

LEISURE | P2



Russia launches major missile and drone attack on Ukraine as US, Ukrainian officials meet for a third day of peace talks

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Dlls outshine Flls

DIIs' strong buying outweigh FIIs' outflows driven by this week's rupee depreciation

BUSINESS | P11



India's big splash

Suruchi Singh clinches women's 10m air pistol gold, while compatriot Sainyam takes silver as India make a big splash in ISSF World Cup Final

SPORTS | P12

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New schemes for silk sector, rural industries

silk production and growth of rural industries in the state, the government has decided to launch two schemes - Chief Minister Silk Development Scheme and Chief Minister Weaving Industry Development Scheme, a minister said in the Assembly Saturday.

This decision was taken at the state Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday. The Cabinet decisions were announced by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling in the Assembly Saturday. The Cabinet approved a total of six proposals, Mahaling said. The Chief Minister Silk Development Scheme worth ₹274 crore will be spent over five years for strengthening the state's sericulture industry through improved infrastructure and skill-building initiatives.

The scheme will promote ethical silk production, includby focusing on silkworm seed preparation, species conservation, and farmer incentives. Cooperative societies will facilitate better marketing of silk products, protecting farmers from distress sales and ensuring sustainable

The Cabinet also approved dustrial Policy Resolution 2015.





12 PAGES+SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: To boost growth, the minister said.

> the Chief Minister Weaving **Industry Development Scheme** worth ₹490 crore. The amount will be spent over five years to foster investment, empower local industries, and expand employment opportunities, he said. Under the scheme, incentives will be given to new textile manufacturing units with an objective to make Odisha an emerging hub for the weaving industry, Mahaling said, adding that this will be aligned with Odisha Apparel and Technical Textile Policy 2022 and the In-

> The Cabinet also decided to restructure the Odisha Fisheries Service Cadre and approved a proposal on the Odisha Pharma and Medical Device Policy 2025.



RIDE ON ROLLING SAND: In a return to a pre-war tradition, a Palestinian man rides his motorcycle on a sand dune in Al-Zahra area, central Gaza Strip

State to become green Govt caps airfares amid IndiGo chaos energy hub by 2036: CM

Puri, Dec 6: Odisha has identified the energy supply chain as a key pillar of its development, aiming to transform the state into a green energy hub by 2036, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced Saturday.

Speaking at the Global Energy Leaders' Summit 2025 (GELS 2025) in Puri, the Chief Minister emphasized that the state is making strategic investments in the energy sector to secure a sustainable future for coming generations

"Electricity is a top priority and an essential infrastructure that will drive our journey toward self-reliance," he said.

Majhi stressed that every state, like Odisha, must prioritise power generation and conservation to ensure long-term energy security.

The Chief Minister described GELS 2025 as a unique platform bringing together central and state governments, industries, academic institutions, researchers, and global energy experts to shape a clear roadmap for a cleaner and more self-reliant energy future.

The summit, he added, marks the first nationwide step toward achieving this vision. Reflecting on the past, Majhi noted that before 2014, uninterrupted power supply across the country, especially in rural areas, was a maior challenge. Low power generation impacted households, industries, and commerce alike.



witnessed remarkable progress, driven by the Prime Minister's leadership and forward-looking policies of the Ministry of Power, Majhi said

He highlighted that India's energy sector has grown rapidly over the past 11 years due to rising demand, infrastructure expansion, and strong support for both conventional and renewable energy.

Majhi underscored the need for robust distribution infrastructure alongside increased power generation, stating that sufficient energy is essential for continuous development at all

Currently, only 51 per cent of India's electricity comes from thermal sources, a share expected to decline soon.

Odisha, he said, has designed its own long-term strategy for sustainable growth, including a commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by

so been prioritised under the state's industrial policy.

Former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair addressed the gathering via video link, emphasising that successful energy transitions require coordinated efforts by multiple governments over time. He noted that this collaborative spirit forms the foundation of the GELS.

