based approach to mental health. The Act’s core philosophy is to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of persons with mental illness during the delivery of mental healthcare and services. Furthermore, the MHCA 2017 decriminalised the Attempt to Commit Suicide, presuming the individual to be under severe stress and requiring treatment rather than investigation or prosecution. It also details the Right to Protec-

tion from Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment, prohibiting practices like compulsory tansuring, chaining and forced isolation, while also ensuring rights like informed consent, confidentiality and free legal aid.

While the legal framework exists, the gap between the law’s lofty intent and its grim reality remains vast. The government has attempted to bridge this gap through initiatives like the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), launched in 1982 and subsequently re-strategised to expand community-based care through the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP). More recently, the launch of Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS) in 2022 offers a promising digital lifeline, providing 24/7 free mental health support through a national toll-free helpline. These programmes, alongside the integration of mental healthcare into primary health services under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, demonstrate a clear, policy-level acknowledgement of the crisis. However, the Achil-

les’ heel of these initiatives is the cripplingly low budgetary allocation for mental health which is a fraction of what is spent in developed nations, compounded by a severe shortage of qualified mental health professionals like psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and social workers.

The lack of a simple census for this most vulnerable group, means their needs are not quantified, not budgeted for and not addressed in a meaningful, targeted way. They are statistically invisible and therefore, politically irrelevant.

India must treat the human rights of its mentally ill population as a national emergency, not a niche social welfare concern. A national-level, urgent census of the destitute mentally ill on our streets must be mandated and executed to ensure that every forgotten soul is counted, rescued and provided the dignified care they are legally and morally entitled to.

The writer is a former college principal and founder of Supporting Shoulders, an NGO.

A grim ordeal

Sir, The ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, meant to update and verify electoral rolls across 12 states and Union Territories, has turned into a grim ordeal for thousands of Booth Level Officers. Reports confirm that five BLOs died in Uttar Pradesh within a single week, while additional deaths have been recorded in West Bengal and Gujarat. West Bengal has reported at least four fatalities since November, while Gujarat has seen similar tragedies. The responsibility for these deaths is being fiercely debated. Teachers and government staff, who serve as BLOs alongside their regular jobs, are compelled to work 14-18 hours daily for meagre remuneration. Opposition parties have accused the Election Commission and called it a “massacre of grassroots workers.” Meanwhile, the Commission has deflected blame toward state-level administrative pressures, creating a cycle of accountability avoidance. Yet the undeniable fact remains: BLOs, the backbone of India’s electoral machinery, are being sacrificed to bureaucratic rigidity and political indifference. This unfolding crisis is not merely administrative—it is a moral failure.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Valid observation

Sir, The Supreme Court’s rejection of the claim that farmers are the main culprits behind Delhi’s pollution is an important correction. By warning against making stubble burning a political ego battle, the Court exposed how blame is pushed onto those with the least power. The CJT’s question — why Delhi had blue skies during the COVID lockdown despite continued stubble burning — shows that the city’s major pollution sources lie elsewhere. When traffic vanished, construction stopped and industries slowed, the air cleared, proving farmers had not changed their practices, but other polluters had paused. The Court stressed that farmers burn residue out of compulsion, not choice, revealing the inequity shaping pollution debates. Industries, construction lobbies and urban bodies defend themselves with resources, while farmers lack representation and alternatives, making them easy targets. Penalising them without solutions deepens rural distress even more severely. Clean air demands equal accountability from every polluter.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

TURNING CROP INTO KITCHEN COMMODITY

Maha turmeric farmer becomes entrepreneur

The farmer-turned-entrepreneur, Shivaji Kurhe, who hails from Washim district in the Vidarbha region, has added a unique service, in which he grinds the turmeric cultivated in his farm before people as per their order, providing a win-win situation to both



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Dec 4: A farmer in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar has found out a way to raise his income - by adding a touch of doorstep service instead of solely depending on the traditional agricultural practices.

This farmer-turned-entrepreneur, Shivaji Kurhe, who hails from Washim district in the Vidarbha region, has added a unique service, in which he

grinds the turmeric cultivated in his farm before people as per their order, providing a win-win situation to both.

Talking to PTI, Kurhe said, "I grow turmeric in my farm and take the ready crop to the doorstep of people. As per the order, I grind the turmeric before the customers with the help of a grinding machine fitted on my vehicle. On an average, I sell around 50 kilos of turmeric powder each day."

If farmers sell their cultivated crops to traders in the mar-

ket, then they get low returns. But if they reach out to people and sell their produce, their earnings will rise significantly, and there will be no need for a farm loan waiver, he said.

"If I sell this turmeric to a trader in the market, they will offer me ₹130 per kilogram in return. But as I go door-to-door to grind the turmeric then and there as per the order, it gives me ₹300 per kilo in return, which is almost double," Kurhe added.

"Earlier I used to sell 20 kilograms of turmeric per day and

would carry the grinder set-up on a two-wheeler. But now I got a vehicle from Punjab at a cost of ₹2.5 lakh, which provides storage space so I am able to sell at least 50 kilos of turmeric powder every day," he said.

Farmers can increase their income if they take their products to consumers directly in a similar way, he opined.

But the government needs to provide uninterrupted power supply to farmers so that the crops can be watered any time, Kurhe demanded.

The added service provided by Kurhe is making customers happy, as they feel that they do not need to worry about the authenticity.

Sandhya Waghmare, who purchases turmeric powder from Kurhe, told PTI, "The turmeric I purchased is organic and he grinds it in front of us. This turmeric powder is genuine with natural colour, while the one sold in the market could be adulterated. This powder is cleaner and softer as compared to the one sold in the market."

HPSC RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Of 600 assistant professor post vacancies, only 151 make the cut

Activists and Congress leaders raised questions about how aspirants who have cleared UGC-NET, JRF and other top competitive exams failed to secure even the minimum 35 per cent marks required to qualify in the subject knowledge test, results of which came out Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 4: Only 151 aspirants have managed to clear the subject knowledge test in the recruitment exam being held for over 600 vacancies of assistant professor (college cadre) posts in the English departments in Haryana's colleges.

Activists and Congress leaders raised questions about how aspirants who have cleared UGC-NET, JRF and other top competitive exams failed to secure even the minimum 35 per cent marks required to qualify in the subject knowledge test, results of which came out Tuesday.

Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC) authorities could not be contacted for their comment on the matter.

Of around 2,000 candidates who appeared for the subject knowledge round after clearing the screening test held earlier by the HPSC.

Only 151 were able to score a minimum of 35 per cent marks in the round who have now made it to the interview round. The recruitment process began with a screening test held June 8, an objective exam with MCQs for 100 marks.

Of the nearly 4,500 who appeared, nearly 2,000 were shortlisted for the subject knowledge test -- a descriptive exam for 150 marks.

Activist Shweta Dhull, who is known to take up issues of government job aspirants across the state, said it was "hard to believe" that the vast majority of highly qualified candidates are not even able to secure the qualifying 35 per cent in the exam.

The issue, she said, isn't just about the exam for as-



sistant professor posts but about every exam conducted by the HPSC. A PhD student, who could not clear the subject knowledge test, said many aspirants from top varsities, including university toppers, have failed to secure the minimum score in the test, leaving everyone shocked.

"We are not saying that the 151 who have qualified are undeserving or have not qualified on merit. But I know many who could not make it were toppers in other exams. Our contention also is that for 613 vacancies, generally 1,200 should have been called for an interview. How will the vacancies now be filled when only 151 have cleared the test. Ultimately, how many will be selected after the interview?" she asked.

She said people who scored around 90 out of 100 in the screening test have also failed to qualify in the subject

knowledge round. She said she scored 76 in the screening test, well above the general category cut-off of 66.

"We have not even been told how many marks below 35 we actually scored," she said.

She said that they will demand that the HPSC provide them with their answer sheets and explain the evaluation method. Congress leader Geeta Bhukkal said it was "astounding" that only 151 aspirants were able to clear the test, including just a few from the Scheduled Castes and other reserved categories.

"Haryana's students are intelligent, and many who took this test have studied in top universities and institutions and were highly qualified. Not being able to score even 35 per cent is surprising and raises questions regarding the evaluation methods being followed," Bhukkal said.



Members of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) stage a protest against the state government and CIDCO for auctioning a plot in Nerul, which was originally reserved for multiple public amenities, and allegedly selling it to a private builder, in Navi Mumbai, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Ajanta Caves must be preserved for generations: Robert Gill descendant

Robert Gill, a British army officer, was commissioned by the Royal Asiatic Society to create a pictorial record of the Ajanta cave murals in 1845-46

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Dec 4: The Ajanta cave complex is a heritage that must be cherished and preserved for generations to come, according to Kenneth Ducatel, the great-great-grandson of renowned photographer and painter Major Robert Gill, who had documented the caves for years.

Robert Gill, a British army officer, was commissioned by the Royal Asiatic Society to create a pictorial record of the Ajanta cave murals in 1845-46. He lived in these ancient Buddhist monuments for decades to complete this task. Four of his paintings are preserved at the Victoria and Albert Museum of London, an official said.

Kenneth arrived in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar with Catharina, whom he married two months ago, and visited Ajanta Caves Tuesday. They went to Ellora, Bibi Ka Maqbara and Devgiri (Daultabad fort) Wednesday. The couple is on a

three-week tour of India, their guide Bharat Joshi told PTI.

"He visited the grave of Paro, who assisted Major Robert Gill in his work inside Ajanta caves in the 19th century," he added.

In the visitors' book at Ajanta Caves, Kenneth wrote, "Safeguarding this magnificent treasure of the world is a great responsibility, and you are fulfilling it with exceptional passion and expertise. This heritage must be cherished and preserved for generations to come."

Kenneth, who lives in Belgium after retiring from a government job there, said visiting the UNESCO World Heritage site was a long-held wish he has finally fulfilled.

"While I was growing up, I knew that we had an Indian connection and one of my cousins did research and reached back to Robert Gill. Later, I went through his work and the four paintings preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum of London," he told PTI.

"Kind reception by the people

here was overwhelming. I was speechless after seeing the caves. The cultural heritage here is very clear to see. It is also amazing that Major Robert Gill stayed in such a remote location (Ajanta) for so many years," he said.

Recalling a photograph of Robert Hill in a suit, Kenneth said he wondered how his great-great-grandfather could survive in this heat with such clothing.

"He had a love affair with India and Indians. Ajanta is something which you can visit many times. I will invite the rest of my family here," he said. When asked about his visit to Paro's grave in Ajanta Village, he said there are many stories concerning Paro there. "As far as I understand, Paro was a lady who understood how things worked in this area. She helped prepare colours (for Major Robert Gill). She was an unseen assistant but an important lady for Gill and Ajanta Caves," he said.

About his visit to other monuments in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Kenneth said, "The cultural heritage here is very interesting. We were also surprised to see non-Indian visitors here. It deserves a bigger reputation than it has."



Wildlife group to reintroduce 2 vulture species in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 4: A leading Mumbai-based wildlife research organisation is working on a plan to release vultures in Assam as part of its conservation breeding programme across India targeted at the protected bird species.

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) said so far, it has raised over 800 vultures in its conservation breeding centres across India. The 142-year-old research organisation is giving final shape to its plan of releasing vultures in Assam, where they will be serving common cattle owners, farmers and people of the state, a BNHS release said Thursday.

BNHS scientists intend to release Slender-billed and White-rumped vultures in the north-eastern state next month, said the release. A team from the conservation group, supported by the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Assam Forest Department, is working consistently to prepare ground for the release of the birds. As part of the programme, multiple BNHS teams are conducting village-level meetings and educating villagers about vultures and their importance, it said.

Senior scientist and BNHS deputy director Sachin Ranade said, "Two species of vultures - Slender-billed and White-rumped, have been successfully bred in captivity. We are working with local communities to save the vultures in their natural habitats. Currently, we are working on the reintroduction of these two species.



The release of aviaries is set now, and the vultures will be released in a scientific way termed as 'Soft Release Method'."

Problems such as using non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like diclofenac, aceclofenac, ketoprofen and nimesulide, and pesticides were highlight-

ed during BNHS's educational campaign on vulture conservation, he maintained.

Notably, vultures can die from eating the carcasses of cattle that were given certain anti-inflammatory drugs. These birds are scavengers and consume carcasses, thus preventing the spread of diseases and contamination of water sources.

Ranade explained how veterinarians have to play an important role in practising the right way of treating domestic cattle. "They and their assistants (paravets), who actually handle medicines for livestock, play a valuable role. We are requesting them to advocate and use only vulture-safe medicines like meloxicam, toltenamic acid in cattle treatment, and ensure the cattle and their carcasses do not have any harmful residues for vultures," insisted the senior scientist.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
KHURDA IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHURDA
Dist. : Khurda, Odisha-752056, Tel/Fax : 06755-796308, Mail id : eekhurda Irrigationdivision@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No.KHD-04 OF 2025-26, Dtd. 01.12.2025

1. Name of the Work : 03 (three) nos. of Civil Work. 2. Tender Cost : varies from Rs.28.84 Lakhs to Rs.41.72 Lakhs. 3. Bid Document Cost : Rs.6000/-. 4. Bid Security : Varies from Rs.28900/- to Rs.41800/-. 5. Class of Contractor : B & C. 6. Period of Completion : 03 (three) calendar months. 7. Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Bid
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, Khurda Irrigation Division, Khurda	KHD 04-01 of 2025-26 to KHD 04-03 of 2025-26	06.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	16.12.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	17.12.2025 11.00 A.M.

8. e-mail Id : eekhurda Irrigationdivision@gmail.com
Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Khurda Irrigation Division, Khurda

OIPR-32078/11/0015/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE
BIRAMITRAPUR MUNICIPALITY:BIRAMITRAPUR
"e" Procurement Notice
Tender ID: 2025_ORULB_122534
Tender Call Notice No.2282/BM/2025-26 Date:03.12.2025

1. Name of Work : Civil Works as mentioned in DTCN
2. No. of Works : 20 Nos. of Work
3. Bid value : Rs.5.01 lakhs to Rs.15.26 Lakhs
4. Period of Completion : As per DTCN
5. Date and Time of availability received of the bid documents in the portal from 10.00 AM dated 05.12.2025 to dated 15.12.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.
6. Bids received online shall be opened on date 16.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
7. Name & Address of the Officer inviting Bid: Executive Officer, Birmiritrapur Municipality
For further details can be seen from the Procurement portal: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./-Executive Officer
Birmiritrapur Municipality

OIPR-13193/11/0006/2526

Government of Odisha
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Dhenkanal
E-Mail : eerwdivisiondhenkanal@yahoo.co.in
e-Procurement Notice No.16/Road Work/2025-26

1. Name of the Work : Road Work
2. Total No. of Works : 3 Nos
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.14.00 to 39.80 lakh (approx)
4. Class Contractor : "B", "C" & "D" Class
5. Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Months
6. EMD Required : As mentioned in the Annexure at Column-04
7. Online for bidding : 06.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M. to 16.12.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
8. Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : 15.12.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.
9. Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical & Financial Bid) : 17.12.2025 Technical Bid at 11.00 A.M.

Other details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>


Sd./- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Dhenkanal

OIPR-25101/11/0030/2526

of the day

quote

Some people take money and serve the BJP before the polls. Remember, they are your enemies



MAMATA BANERJEE | CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

Under the Act East Policy, the Northeast is becoming a logistics and cultural gateway to South-east Asia, through integrated check posts, border infrastructure and multimodal connectivity linking waterways, highways and rail



SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

Every government office has been witnessing a steady rise in the number of women employees, and women voters also outnumber their male counterparts



LALDUHOMA | CHIEF MINISTER, MIZORAM

POST OF THE DAY

India's education system is old and outdated. It focuses too much on marks and memory, not on real skills.



Kids need to learn coding, speaking, money management, and how to solve problems. Not just write exams and learn big definitions. We need schools that prepare students for life, not just for tests.

@NalinisKitchen

SHORT TAKES

Maternal mortality in Delhi down

New Delhi: The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in Delhi has marginally declined from 0.55 in 2019 to 0.44 in 2024, according to a report. The report, 'Women and Men in Delhi-2025', issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Delhi government is based on secondary data. Citing the 'Annual Report on Registration of Births and Deaths in Delhi', the report said MMR in Delhi has decreased from 0.55 in 2019 to 0.44 in 2024.


5 migrants stranded in Cameroon return home

Ranchi: Five migrant workers from Jharkhand stranded in Cameroon in central Africa and allegedly unpaid for months returned home Thursday, officials said. Shikha Lakra, team leader of the State Migrant Control Room (which functions under Jharkhand's labour department), told PTI that the workers landed in Mumbai Airport Tuesday and boarded the Mumbai-Howrah Mail Wednesday and reached their home districts of Giridih and Hazaribagh Thursday.