In his welcome address, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, who also holds the Energy portfolio, said the iconic Konark Sun Temple symbolises India's age-old connection with energy. He added that Odisha aims to bring major transformations to its industrial and agricultural sectors through

renewable energy by 2030. By 2036, when the state marks its 100th year, Odisha aims to emerge as a leading centre for clean energy, manufacturing, and green hydrogen, Singh Deo said

The crisis involving India's

largest domestic carrier Indi-Go entered the fifth day Saturday, laying bare the perils of a near-monopolistic aviation market with ordinary flyers bearing the brunt. As thousands of flights were abruptly cancelled, more than 2,100 across its network, travellers from all parts of India faced severe disruption. With the airline's system faltering under operational stress, triggered by new crew rest norms and scheduling mismanagement, there was no alternative readily available. This resulted in widespread delays, cancelled bookings, stranded passengers and inflated air fares. As the airfares reached levels never seen before, the government was forced to cap the ticket prices. Critics have blamed the government's 'monopoly model' for allowing the industry to concentrate in the hands of a few, arguing that such policy-driven consolidation leaves consumers helpless when that few fail. The crisis demonstrates how

New Delhi, Dec 6: Domestic carrier IndiGo cancelled over 800 flights Saturday, the fifth day of the ongoing crisis, even as the government imposed a cap on airfares and directed the airline to process all refunds by Sunday evening.

The airline's on time performance from six metro airports plunged to 3.7 per cent Friday. as per the civil aviation ministry website. The government said regulatory action will be initiated against the airline in case of any non-compliance.

With IndiGo flight disruptions impacting thousands of passengers, the civil aviation ministry Saturday directed the airline to complete the ticket refund process for the cancelled flights by Sunday evening, and ensure baggage separated from the travellers are delivered in the next two days.

The airline had cancelled over 1,000 flights Friday. IndiGo has cancelled thousands of flights this week due to a shortage of pilots after it failed to plan adequately for new rules limiting pilots' work



DGCA show cause notice to IndiGo CEO

New Delhi: Aviation watchdog DGCA Saturday issued a show cause notice to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers seeking an explanation for the massive flight disruptions, according to sources. In the notice, the regulator said the large-scale operationa failures indicate significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management, the sources said. "... as the CEO, you are responsible for ensuring effective management of the airline but you have failed in your duty to ensure timely arrangements for conduct of reliable operations and the availability of requisite facilities to the passengers," the notice read. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also asked Elbers to reply within 24 hours.

hours. Fares were last capped during Covid-19 in 2020.

The flight cancellations are the biggest crisis ever for 20-year-old IndiGo, which has an over 60 per cent market share in the world's most-populous country and has prided itself on on-time perfor mance while luring passengers with lower fares. IndiGo acknowledges failing to plan properly for the November 1 deadline to implement the stricter rules on night flying and weekly rest for pilots.

GIRL ATTEMPTS SELF-IMMOLATION

Bhubaneswar/Rajgangpur, Dec 6: An undergraduate female student suffered about 90 per cent burn injuries after allegedly attempting self-immolation in Sundargarh district, police said

lack of healthy competition com-

bined with structural over-reli-

ance on one corporate can turn

into a cascading failure

One person, who was allegedly harassing the college student, was arrested in this connection. The incident occurred Friday

night at Lanjiberna area when the victim's family members were asleep. The second-year student was first taken to a local hospital and later shifted to the Isnat General Hospital (IGH) in Rourkela. Doctors said her condition was "highly critical."

Sundargarh SP Amritpal Kaur said, "The police have arrested a 25-vear-old man in this connection. The preliminary investigation indicates that the man was

harassing the woman student." The victim's mother said her daughter had received a threatening call before the incident. "All the family members went to sleep Friday night while she was studying. However, we woke up after hearing her scream and rushed her to a local hospital and from there to IGH. My daughter had received some threatening call following which she attempted self-immolation," she said.

11 killed in mass shooting at South African bar

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Town, Dec 6: At least 11 people, including three children, were killed in a mass shooting at a bar in a township near the South African admin istrative capital of Pretoria. police said Saturday.

Another 14 people were wounded and taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds. according to a statement from the South African Police Ser

Police didn't give details on the ages of those who were injured.