TMC suspends Humayun Kabir

Baharampur: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) Thursday suspended Bharatpur MLA Humayun Kabir for what it termed "communal politics" amidst a flashpoint over his plan to lay the foundation of a Babri Masjid-style mosque in West Bengal's Murshidabad December 6, the Babri demolition anniversary. A defiant Kabir retaliated almost instantly, announcing he would resign as MLA, launch his own party later this month, and press ahead with the programme even if it meant getting "arrested or killed." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a sharp attack on Kabir without naming him, calling him a "Mirzafar-gaddar (traitor)", who has taken money from the BJP to stoke communal tensions.

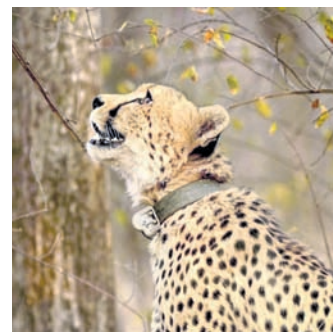
It is the government's responsibility to do something as children are dying. Old people like me are also finding it difficult



SONIA GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

3 CHEETAHS RELEASED INTO WILD AT KUNO NATIONAL PARK

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Thursday released three cheetahs into the wild at the Kuno National Park (KNP) on the occasion of International Cheetah Day. Female cheetah Veera and her two nine-month-old cubs were released into the open forest near Parond area of KNP, bringing the total number of cheetahs in the free-ranging area of the national park to 19, a forest official said



Ex-Army man, woman held for sharing sensitive info with Pak spies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Dec 4: The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested a retired Army man and a woman for allegedly sharing sensitive information about military establishments and personnel with Pakistani agents, officials said Thursday.

While accused Ajaykumar Singh was lured by a Pakistani intelligence officer to provide information about movements of the Indian Army's regiments and transfers of key military officers, the other accused, Rashmani Pal, was told to honeytrap certain individuals, they said.

Singh (47), a native of Bihar, was arrested in Goa, where he was working at a distillery after retirement in 2022. Pal (35), originally from Uttar Pradesh, was picked up from the Union Territory of Daman, where she used to take private tuitions, the ATS said.

The agency said that a Pakistani intelligence officer, who identified herself as 'Ankita Sharma', was in touch with Singh. Pal, who operated under the fake identity of 'Priya Thakur', allegedly acted at the behest of her Pakistani handlers to extract information from military personnel by befriending them, said ATS Superintendent of Police Siddharth Korukonda.

Singh was contacted by 'Ankita Sharma' when he was still a Subedar in the Indian Army in the Nagaland city of Dimapur in 2022, said the official in a press conference here.

"Singh then took up the job of a security guard in Goa after his retirement. After befriending him and winning his trust, the Pakistani agent requested sensitive information, such as movements of regiments and transfers of key Army officers," he said.

Putin gets red carpet welcome

PM Modi warmly welcomes Putin at Delhi airport; hosts private dinner, reflecting time-tested friendship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday warmly welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin as he kick-started a nearly 27-hour visit to India to further shore up an eight-decade bilateral partnership that remained in firm footing notwithstanding fractious geopolitical upheavals.

In reflection of the importance India attached to the Russian leader's first visit to India in four years, Modi received him at New Delhi's Palam airport with a hug amid a group of artistes performing traditional dances.

From the airport, the two leaders travelled to Modi's official residence in his car, nearly three months after the prime minister rode with Putin in the Russian leader's vehicle in Chinese city of Tianjin during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

"Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow. India-Russia friendship is a time tested one that has greatly benefited our people," the prime minister said on social media.

In the evening, Modi hosted a private dinner for the Russian president in a reciprocal gesture to the hospitality extended to the prime minister by Putin during his visit to Moscow in July last year. Modi's official residence was decorated with bright lights



and flowers on the occasion.

The conversation between the two leaders over the dinner is expected to set the tone for the 23rd India-Russia summit talks Friday that is expected to produce a number of tangible outcomes to further broadband the time-tested relationship.

Boosting defence ties, insulating India-Russia trade from external pressure and exploring cooperation in small modular reactors are set to be the focus of the summit between the two leaders that is expected to be closely watched by Western capitals.

The Russian leader's visit to New Delhi has assumed greater significance as it is taking place against the backdrop of rapid downturn in India-US

Defence ministers of India, Russia hold crucial talks ahead of summit'

India and Russia Thursday resolved to expand their bilateral defence cooperation with New Delhi showing its keen interest in procuring additional batches of S-400 missile systems from Moscow to bolster its combat prowess. The two sides deliberated on ways to enhance the overall defence and strategic ties at a key delegation-level meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov that took place a day ahead of the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday night landed in New Delhi for the summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. In the meeting with Belousov, Singh reaffirmed India's determination for capacity building of its indigenous defence industry for local production and exports while highlighting new opportunities for enhancing India-Russia collaboration across niche technologies. Both sides reiterated that the India-Russia relationship is based on a "deep sense of trust, common principles and mutual respect", the defence ministry said. It is learnt that India conveyed its interest to the Russian side on procuring additional batches of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems from Russia as the weapons proved to be very effective during the Operation Sindoor.

relations. Following the summit, the two sides are expected to seal

several agreements including in areas of trade. Putin will be accorded a

Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow. India-Russia friendship is a time tested one that has greatly benefited our people

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Danve seeks Ajit Pawar's resignation, Parth's arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 4: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve Thursday demanded the resignation of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and the arrest of his son Parth over the controversial Pune land deal.

He said the Opposition will raise the matter in the state legislature's Winter Session beginning December 8. His demand came a day after police arrested Shital Tejwani, an accused in the case linked to the sale of 40 acres of government land in Pune's up-scale Mundhwa area to a company owned by Parth.

Talking to reporters here, Danve said the directors of Amadea Enterprises LLP should also be arrested. Parth Pawar is a partner in Amadea along with Digvijay Patil.

"Parth Pawar and Digvijay Patil, too, should be arrested in the case. If the person who sold the land is an accused, then the one who purchased it is also an accused," Danve said.

The Sena (UBT) leader said

there is no clarity about the officials who waived the stamp duty on the land deal.

"Stamp duty waiver cannot happen without political pressure. Ajit Pawar must resign over the matter. The Opposition will press for his sacking in the upcoming winter session of the Maharashtra legislature," he added.

Ajit Pawar's NCP is a partner in the ruling Mahayuti alliance.

Tejwani allegedly entered into a ₹300-crore deal to sell the 40-acre land parcel to Amadea on behalf of the 272 former owners of the land. The land, in fact, is owned by the government, which has leased it to the Botanical Survey of India.

Suspended tehsildar Suryakant Yeole is accused of misusing his power by issuing eviction notices to the Botanical Survey of India. The accused have been booked for cheating, criminal breach of trust, and other relevant offences. Parth Pawar was not made an accused as his name did not appear on the sale deed, police had said earlier.

LAND DEAL

The rebuttal came after Gandhi alleged that the government tells visiting foreign dignitaries not to meet the Leader of the Opposition due to its 'insecurity'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 4: The BJP Thursday dismissed as a "blatant lie" Rahul Gandhi's allegation that the government does not let foreign dignitaries meet him, the Leader of Opposition, saying he had met many foreign guests, including the prime ministers of New Zealand and Mauritius, this year. In a post on X, BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni shared pictures of Gandhi from meetings with these foreign dignitaries and said, "During any visit, MEA organises meetings for the visiting dignitary



with government officials and government bodies."

He added, "Organising meetings outside the government depends on the visiting delegation."

The rebuttal came after Gandhi alleged that the government tells visiting foreign dignitaries not to meet the Leader of the Opposition due to its "insecurity."

The Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha said it has been a tradition that visiting foreign dignitaries meet the LoP, but Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs were not following the norm.

Baluni, a Lok Sabha MP, said Gandhi had met at least five foreign guests, including heads of state, in just one and a half years, and met many foreign guests earlier as well.

He said Gandhi met former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina June 10, 2024, Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim August 21, 2024, Prime Minister of Mauritius Navinchandra Ramgoolam September 16, 2025, and Prime

Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon March 8, 2025.

"The LoP also met the PM of Vietnam August 1, 2024," Baluni said, posting pictures of the Congress leader meeting these foreign dignitaries on X.

Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and party MP Priyanka Gandhi were present with Rahul at some of these meetings, the pictures shared by the BJP leader show.

"These pictures can't be fake, Rahul Gandhi ji," Baluni said, adding, the photographs proved that the LoP is "simply lying."

"However, whenever you go to foreign soil, you always end up tarnishing the image of India, India's democracy, and India's Constitution," Baluni charged.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said that Gandhi tried to dent the country's image by making "baseless" allegations against the government, and stoked a controversy on the day Russian President Vladimir Putin was on a visit to India.

18,822 Indian nationals deported by US since 2009; 3,258 in 2025

Responding to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said state governments and the National Investigation Agency have also investigated cases of human trafficking, in which Punjab has the maximum number of cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 4: As many as 18,822 Indian nationals have been deported by the United States since 2009, including 3,258 since January 2025, the government informed the Rajya Sabha Thursday.

Responding to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said state governments and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) have also investigated cases of human trafficking, in which Punjab has

the maximum number of cases.

"Since 2009, a total of 18,822 Indian nationals have been deported to India," the minister informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question.

He said 617 Indians had been deported in 2023, and as many as 1,368 were deported in 2024.

Since January 2025, a total of 3,258 Indian nationals have been deported by the United States to India. Of these, 2,032 individuals (approximately 62.3 per cent) were deported on regular commercial flights, while the remaining 1,226 (37.6 per



cent) arrived on US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operated charter flights.

Replying to supplementaries, the minister said the NIA established some years ago an anti-human trafficking division, and it has today a mandate to cover human traffick-

ing. State governments have also launched investigations into human trafficking cases, he noted.

"The NIA has registered and investigated 27 human trafficking cases, resulting in 169 arrests and chargesheets against 132 individuals. The NIA arrested two important traffickers in Haryana and

Punjab on August 7 and then in Himachal Pradesh, two more people on October 2," the minister informed.

Jaishankar said, as far as state governments are concerned, "The maximum number of trafficking cases is from the state of Punjab. The Punjab government has constituted an SIT and a fact-finding committee. As per information given by them to us, 25 FIRs have been registered against 58 illegal travel agents, and 16 accused have been arrested."

"In the case of state of Haryana, 2,325 cases have been registered and 44 FIRs have been registered and 27 people have been arrested. Also, one significant trafficker has been arrested by the state of Gujarat," he said.

Jaishankar said the Ministry of External Affairs remains en-

gaged with the US side to ensure the humane treatment of deportees during US ICE/CBP deportation operations.

The Ministry has strongly registered its concerns with the U.S. authorities on the treatment of deportees, particularly with respect to the use of shackles, especially on women and children, the minister told the house in his written reply.

No instance of shackling of women and children has been brought to the notice of this Ministry since the 5th February deportation flight, he said.

Jaishankar said the US authorities have conveyed that the Restraining Policy for US deportation flights is in place since 19 November 2012 as part of the Standard Operating Procedure of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

of the day

quote

President Trump and the United States will not be extending an invitation to the South African government to participate in the G20 during our presidency

MARCO RUBIO | SECRETARY OF STATE, USA

Either we liberate these territories by force of arms, or Ukrainian troops leave these territories

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

Europe had too many unfair peace deals in the past. All of them only led to new catastrophes

ANDRII SYBIHA | MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, UKRAINE

SHORT TAKES

Xi-Macron pledge deeper cooperation

Beijing: China and France pledged deeper cooperation on global issues like the war in Ukraine and trade, as France prepares to take on the presidency of the Group of Seven next year. French President Emmanuel Macron met with China's Xi Jinping Thursday morning as part of a three-day state visit focusing on trade and diplomacy. The French leader is seeking to involve Beijing in pressuring Russia toward a ceasefire with Ukraine after a recent burst of diplomacy around a US-led peace plan. "We are facing the risk of the disintegration of the international order that brought peace to the world for decades, and in this context, the dialogue between China and France is even more essential than ever," Macron said Thursday.

Hong Kong blaze toll climbs to 159

Hongkong: The death toll in Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades hit 159 Wednesday, with police revealing that victims included an infant and a 97-year-old as they continued their search for remains in the scorched apartment complex. Residents forced to flee the only block of the eight not engulfed in flames a week ago returned briefly to their homes to retrieve belongings, as hundreds of others housed in temporary accommodation struggled to rebuild their lives. Meanwhile, investigators uncovered more bodies in the ruins, some of which have been found on rooftops and stairwells and others reduced to nothing more than ashes, authorities said. Of the 159 bodies found, 140 have been identified. They comprise 91 females and 49 males, aged between one and 97 years.

UK targets Russian spy networks

London: The UK unveiled sanctions in a new crackdown on Russia's spy networks in the country after a public inquiry concluded Thursday that a Novichok poisoning attack in Salisbury over seven years ago was authorised by President Vladimir Putin. Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned Russia's "reckless aggression" in the March 2018 assassination attempt targeted at former Russian spy Sergei Skripal, who survived the poisoning attempt, which later claimed the life of British national Dawn Sturgess. The UK Foreign Office said that the Russian Ambassador to the UK, Andrey Kelin, had also been summoned to answer for "Russia's ongoing campaign of hostile activity against the UK". "The Salisbury poisonings shocked the nation and today's findings are a grave reminder of the Kremlin's disregard for innocent lives," Starmer said in a statement.

MASSIVE CRACKDOWN

After fee blow, Trump hikes H-1B visa vetting

US administration orders H-1B, H-4 visa applicants to make social media profiles public

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Dec 4: The US government has expanded screening and vetting measures for H-1B visa applicants and their H-4 dependents, directing them to keep the privacy settings on all their social media profiles set to "public".

In a new order issued Wednesday, the State Department said beginning December 15, a review of the online presence for all H-1B applicants and their dependents will be conducted.

Students and exchange visitors were already subject to such scrutiny, which has now been extended to include those applying for H-1B and H-4 visas.

"To facilitate this vetting, all applicants for H-1B and their dependents (H-4), F, M, and J nonimmigrant visas are instructed to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media profiles to 'public'," the State Department said.

Underscoring that a US visa is a privilege and not a right, the department said it uses all available information in screening and vetting to identify visa applicants who are inadmissible or pose a threat to America's national security or public safety.

"Every visa adjudication is a national security decision," it said. The department said the



Indian professionals, including tech workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa holders

US "must be vigilant" to ensure applicants do not intend to harm Americans and that all visa applicants credibly establish eligibility and intent to comply with the terms of their admission.

The directive is the latest in a series of steps by the Trump administration to tighten immigration rules. The administration has launched a massive crackdown to check abuse of the H-1B visa programme, used largely by US technology companies to hire foreign workers.

Indian professionals, including tech workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa holders.

In September, US President Donald Trump issued a proclamation, titled 'Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers', imposing a one-time \$100,000 fee on new H-1B work visas, an order that could significantly impact Indi-

an workers seeking temporary employment in the US.

Separately, Washington has also paused with immediate effect Green Card, US citizenship and other immigration applications for people hailing from 19 "countries of concern", following the shooting of National Guard soldiers by an Afghan national. A policy memorandum issued Tuesday directs the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to "place on hold", effective immediately, all asylum applications, regardless of the immigrant's country of nationality, pending a comprehensive review.

The pause also applies to all immigration applications from nationals of 19 countries previously covered by the administration's travel ban.

The applications will be on hold "pending a comprehensive review, regardless of entry date", the directive said.

The new guidance follows the shooting of US Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and US Air Force Staff Sgt Andrew Wolfe, 24. Beckstrom succumbed to her injuries, Trump said Thursday during a Thanksgiving call with service members, while Wolfe remains in critical condition.

Doc who sold ketamine to 'Friends' star Perry gets 2.5 years in prison

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, Dec 4: A doctor who pleaded guilty to selling ketamine to Matthew Perry in the weeks before the "Friends" star's overdose death was sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett handed down the sentence plus two years of probation to 44-year-old Dr. Salvador Plasencia in a federal courtroom in Los Angeles Wednesday.

The judge emphasised that Plasencia didn't provide the ketamine that killed Perry, but told him, "You and others helped Mr Perry on the road to such an ending by continuing to feed his ketamine addiction."

"You exploited Mr Perry's addiction for your own profit," she said. Plasencia was led from the courtroom in handcuffs as his mother cried loudly in the audience. He might have arranged a date to surrender, but his lawyers said he was prepared to do it today. Perry's mother and two half sisters gave tearful victim impact statements before the sentencing. "The world mourns my brother," Madeleine Morrison said. "He was everyone's favourite friend." Plasencia was the first to be sentenced of the five defendants who have pleaded guilty in connection with Perry's death at age 54 in 2023.

The doctor admitted to taking advantage of Perry, knowing he was a struggling addict. Plasencia texted another doctor that Perry was a "moron" who could be exploited for money, according to court filings.



CALLS GROW TO FIGHT DEFORESTATION

Asia flood death toll surpasses 1,500

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Padang, Dec 4: Deaths from last week's catastrophic floods and landslides in parts of Asia surged past 1,500 Thursday as rescue teams raced to reach survivors isolated by the disaster with hundreds of people still unaccounted for across the region.