The shooting happened at an unlicensed bar in the Saulsville township west of Pretoria

in the early hours of Saturday. The children killed were a 3-vear-old boy, a 12-vear-old boy and a 16-year-old girl. Police said they were searching

for three suspects. South Africa has one of the highest homicide rates in the world and recorded more than 26,000 homicides in 2024 — an

average of more than 70 a day.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I booked every travel mode flight, train, and bus, Still, I chose to drive to make sure I reach on time

Netflix's Warner Bros acquisition sparks backlash AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Los Angeles, Dec 6: Netflix has been facing fierce criticism over its blockbuster deal to acquire Warner Bros, the storied Hollywood studio. The streaming giant is already viewed as a pariah in some Hollywood circles, largely due to its reluctance to release content in theatres and its disruption of traditional industry practices. As Netflix emerged as the likely winning bidder for Warner Bros. -- the studio behind "Casablanca," the "Harry Potter" movies and "Friends'

-- Hollywood's elite launched an

aggressive campaign against the acquisition. "Titanic" director James Cameron called the buyout a "disaster," while a group of prominent producers are lobbying Congress to oppose the deal, according to trade

magazine Variety. In a letter to lawmakers, the anonymous filmmakers warned that Netflix would "effectively hold a noose around the theatrical marketplace," further damaging a Hollywood ecosystem already strained by audiences' shift from

theatres and TV to streaming. "I could not think of a more effective way to reduce compe-

tition in Hollywood than selling WBD to Netflix," Warner's former CEO Jason Kilar wrote on X. At the centre of Hollywood's ire is Netflix co-CEO Ted Sa-

THREAT TO CINEMA

randos, who has declared that the era of moviegoers flocking to theatres is over. During an analyst call Friday, Sarandos acknowledged surprise over the acquisition but pledged to maintain Warner Bros.' theatrical releases

and preserve the HBO Max brand. Many industry veterans consider theatrical releases essen-



tial to cinema's appeal and prestige -- a stark contrast to streaming content consumed on home sofas or on mobile devices.

Variety captured the industry's alarm with a front-page headline asking: "Is Netflix Trying to Buy

big screen. Theaters will close, communities will suffer, jobs will be lost."The backlash extended beyond Hollywood. Netflix shares plunged more

Warner Bros. or Kill It?"

Michael O'Leary, CEO of Cin-

ema United, the world's largest

exhibition trade association.

warned: "Netflix's success is

television, not movies on the

than three per cent following the announcement, while The Information, influential among tech industry readers, branded the deal an "\$82.7 Billion Blunder" by a management team that "has rarely put a foot wrong."

eisure



CLOONEY SOLD WOMEN'S SHOES BEFORE STARDOM

Before becoming a Hollywood icon, English actor George Clooney shared that he once sold women's shoes and tended to elderly customers' foot corns. The 64-year-old worked as a shoe salesman aged 18, and that a lot of 80 year olds stuck their feet in his face, and they exclaimed having a hammertoe.

RITA WANTS TO WORK ON HER OTHER SKILLS

Singer Rita Ora, who shot to fame after getting signed by rapper Jay-Z's Roc Nation in 2009, says she wants to do more jobs than just be a musician. The 35-year-old star landed big acting roles in films and television including a judging role on The Masked Singer.



She further stressed that

"I don't have any FOMO

she does not have any FOMO

about missing out on anything.

I don't think anything is as big

Work-wise, Radhika will

as we think it is, you know.'

of missing out on anything.

FORTUNE **FORECAST**

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The day may start with a dilemma, but that's exactly how your skills will come into play. As evening approaches, you will be applauded for your outstanding performance. If Ganesha is particularly generous today, you may sign new agreements

TAURUS

Priorities and money matters will line up impatiently to knock on your door (and desk). Your financial constraints will get an outburst today. People may be taken by surprise with the way you get poignant. You will also enjoy the higher accountability reposed on you, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI

Today, you will get an opportunity to rejuvenate yourself with seamless energy. How? Ganesha's guess is that you will find - or at least you will believe that you have found — your purpose in life. It will keep you excited throughout the day, and maybe even for days to come. You may spend lavishly to improve your personal appearance. Such expenditures are only an investment, feels Ganesha.

CANCER

Ganesha believes that today you may have to take certain financial decisions at home as well as at work. If you are in-charge of a certain project, you will trust the judgement of those working on it, mostly because they have been hand-picked by you.

You are blessed with a visionary's creative streak. Perhaps, that's why, you see things differently from others. Today, thanks to the stars, your creative side will surge forth with renewed vigour. You will generate ideas effortlessly and continuously as you reach your creative peak.

There will be dirt on your

shoulder today, so dust it off, says Ganesha, because every time you fall you will get up stronger than before. Your logic and analytical skills will help you find the necessary precision to accomplish tasks at work. You may spend the evening with a close friend or your beloved. engrossed in a stimulating conversation.

There are many kinds of worries that you must equip yourself to deal with. To do this, you may have to learn and follow the basic steps of problem-analysing techniques. The steps involve obtaining facts, analysing them and then arriving at a decision based upon your observations.