The tragedy of so much death and destruction was compounded by warnings that decades of deforestation caused by unchecked development, mining and palm oil plantations may have worsened the devastation. Calls grew for the government to act.

"We need the government to investigate and fix forest management," said Rangga Adiputra, a 31-year-old teacher whose home in West Sumatra was swept away. The hills above his village on the outskirts of Padang city had been scarred by illegal logging.

"We don't want this costly disaster to happen again," he said. Authorities said 837 people were confirmed dead in Indonesia, 479 in Sri Lanka and 185 in Thailand, as well as three in Malaysia.

Many villages in Indonesia

India abstains on UN call to return Ukrainian children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Dec 4: India abstained in the UN General Assembly from a draft resolution that demanded that Russia ensure the immediate, safe and unconditional return of all Ukrainian children forcibly transferred or deported since the start of the war.

The 193-member General Assembly adopted the draft resolution 'Return of Ukrainian children' Wednesday, with 91 votes in favour, 12 against and 57 abstentions.

India was among the nations that abstained in the UNGA on the resolution, along with Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The resolution expressed deep concern about the impact of the war on children, in particular the fate of all Ukrainian children who have been separated from their families since 2014,

including those forcibly transferred within the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine by Russia and those deported to Russia.

The resolution demanded that Russia "ensure the immediate, safe and unconditional return

of all Ukrainian children who have been forcibly transferred or deported" and urged Moscow to cease, without delay, any further practice of forcible transfer, deportation, separation from families and legal guardians, change of personal status, including through citizenship, adoption or placement in foster families, and indoctrination of



Ukraine claims there are 6,395 deported and forcibly transferred children

In total, over 20K cases of deportation and forcible transfer under probe

Ukrainian children. It stressed the need to investigate and ensure accountability for those responsible for forcible transfers and deportations of children, in accordance with international law.

The resolution deplored the legislative and administrative measures taken by Russia since 2022 that "simplify" the procedure for obtaining Russian citizenship for Ukrainian children, particularly orphans, children deprived of parental care and unaccompanied

children.

Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Mariana Betsa, presenting the draft resolution at the 11th emergency special session of the UNGA, said that as of October 2025, there are 6,395 deported and forcibly transferred children. In total, over 20,000 cases of deportation and forcible transfer are being investigated.

nature's fury, it was amplified by decades of deforestation," said Rianda Purba, an activist with the group. "Deforestation and unchecked development have stripped Sumatra of its resilience."

The group recorded more than 240,000 hectares (nearly 600,000 acres) of primary forest were lost in 2024 alone, leaving Sumatra's small river basins dangerously exposed. Another environmental group, Global Forest Watch has said the flood-inundated Indonesian provinces of Aceh, North Sumatra and West Sumatra have since 2000 lost 19,600 sq km (7,569 square miles) of forest, an area larger than the state of New Jersey.

"Unless restoration begins now, more lives will be lost," Purba warned. Massive piles of neatly cut timber lay scattered among the debris across Parkit Beach, a sight that stunned emergency crews deployed to the area.

"From their shape, it was clear these were not just trees torn out naturally by the flood, but timber that had been deliberately cut," said a member of a clean-up crew, Neviana, who goes by a single name.

Zohran Mamdani, Louvre most mispronounced words of 2025

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas, Dec 4: From the election of Zohran Mamdani to the intrigue surrounding the jewel heist at the Louvre, keeping up with this year's news also left some Americans struggling with pronunciations. That's put both the name of New York City's incoming mayor and the famed Paris museum on a list of the most mispronounced words in 2025.

The language-learning company Babel and closed-captioning company The Cap-

tioning Group on Thursday released a list of the words that news anchors, politicians and other public figures in the US struggled with the most this year, giving an overview of the people and topics that had Americans talking.

As Mamdani made his political rise, the democratic socialist's name was often mangled. When he takes office in January, the 34-year-old will become the city's first Muslim mayor, first born in Africa and first of South Asian heritage. Babel said his name — which should



be pronounced zoh-RAHN mam-DAH-nee — was most commonly mispronounced when people swapped the "M" and "N" in his last name.

Mamdani has said he doesn't mind if someone tries to pronounce his name correctly and misses, but that some mispronounce it intentionally. During one mayoral race debate, he chided former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's pronunciation of his name, telling his opponent, "The name is Mamdani. M-A-M-D-A-N-I."

The theft of France's crown

jewels from the Louvre in October had many people mispronouncing the name of the world's most-visited museum. Babel says the correct pronunciation is LOOV-ruh, with a very soft pronunciation on the "ruh," which can be a challenge for English speakers.

"A lot of these words come from different languages, and so we have to adapt to a sound that we've never made before," said Esteban Touma, a linguistic and cultural expert at Babel.

of the day


quote

For India to achieve developed nation status by 2047, we must integrate quantum computing, secure communication, precision sensing, and advanced materials into key national missions and industrial sectors



VK SARASWAT | NITI AAYOG MEMBER

We have a full banking licence here... we will expand our business in a step-by-step manner over the next three years. We will ramp up B2B business and enter into the B2C segment



HERMAN GREFF | CEO AND CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, SBERBANK

India is amongst one of the fastest growing retail markets globally. A lot of it has to do with things like digitisation, different omni-channel models which make it convenient to access products without having to 'pay an arm and a leg for it



ANUJ SINGH | CEO, SPENCER RETAIL

SHORT TAKES

More than 17L silver articles hallmarked

New Delhi: More than 17.35 lakh silver jewellery items have been hallmarked with mandatory Hallmarking Unique Identification (HUID) within three months of its implementation, reflecting strong acceptance among jewellers and consumers, official data showed. While the Silver Hallmarking Scheme remains voluntary from September 1, 2025, HUID marking has been made mandatory for any silver article that is hallmarked. "HUID in silver jewellery hallmarking marks a significant step forward in strengthening purity assurance and eliminating fake hallmarking practices," Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a social media post. "With HUID mandatory on voluntarily (BIS) Hallmarked Silver articles, each piece carries a unique 6-digit identification code that enables complete digital traceability and enhanced consumer protection," Joshi added.

Over 31.38cr workers under e-Shram portal

New Delhi: The national database of the informal sector workforce, e-Shram portal, has 31.38 crore registered unorganised workers, Parliament was informed Thursday. The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the e-Shram portal (eshram.gov.in) 26th August 2021 for the creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) seeded with Aadhaar. The e-Shram portal is meant to register and support the unorganised workers by providing them with a Universal Account Number (UAN) on a self-declaration basis. As of 27th November 2025, over 31.38 crore unorganised workers have already been registered on the e-Shram portal, stated Minister of State for Labour and Employment Sushri Shobha Karandlaje in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Dream11 bets on sports entertainment

Mumbai: With a major part of the business impacted by the government's ban on Real Money Gaming, Dream11 Thursday announced sports entertainment to be its next bet. The top management also said that none of its 1,200 employees has been laid off as a result of the ban on real money gaming. As a concept, the watchalong service exists on YouTube but this is the first time a dedicated platform for such engagement is being launched in India.



We need to bring more diversity in our trade basket. We need to make it more balanced. We need more variety and there is so much to offer between the two countries (Russia and India)

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

GCCs LEAD FINANCE PAY

Investment banking global capability centres (GCCs) are offering the best pay scale across most roles and experience levels in 2025-26, followed by retail and commercial banking, financial services, and insurance GCCs, as per a report



Unorthodox staffing strategy backfires at IndiGo: Pilots' body

WITH THE ONSET OF THE BUSY WINTER FOG SEASON -- WHICH NATURALLY DEMANDS HIGHER PILOT AVAILABILITY -- INDIGO STILL EXPANDED ITS WINTER SCHEDULE "WITHOUT RECRUITING OR TRAINING ADDITIONAL PILOTS", RAISING SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mumbai, Dec 4: Pilots' body Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has alleged that IndiGo, despite getting a two-year preparatory window before the full implementation of new flight duty and rest period norms for cockpit crew, "inexplicably" adopted a "hiring freeze."

FIP said it has urged the safety regulator, DGCA, not to approve airlines' seasonal flight schedules unless they have adequate staff to operate their services "safely and reliably" under the New Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms.

In a letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) late Wednesday, FIP urged the DGCA to consider re-evaluating and reallocating slots to other airlines, which have the capacity to operate them without disruption during the

peak holiday and fog season if IndiGo continues to "fail in delivering on its commitments to passengers due to its own avoidable staffing shortages."

FIP also said it would like to categorically clarify that the recent spate of IndiGo flight cancellations cannot be attributed to the Delhi High Court-mandated FDTL regulations for pilots.

"All other airlines have provisioned pilots adequately and remain largely unaffected due to timely planning and preparation," it said, adding "the current disruption is the direct consequence of IndiGo's prolonged and unorthodox lean manpower strategy across departments, particularly in-flight operations."

The pilots' body alleged that "despite the two-year preparatory window before full FDTL implementation, the airline



inexplicably adopted a hiring freeze, entered non-poaching arrangements, maintained a pilot pay freeze through cartel-like behavior, and demonstrated other short-sighted planning practices."

"FIP strongly advocates that the DGCA must approve seasonal flight schedules only after airlines prove they have adequate pilot strength under

pilot and employee morale -- especially in a year when airline executives took home record increments approaching or exceeding 100 per cent, while simultaneously blaming pilot migration instead of investing in retention and workplace improvements," FIP said.

In line with international regulations, the Indian aviation safety regulator approves two schedules -- winter (late October to late March) and summer (late March to late October) for the domestic airlines.

The Gurugram-based airline has received approval for 15,014 flights per week for the ongoing winter schedule, up almost 10 per cent from 13.691 flights per week that it operated last winter.

The latest FDTL norms, which entail increased weekly rest periods to 48 hours, extended night hours, and limiting

the number of night landings to only two, as against six earlier, were initially opposed by domestic airlines, including IndiGo and Tata Group-owned Air India.

But they were subsequently rolled out by the DGCA following the Delhi High Court's directives, albeit with a delay of over one year, in a phased manner, and with certain variations for airlines like IndiGo and Air India.

While the first phase of these FDTL norms came into force in July, the second phase, which reduced the number of night landings from six to two earlier, was implemented from November 1.

The norms were originally to be put in place from March 2024, but airlines, including IndiGo, sought a step-by-step implementation, citing additional crew requirements.

MARKETS SNAP LOSING STREAK



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 4: Snapping the four-day losing run, benchmark Sensex climbed 158 points and Nifty settled above 26,000 Thursday following buying in tech and IT shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged higher by 158.51 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 85,265.32. During the day, it rose by 380.4 points or 0.44 per cent to 85,487.21.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 47.75 points or 0.18 per cent to 26,033.75. Sensex dropped around 613 points or 0.72 per cent while Nifty shed nearly 230 points or 0.8 per cent in four straight sessions to Wednesday.

Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, Bharat Electronics and Trent were the major gainers among Sensex scrips. However, Maruti, Eternal, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Titan were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,206.92 crore Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹4,730.41 crore,

according to exchange data.

"Equity markets traded in a narrow range today as sentiment remained subdued amid persistent weakness in the Indian rupee. With the RBI's monetary policy decision due on Friday, investors largely opted to stay on the sidelines, leading to a lacklustre trading session and limited directional movement across the indices. The rupee slipped further on Thursday, marking a fresh lifetime low," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.32 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.19 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT jumped 1.41 per cent, followed by IT (1.31 per cent), teck (1.12 per cent), realty (0.53 per cent) and FMCG (0.38 per cent) and auto (0.28 per cent).

Services, consumer discretionary, financial services, Industrials, utilities, capital goods, consumer durables and power were the laggards.

On Wednesday, the Sensex dipped 31.46 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 85,106.81. The Nifty skidded 46.20 points or 0.18 per cent to 25,986.

MONETARY POLICY

Mixed expectations ahead of RBI decision

The meeting is taking place against the backdrop of falling inflation, rising GDP growth, the rupee crossing 90 against the dollar and ongoing geopolitical tensions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 4: RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra will announce the bi-monthly monetary policy on Friday amid mixed expectations of a 25 basis points rate cut as well as the possibility of the central bank opting for status quo.

Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- started its three-day deliberation on the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy Wednesday.

The RBI reduced the key short-term lending rate (repo) by 100 basis points in three tranches, beginning in February, amid declining consumer price index (CPI) based inflation.

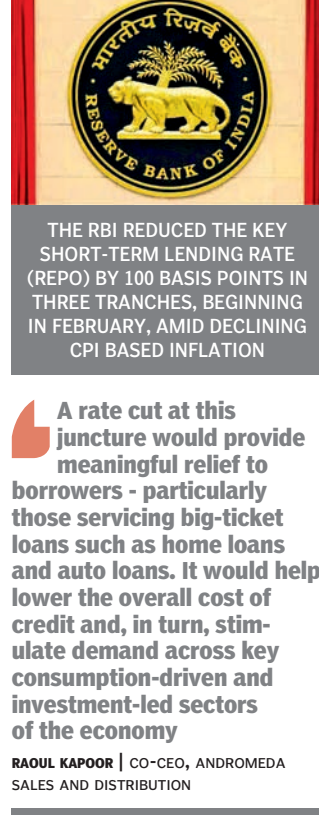
Several experts said that while growth remains robust, a significant decline in retail inflation has created additional room for a reduction in the key short-term lending rate.

Even the RBI Governor last month had said that there is a scope to further reduce policy interest rates.

In this backdrop, some experts believe that the RBI may continue with the pause on interest rates as economic growth has picked up, sustained by fiscal consolidation, targeted public investment, and various reforms, such as the GST rate cut.

The CPI-based headline inflation is ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government. Besides, the Indian economy has clocked better-than-expected GDP growth of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter.

The government has mandated the RBI to ensure that retail inflation remains at 4 per cent



A rate cut at this juncture would provide meaningful relief to borrowers - particularly those servicing big-ticket loans such as home loans and auto loans. It would help lower the overall cost of credit and, in turn, stimulate demand across key consumption-driven and investment-led sectors of the economy

RAOUL KAPOOR | CO-CEO, ANDROMEDA SALES AND DISTRIBUTION

Officer of Acuité Ratings & Research, said expectations in the market are finely balanced as economists weigh two contrasting signals from the economy.

"On one hand, both retail and core inflation have eased to multi-month lows, creating a comfortable backdrop for a potential 25-basis-point rate cut, with many analysts arguing that the sustained disinflation trend offers the RBI room to support growth," he said.

On the other hand, India's Q2 FY26 GDP growth remained strong, crossing 8 per cent, prompting several experts to suggest that the central bank may prefer to maintain the policy rate at 5.5 per cent to preserve monetary space and ensure continued stability in capital flows.

"With these competing forces of cooling prices versus resilient growth, consensus estimates currently lean slightly towards a status quo, even though a rate cut remains very much within the realm of possibility," Chakraborti added.

Meanwhile, Atul Monga, CEO and Co-Founder of BASIC Home Loan, expects the MPC to keep the repo rate unchanged, despite inflation showing signs of relief.

"For homebuyers, this means EMIs may likely rise in the near future, offering stability over the next year. But doesn't necessarily mean relief, considering many borrowers who took floating-rate loans in the last 18-24 months are still coping with higher repayment commitments," Monga said.

RBI is also expected to revise its GDP growth forecast upward, given better-than-expected first-half numbers.

FPIs outflow reaches ₹1.56 lakh cr this yr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 4: Foreign investors have pulled out ₹13,121 crore (\$1.46 billion) from Indian equities in the first four days of December, taking the total outflow for 2025 to ₹1.56 lakh crore (\$17.8 billion), data from NSDL showed Thursday.

This sharp withdrawal follows a net outflow of ₹3,765 crore in November, continuing the pressure on the markets.

These outflows come after a brief pause in October, when FPIs invested ₹14,610 crore, breaking a three-month streak of massive withdrawals -- ₹23,885 crore in September, ₹34,990 crore in August, and ₹17,700 crore in July.

According to the data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew a net amount of ₹13,121 crore from Indian equities in this month during December 1-4.

₹ recovers from record low level

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 4: The rupee rebounded from its all-time low levels and appreciated by 26 paise to close at 89.89 against the greenback Thursday, on softness in the US dollar index and on reports of the Reserve Bank of India's supposed intervention.

Forex traders said the greenback fell after ADP non-farm payroll data came in sharply below forecast, and the softness in the US dollar index supported the rupee at lower levels.

The rupee opened weak earlier in the day and touched a fresh all-time low of 90.43 amid selling pressure from foreign investors and rising crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.36. It slipped further to a record low of 90.43 against the greenback in initial deals, registering a loss of 28 paise from its previous closing level.

Billionaires inherit record levels of wealth

REUTERS

Zurich, Dec 4: The spouses and children of billionaires inherited more wealth in 2025 than in any previous year since reporting began in 2015, according to UBS's Billionaire Ambitions Report published Thursday.

In the 12 months to April, 91 people became billionaires through inheritance, collectively receiving \$298 billion, up more than a third from 2024, the Swiss bank said.