SCORPIO

Ganesha feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baf fle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You will discover a flair for flirting as you puppet words to your romantic will with ease and grace. Most of today will be spent in the company of a loved one, perhaps a picnic for two, or a day-long ro mantic date. Stay prepared for the worst as this may not necessarily blossom into a long-lasting relationship, warns Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Like you weren't already overworked, new responsibilities will keep you occupied through out the day, says Ganesha. The excitement with which you work every day will weaken, and eventually die down by the end of the day. This is mainly because you will burn your energy and resources in helping others. But there is a good side to this too.

AQUARIUS You have your head on your shoulders and feet on the ground. Congratulations! You've covered the first step to success. Step two, says Ganesha, involves an inguisitive mind and a guestioning attitude. Later, you may resort to shortcuts and compromise a tad in quality.

PISCES Your fount of creativity spouts everyday like there is no tomorrow. However, you need to be organised and in position to implement all those revolutionary ideas that occur to you in a jiffy, that lesser mortals take aeons to dream up. Your oratory will win you many admirers today, so let go of your inhibitions, says Ganesha.



MUM-

BAI: Actress

Tisca Chopra, who

has made her feature

directorial debut with Saali

Mohabbat, has shared why she

Tisca

reveals why

she turned

director

Her raw, un-

turned to direction.

Saali

Mohab-

bat blends

drama, emo-

tion,

unexpected

is headlined by

Radhika Apte, and

dives into a world

where relationships,

secrets, and ambition

Talking about her journey

as a filmmaker she said, "I be-

came a director out of necessity. I'm

That's why I became a director."

telling you, I only became one because I didn't

want to reach a point where I had no work. So I

thought, I'll write it myself and make it myself.

collide.

twists. The film

challenges. In a recent interview, opened up on what drives her to delivering those brilliant performances.

who loves

In a recent interview with a news portal, Aditi

filtered

take

high-

creative drive and

her determination to

shape stories on her

Secret behind Aditi's creativity

ing in front of the camera. It is a complete surrender. A journey filled with mental anguish and emotional layers to become a character. The force that truly motivates her in this is the director's push.

said, "I go for

characters that

scare me and directors that

push me beyond

my limits." She

openly shared

that fear and

desire fuel her

creativity, not

bound by any

image. Cinema

for her is not

about reciting

lines or stand-

"That fear is a good fear for me. It keeps me awake," she says. She likes directors who take not only the story but also the actress to new heights. Such creators make her understand that open exposure and real weak-

nesses are what an actress deserves."When I'm pushed, I discover something new about myself," she said. AGENCIES lights both her

> own terms. The film is produced by Manish Malhotra, and is poised to resonate with viewers for its bold storytelling, compelling characters, and the distinct voice Tisca brings to the narrative. With a fresh perspective and an immersive plot, the film

> > promises to keep audiences

hooked from start to finish. Earlier, she received praise from the lead actress of the film, Radhika Apte, who credited her for helping her find the fragile balance between quiet vulnerability and hidden strength.

> Saali Mohabbat is set to stream on ZEE5 December

Fearless Radhika There's something else I have MUMBAI: Actress Radhika here. So, I don't believe in that.

Apte says she has absolutely no fear of missing out on any-

Radhika, who has shifted base to London and keeps on traveling back and forth for work, was asked during an exclusive conversation with this agency if she feels that not being permanently based in Mumbai leads to losing out on good work opportunities.

does not believe

this to be true,

Radhika said,

"If I want to

do some-

thing, I'll

come

there

And

I miss

it, I

miss

soon be seen in the forthcoming thriller, Saali Mohabbat. Clarifying that she Shedding light on her

character, Smita, she revealed, "Well, I play the character Smita, who's a housewife and who is some body who loves gardening, and she has a very quiet life." Radhika added that Saali Mohab bat essentially tells the story of an introvert ed woman who is a plant lover and a simple housewife.

Aamir opens up about love life MUMBAI: Bollywood actor

Aamir Khan has been in a relationship with Gauri Spratt for over two years now. Appearing at a summit, the actor spoke about his love life and how he was fortunate to meet not just Gauri but also his two ex-wives, Kiran Rao and Reena Dutta, as well.