"These heirs are proof of a multi-year wealth transfer that's intensifying," UBS executive Benjamin Cavalli said.

The report is based on a survey of some of UBS's super-rich clients and a database that tracks the wealth of billionaires across 47 markets



SOME 91 HEIRS BECAME BILLIONAIRES IN 12 MONTHS TO APRIL TOGETHER THEY INHERITED \$298 BILLION AT LEAST \$5.9 TRILLION TO BE INHERITED OVER NEXT 15 YEARS

in all world regions.

At least \$5.9 trillion will be inherited by billionaire children over the next 15 years, the bank calculates.

Most of this inheritance growth is set to take place in the United States, with India, France, Germany and Switzerland next on the list, UBS

estimated.

However, billionaires are highly mobile, especially younger ones, which could change that picture, it added.

The search for a better quality of life, geopolitical concerns

and tax considerations are driving decisions to relocate, according to the report.

In Switzerland, where \$206 billion will be inherited over the next 15 years according to the bank, voters on Sunday overwhelmingly rejected a proposed 50% tax on inherited fortunes of \$62 million or more, after critics said it could trigger an exodus of wealthy people.

Switzerland, the UAE, the US and Singapore are among billionaires' preferred destinations, UBS's Cavalli said.

"In Switzerland, Sunday's vote may have helped to increase the country's appeal again," he said.

Bol holds Customer Outreach Program

KEONJHAR: Lead District Bank of Keonjhar district, Bank of India organised a Customer Outreach Program with the aim of strengthening its relationship with customers and thrust over Retail, Agriculture & MSME sectors. The programme was held at the Keonjhar Zonal Office with the participation of customers from various branches of the district.

General Manager, Atul Ramdas Satpute from Head office, Retail Banking Department joined as chief guest. Satpute conducted a detailed review meeting of all branch heads and zonal office staffs before the programme. He advised all the branch heads and bank officials to improve customer service and educate customers about various services provided by the bank. In the outreach programme Zonal Manager, Amit Kumar Pal and Deputy Zonal Manager, Sidharth Kumar Behera discussed various services and schemes offered by the bank. Pal interacted with all customers and noted all suggestions and feedback received from them. Branch heads from different branches were present on the occasion. Thirty customers received loan sanction letters amounting to ₹24.5 crore, which were distributed by the Chief Guest to support their business expansion. The loans included agriculture loans, MSME loans and retail loans. Bank of India has been playing a leading role in Keonjhar district by making banking services and credit easily accessible to people. Zonal Manager said that the bank is committed to providing best banking in the coming days to help people become self-reliant while ensuring improved customer service. Officials of the Keonjhar Zonal Office Rabi Narayan Mahalik, Debasish Sahoo, Asish Mishra, Rajat Panda, Laxmikant Behera, Supratim Saha and Dev Jaishwal assisted in sanction letter distribution and conducting the programme smoothly.



Root ends century drought Down Under

England great's first century in Australia tops Starc's 6 wickets as England takes honours on Day 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brisbane, Dec 4: Joe Root posted a long-awaited first Ashes century in Australia to give England the honors on Day 1 of the second cricket test

despite Mitchell Starc's six wickets. Starc removed Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope to have England reeling at 5-2 in the third over Thursday.

That's when Root went to the crease and set about restoring the England innings, and confidence, following the series-opening eight-wicket loss in Perth.

His unbeaten 135 led England to 325-9 at stumps, with No 11 Jofra Archer at a career-best 32 in an unbroken 61-run last-wicket stand.

Zac Crawley, who helped Root get England's revival going in a 117-run third-wicket stand, described his teammate's century as a "phenomenal knock."

"He played brilliantly," Crawley said. The ball "was doing plenty when he first came in and he was so calm and he was so clear as well about how he wanted to go about it."

Opener Crawley, who was coming off two ducks in Perth, scored 76 from 93 balls and was outscoring Root before he attempted an extravagant pull shot and got an under edge through to the keeper just after the first interval.

Brook was caught at slip slashing outside off stump and falling for 31 from 33 balls to end a 54-run fourth-wicket partnership with Root just as the sun was going down.

Root's highest test score in 15 previous Ashes tests in Australia was 89, and the local media had taken every chance in recent weeks to remind him of his missing milestone.

Playing his 160th test,



boundary next ball to go to 96. The rest is history.

Hayden's sigh of relief

One Australian relieved that Root got triple figures was ex-test opener Matthew Hayden, who'd vowed to do a nude lap around the Melbourne Cricket Ground

if the Englishman's drought extended beyond this series.

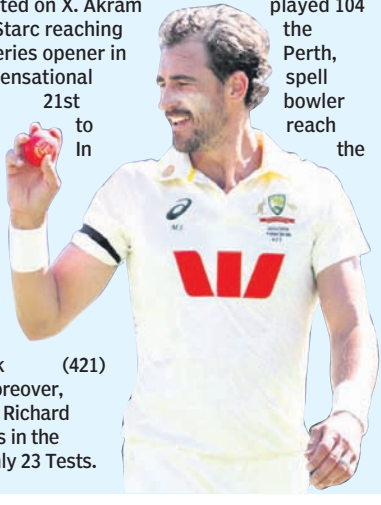
He sent his congratulations to Root in a video message to England Cricket. "It took you a while and there was no one that had more skin in the game than me, literally," Hayden, now working as a commentator, said.

Brief scores:

England 325/9 in 74 overs (Joe Root 135 not out, Zak Crawley 76, Jofra Archer 32 not out; Mitchell Starc 6-71) against Australia

STARC PIPS AKRAM TO BECOME LEADING LEFT-ARM BOWLER IN TEST HISTORY

Australia's senior pacer Mitchell Starc broke the record for the most wickets taken by a left-arm fast bowler in Test cricket history on Day 1 of the second Ashes Test at Brisbane Thursday. The 35-year-old dismissed Harry Brook for 31, caught by Steve Smith at second slip, to claim his 415th Test wicket and go past Wasim Akram's tally of 414 victims after striking with the second ball of his new spell. The Pakistani great was quick to hail the Aussie pacer for breaking his record. "Super Starc! Proud of you, mate. Your incredible hard work sets you apart, and it was only a matter of time before you crossed my tally of wickets. I am pleased to give this to you! Go well, and keep soaring to new heights in your stellar career," Akram posted on X. Akram Tests for his 414 wickets, with Starc reaching milestone in his 102nd. In the series opener in the left-arm quick produced a sensational of 7-58 and became just the 21st to in the 13th Australian 100 Ashes wickets. current squads of both teams, only Nathan Lyon (110) and Starc are the two bowlers to hold 100 or more wickets in the Ashes. Starc is now 16th on the all-time wicket-taker list and could move above both India's Harbhajan Singh (417) and South Africa's Shaun Pollock (421) in the ongoing pink-ball Test. Moreover, he could match or move past Sir Richard Hadlee's tally of 431 Test wickets in the series. He hit the milestone in only 23 Tests.



Kushwaha youngest player to earn FIDE rating at age 3

Currently enrolled in nursery school, Kushwaha holds a rapid rating of 1,572. For comparison, world number one Magnus Carlsen tops rapid chess with a massive rating of 2,824

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New Delhi, Dec 4: India has found its youngest chess record-holder. Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha, just three years, seven months and 20 days old, has become the youngest player in world chess history to earn an official FIDE rating. The nursery student from Madhya Pradesh has also broken an Indian record that was set only last year.

The toddler edged past compatriot Anish Sarkar, who was



three years, eight months and 19 days old when he achieved the same feat in November 2024.

What makes this record special

To earn an official rating from FIDE, the International Chess Federation, a player must defeat at least one FIDE-rated opponent. Sarwagya did more than that.

He defeated three FIDE-rated players in different events held

across his home state and other parts of the country. These wins helped him secure his record-breaking status.

What is a FIDE rating?

A FIDE rating is a number that shows a chess player's strength based on match performances. It is different from a world ranking and keeps changing based on wins and losses. Sarwagya currently holds a

rapid rating of 1,572, a strong number even for many adult players. For comparison, world number one Magnus Carlsen tops rapid chess with a massive rating of 2,824.

Father reacts with pride and a big dream

Sarwagya's achievement has brought joy to his family. His father Siddharth Singh shared his feelings with media and said, "a matter of great pride and honour". He also revealed the long-term goal for his son, adding, "We want him to become a grandmaster."

Sarwagya's record adds to India's fast-rising reputation in world chess. The country has produced several global stars over the years.

India is home to the current world champion Gukesh Dommaraju and five-time World Cup winner Viswanathan Anand, who is widely regarded as a legend of the game.