During the conversation,

FUN

talked about maintaining a cordial bond with his ex-wives and said, "It shows we are good people. Reena is an amazing person. We fell apart as husband and wife, but that doesn't mean we fell apart as human beings. It's the same with Kiran. Reena, her parents, Kiran and her parents, and my parents, we are all actually one family."

CROSSWORD

Aamir introduced his girlfriend, Gauri, on his 60th birthday earlier this year. When asked if he ever thought he would get into a relationship again. Aamir said, "No, I didn't. I had reached a point where I thought I probably would never find someone who could be my partner. She brings a

lot of calm, steadiness. I am very fortunate that while my marriages didn't work, I am still very happy to have met Reena, Kiran and now Gauri in my life. They have contributed to me as a person in a very big way and I look up to them in many ways."



CALVIN AND HOBBES

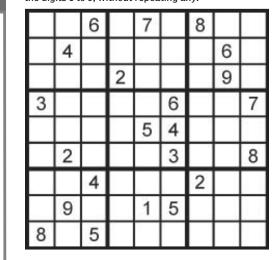


BREVITY



SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

OADPUREBRED D S P DESOLATE LOCH

SUDOKU

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

21 Garage job

15 Offer one's two

9 Wise guy 10 Sink in

7 Swiss lake

e.g.

8 Knife or spear,

Across

11 Ex-soldier

13 Kind of jet

cents

17 Mystifies

20 Complains

Down 1 Bill of fare

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23 Cavort

24 Egotism

2 Adzuki bean,

for one

3 Saltwater lake between Iran

and Russia

5 Black Forest

4 Bunch of bees

cake

alternative

6 Easily

transported

12 Napoleon and

14 Source of

18 Criminal

22 Shower

offense

19 After cuckoo or

grandfather

tapioca

16 Light-footed

his counterparts

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

GLOBAL ENERGY LEADERS' SUMMIT 2025

Odisha set to receive 1.5L rooftop solar units

ULA MODEL

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Dec 6: Odisha will soon get 1.5 lakh rooftop solar units under new utility-led aggregation (ULA) model, benefitting 7-8 lakh people across the state, Union New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said Saturday.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Global Energy Leaders' Summit 2025 here, Joshi said India has recorded the highest-ever addition of green energy capacity in the current financial year at 31.25 GW (gigawatt), including 24.28 GW of solar power.

The summit was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and attended by Energy ministers of various states. After taking nearly 70 years to reach 1 TW (terawatt) of renewable energy capacity in 2022, the world achieved 2 TW by 2024, Joshi said, adding that the second terawatt was achieved in just two years.

"India is a key driver of this explosive global surge in renewable energy. In just 11 years, the



try needs to adopt a balanced

approach in generation of both

"India has skill, abundant re-

sources, skilled manpower and

everything to move forward and

take lead in the global scenario.

We have to generate solar power

along with usual thermal power

to emerge as a leader in manu-

facturing. Once the energy cost

comes down, there is no difficul-

ty to manufacture goods at low-

er cost and become competitive

Joshi said that an estimated

Rs 7 is spent on generating one

unit of electricity from thermal

sources, while it is only Rs 4.70

per unit in solar with battery

system. "It is unimaginable

in global market," he said.

thermal and solar energy.

country's solar capacity has grown from 2.8 GW to around 130 GW. Between 2022 and 2024 alone, India contributed 46 GW to global solar additions, becoming the third-largest contributor," he said. Noting that India holds the world's fifth-largest coal reserves and the second-largest consumer of coal, Joshi said that even with this abundance, India is steadily balancing coal with renewable energy as the transition gathers pace.

With global mechanisms now shaping industrial competitiveness, he said, India's shift towards renewable energy has become even more urgent and strategically important.

Noting that the global order undergoes a fast change in which India is poised to play a unit solar energy plus battery cost is only Rs 2.70 in Madhya Pradesh," he said. This impressive progress

that the cost of production of per

This impressive progress was further marked by achieving the highest-ever non-fossil capacity addition during the current financial year, he said.

On the occasion, Joshi announced the approval of a consumer-owned ULA model under PM Surya Ghar Yojana for installing 1.5 lakh rooftop solar systems of 1 kW each in Odisha. This will benefit nearly 7-8 lakhs of people, especially from economically weaker households in the state.

He noted that Odisha is already demonstrating strong clean energy adoption. With over 3.1 GW of installed renewable capacity, clean energy now accounts for more than 34 per cent of the state's total installed power capacity. Under PM Surya Ghar Yojana, 1.6 lakh households have applied for rooftop solar systems, over 23.000 installations have been completed, and more than 19,200 families have received subsidies exceeding Rs 147 crore directly into their bank accounts, Joshi

SRIMANDIR OWNS OVER 60,000 ACRES OF LAND

AGENCIE

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri owns over 60,426 acres of land in Odisha, and nearly 400 acres in six other states, Law minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said in the Assembly Saturday.

Harichandan said this while replying to a written question of BJD MLA Sudarshan Haripal in the Assembly.

The 12th century shrine in Puri is governed by the Law department as per the Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1956.

While 60,426.943 acres of land in the name of Lord Jagannath are located across 24 districts of Odisha, another 395.252 acres of temple land were traced in six states - West Bengal (322.930 acres), Maharashtra (28.21 acres), Madhya Pradesh (25.11 acres), Andhra Pradesh (17.02 acres), Chhattisgarh (1.7 acres) and Bihar (0.27 acres).

(0.27 acres).

The minister said the revised land records for 38,061.792 acres are currently with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri.

Verification exercises have

also revealed multiple instances of illegal occupation of temple land. A total of 974 cases have been registered under the Shri Jagannath Temple Act for eviction of 169.86167 acres of encroached land across seven districts of the state, he said.

The minister assured the Assembly that steps are being taken to secure temple property.

1,33,161 foreign tourists visited state in 5 yrs: Min

A OFMORE

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Over 1.33 lakh foreign tourists visited Odisha in the last five years, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said Saturday.

Parida, who is also the Tourism Minister, revealed this while replying to a question of BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy.

Stating that as many as 1,33,161 foreign tourists visited the state in the last five years, Parida said there has been a steady rise in the number of visitors from abroad since 2020. However, the number of foreign visitors was only 2,269 in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While 10,206 foreign tourists came to Odisha in 2020, their number increased to 22,171 in 2022, 45,173 in 2023 and 53,392 in 2024, she said.

FAKE BANK GUARANTEE

ED chargesheets Reliance Power, Odisha company

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against businessman Anil Ambani's group company Reliance Power Limited and 10 others – including Biswal Tradelink Private Limited (BTPL), an Odisha-based 'shell' company, and its MD Partha Sarathi Biswal – in a money laundering case linked to issuance of an alleged fake bank guarantee of Rs 68 crore for securing a tender, the agency said Saturday.

The other accused named in the prosecution complaint include former Reliance Power CFO Ashok Kumar Pal, Reliance NU BESS Limited and Rosa Power Supply Company Limited (subsidiaries of Reliance Power), Reliance Group executive Punit Narendra Garg, Biothane Chemicals Private Limited, Ravinder Pal Singh Chadha and Manoj Bhaiyasaheb.

The chargesheet has been filed under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at the Patiala House court in Delhi Friday, as per officials. The case pertains to a bank guarantee of Rs 68.2 crore submitted to secure a tender from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SE-CI) Limited on behalf of Reliance NU BESS Limited.

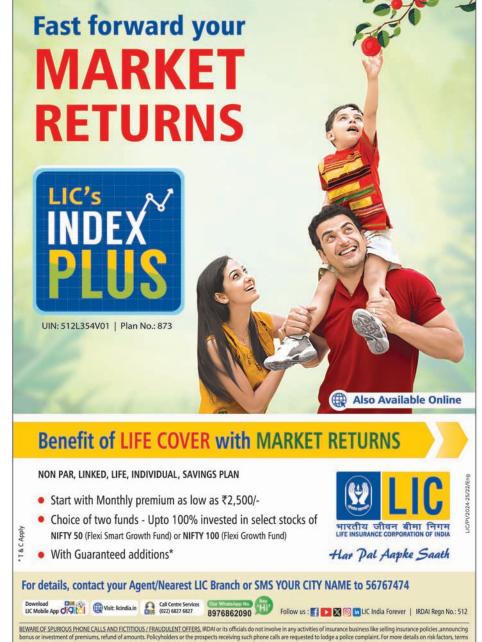
ESS Limited. The probe, as per the agency, found that Reliance Group officials were well aware that this was a 'fake' bank guarantee. 'Fraudulent' endorsements were being submitted to SECI from a 'spoofed' email ID of SBI and when SECI detected the fraud, Reliance Group arranged a genuine bank guarantee from IDBI Bank within a day of intimation of the fraud by SECI.