FIH Men's Jr Hockey WC: India's real test starts vs Belgium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Dec 4: All boxes ticked so far in a relatively easy pool campaign, the real test for India will start when they take on Belgium in the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup here Friday.

Placed in Pool B alongside Chile, Oman and Switzerland, India romped to the knockout round, scoring 29 goals and conceding none, the best strike rate among all 24 teams.

Any slip-up from here would crush India's dream of reclaiming the crown at home after nine years.

India last won the title in Lucknow in 2016.

So far, India looked on course to repeat the feat with some stellar performances in the pool stages, scoring 18 field goals, nine from penalty corners and two from penalty strokes.

But it won't be easy for the Indians from here on, and any complacency might throw them out of the title reckoning.

The Indians ruled the roost in the first two games against Chile and Oman, scoring goals at will with the backline hardly being bothered.

Even though the hosts beat Switzerland 5-0, India's defence was tested by the Swiss with goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh and Bikramjit Singh making some fantastic saves to keep their clean sheet.

SUB JUNIOR NATIONAL BADMINTON C'SHIP Tanvi enters semis with dominant wins



The rising shuttler from Odisha enters U-15, U-17 Girls Singles; Swati-Nimisha enter U-15 Girls Doubles semifinals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 4: The semifinal line-up across all categories has been finalised on Day 4 of the 37th Sub Junior National Badminton Championship, being held at the Dalmia Bharat Gopichand Badminton High Performance Centre (Shuttle) at Kalinga Stadium here.

Odisha's rising badminton star Tanvi Patri delivered an outstanding performance, securing semifinal berths in both the U-15 and U-17 Girls Singles categories.

In the U-15 Girls Singles

quarterfinal, Tanvi defeated Uttar Pradesh's Agrima Singh in straight games 21-14, 21-14 to advance to the semifinals. Telangana's Avani Vikram Govind, Hamsini Chandram, and Punjab's Inayat Gulati also entered the semis with impressive wins.

In the U-17 Girls Singles, Tanvi continued her dominant run, registering another straight-game win over Kerala's Hitha Maria Jose by 21-15, 21-12. Tamil Nadu's Diksha SR and Delhi's Rishika Nandi also secured semifinal spots.

Meanwhile, Odisha celebrated another success as the U-15 Girls Doubles pair of Swati Nayak and Nimisha Ojha defeated Karnataka duo Shreya Kandivilla and Sri Nagalakshmi P in a thrilling contest 22-20, 14-21, 21-11, advancing to the semifinals. Tamil Nadu's Nayonika A and Dhanya SJ also booked their place by beating

Andhra Pradesh-Haryana pair Trisitha and Joel Rana.

In the U-15 Boys Singles, Telangana's Sri Chetan Sourya Samala stunned top seed Wazir Singh of Punjab with a tough 21-19, 21-23, 21-18 victory. Karnataka's Pushkar Sai, Delhi's Harshit Khatri, and Rajasthan's Anshuman Chowdhury also progressed to the semifinals.

The U-17 Boys Singles saw top seed Jagsher Singh Khanggura defeat Karnataka's Pranav M 21-14, 21-17. Assam's Bornil Akash Chengmai, Punjab's Biraj Sharma, and Maharashtra's Dev Ruprelia completed the semifinal lineup.

Speaking on the upcoming schedule, Odisha State Badminton Association Secretary and Organising Committee Secretary N Kumar informed that all semifinal matches will be played December 5, and the finals will take place December 6.

Injured Neymar nets hat-trick in 17 minutes

Santos (Brazil): Eyeing his last WC call-up, Neymar played through a knee injury to score a hat-trick and lift his boyhood club Santos clear of the relegation zone in Brazil's Serie A. The 33-year-old former Barcelona and Paris St Germain forward scored three times within 17 minutes to secure a 3-0 win at Juventude Wednesday evening, sending them two points clear of the bottom four with one match left. Neymar has had a long struggle with injuries and has not represented Brazil since October 2023. Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti said in October that Neymar remains in his plans for next year's World Cup, but the striker must regain full fitness. Neymar has scored five goals and provided one assist in the last three matches, helping Santos pick up seven points to lift them to 14th in the table. They host Cruzeiro Sunday in the last match of the campaign.



Mbappé scores brace as Madrid wins 3-0

Madrid: Kylian Mbappé scored twice and had an assist as Real Madrid beat Athletic Bilbao 3-0 to end a three-match winless streak in the Spanish league. Eduardo Camavinga also found the net for Madrid Wednesday as it moved back within one point of Barcelona, which beat Atletico Madrid 3-1 Tuesday. Both 19th-round matches were moved forward because Madrid, Barcelona, Athletic and Atletico will be playing in the Spanish Super Cup in January in Saudi Arabia. Madrid was coming off league draws at Girona, Elche and Rayo Vallecano. It was Madrid's second win in its last six matches in all competitions. Mbappé has scored seven goals in his last three matches in all competitions. He had scored once against Girona, and netted four times at Olympiakos in a 4-3 Champions League win. The France star has 30 goals in 24 appearances between club and country this season and is the leading scorer in both the Spanish league (16 goals) and the Champions League (nine goals). Madrid hosts Celta Vigo on Sunday in its return to the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.



JERUSALEM MASTERS

Erigaisi defeats Vishy to bag title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Dec 4: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi defeated five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand in an all-Indian final to clinch the Jerusalem Masters title here.

After the duo drew the opening rapid games, Erigaisi struck in the first Blitz tie-break match by winning with the white pieces to take a decisive lead in the fixture.

The 22-year-old also held a winning position in the second blitz encounter before settling for a draw, which was enough for him to win the fixture 2.5-1.5



and title, according to a report by 'chessbase.com'.

"It wasn't easy. There were a lot of challenges. My quality wasn't the best. I'm just glad I managed to make it through," Arjun told the organisers in an

interview after winning the title.

"Today, both the matches (versus Peter Svidler and then Anand) were very tense. In the first game against Anand sir we both missed our chances. But in blitz, I think I played quite well," he added.

On losing control of Game 1 in the final despite having a white pieces advantage, Erigaisi said that he was worried after "messing up" but managed to recover. "During the game, I was very worried. I knew I was winning and I knew I messed it. So, I was definitely worried. But okay, all I had to do was to fight back and that is what I was trying to do."

ODISHA STAR NIKITA'S GRIT FUELS HER RISE

The hockey player from KIIT overcomes personal tragedies to win gold in KIUG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Dec 4: Young women's hockey player Nikita Toppo stands out not just for her exploits in the midfield but also for her resilience in overcoming tough times and a career-threatening injury early in her playing career.

The 22-year-old skipper played a pivotal role in helping Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) clinch the women's hockey gold in the institution's maiden appearance at the Khelo India University Games here.

Nikita lost her parents when she was five years old, while one of her elder brothers died in an accident when she was on her way to U-23 Five-Nations Cup in Ireland three years ago. A year later, she suffered a career-threatening injury and soon after her other brother met with an accident and suffered a skull injury from which he hasn't completely recovered yet.

But instead of getting bogged down by the series of setbacks, Nikita found solace in hockey. "Before this (success at the KIUG), we would not clear our zone as there are many good university teams in Odisha. But from last year onwards, me and my coach have been working on building a strong team by getting good players to take admission in our university. Before we came here,



we were determined to win the title here," Nikita said after her team defeated ITM University, Gwalior, to take the top spot.

Nikita controlled the pace of the game in the final in the defensive midfielder's role and ensured the ITM players could not penetrate her team's citadel.

I believe what happened, happened, and we can't change it. I focus on the present and accept the situation

NIKITA TOPPO

However, it's not just Nikita's hockey skills but the clarity of thought and resilience that set her apart.

"I believe what happened, happened, and we can't change it. I focus on the present and accept the situation. I remain strong for my team and my family, or what's left of it, and I don't shed a tear because I don't want my insecurities and unfortunate incidents to take over me and cloud my mind," she said about her personal setbacks.

"What happened to my brother

in 2022 was heartbreaking. But I didn't let it pull me down, and I didn't want my team to suffer because of me. No matter how much I miss him, he won't come back," added Nikita, who could not even attend his last rites.

The Indian team then won a silver medal in the U-23 Five-Nations Cup.

Nikita, whose hockey career started when she joined the Government Sports Hostel in Panposh, Rourkela, in 2016, was also part of the Indian U-21 team that won four matches and drew one during their South Africa tour in 2023.

Nikita's short-term goal now is to participate in the Senior Nationals for Odisha and win a medal, while her long-term objective is to represent India in major competitions and secure a stable job.