"However, SECI refused to accept the fresh bank guarantee as it was submitted after the due date. Since Reliance NU BESS Limited had emerged as the L-2 bidder, in order to save the tender, Reliance Group officials even tried to arrange a fresh endorsement of the fake foreign bank guarantee from an SBI branch in Kolkata," the ED alleged.

A response from the Reliance Group is awaited. The ED added that Reliance Group officials signed a 'dummy' agreement and also obtained the 'Certificate of Enlistment' of Reliance NU BESS Limited from Kolkata Municipal Corporation by submitting 'bogus' address documents. However, when they again failed to get the fresh endorsement done, in order to shift the entire blame onto the intermediary, they filed a complaint against BTPL and its MD.

Biswal was arrested by the ED in this case apart from ex-Reliance Power CFO Ashok Kumar Pal. They are currently lodged in jail under judicial custody.





The premium paid in linked insurance policies are subject to investment risks associated with capital markets and publicly available index. NAVs of the units may go up or down based on the performance of fund and factors influencing the capital market/publicly available index and the insured is responsible for his/her decisions.

Life Insurance Corporation of India is only the name of the Life Insurance Company and Index Plus is only the name of the linked insurance contract and does not in any way indicate the quality

to the contract, its Hause prospects or returns.

Please know the associated risks and the applicable charges, from your insurance agent or intermediary or policy document issued by the insurance company.

The various funds offered under this contract are the names of the funds and do not in any way indicate the quality of these plans, their future prospects and return of the prospect of the pro

DSPL - 398



ON THE OCCASION OF ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY MESSAGE

On the occasion of "Armed Forces Flag Day" being celebrated on 7th December 2025, I extend my warm felicitations and good wishes to all ranks of Armed Forces as well as our Ex-Servicemen and their families.

The Armed Forces have always displayed exemplary courage, valour and patriotism in preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland. Many brave and gallant heros have made their supreme sacrifice in the service of our nation. During "Operation SINDOOR", our Armed Forces once again demonstrated unmatched dedication, valour and selfless service, earning a special place in the hearts of our people. The Armed Forces Flag Day offers us an opportunity to express our solidarity with our valiant personnel by contributing to the Flag Day Fund, which supports the welfare and rehabilitation of war widows, children of martyrs, brave soldiers injured in the line of duty and Ex-Servicemen.

On this solemn occasion, I appeal to all citizens to come forward and contribute generously to this noble cause, as a mark of our collective gratitude and respect for those who sacrifice their today for our better tomorrow.

Jai Hind.

(Hai Babu Kambhampati)



MESSAGE



I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all members of our Armed Forces, War Widows, Ex-Servicemen and their families on the occasion of "Armed Forces Flag Day" celebrated on 7th December 2025.

Our Armed Forces personnel have always exemplified highest standards of dedication, patriotism and courage in safeguarding the unity and territorial integrity of our motherland. Operation Sindoor stands as a shining testimony to their valour and commitment. They also render invaluable service in times of natural calamities. Their selfless devotion continues to inspire every citizen of our nation. This day reminds us of our collective duty to express gratitude towards our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen by contributing generously to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund and support the welfare of war widows, battle injured soldiers, Ex-Servicemen and their families.

Let us together honour their sacrifice and uphold the spirit of service and unity they represent.

Jai Hind.

(Mohan Charan Majhi)

OIPR-12088/13/0005/2526



BOOK FEST: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, along with Odia Language, Literature & Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, and eminent writer Pratibha Ray, inaugurates the 7th Odisha Rajya Pustak Mahotsav at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Arms racket busted: 2 held with 11 firearms



EHICLE SEARCH RECOVERE

TWO 9MM PISTOLS, EIGHT

AUTOMATIC CARBINE, 12

ROUNDS OF 9MM AMMO, A **BOLERO CASH, AND**

MOBILE PHONES

PRFLIMINARY PROBE

AND MUNGER (BIHAR).

KNOWN HUBS OF ILLEGAL

ARMS MANUFACTURING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: In a major crackdown on interstate arms trafficking, the Special Crime Unit (SCU) of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commis-

sionerate Police arrested two key operatives and seized 11 illegal firearms being transported from Angul to Berhampur, officials said Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Sumanta Naik (30) of Angul and Soubhagya Naik (30) of Dhenkanal.

According to police sources, December 5, the SCU received intelligence that the duo was supplving illegal arms across Odisha. Led by DCP SCU Anup Kanungo and assisted by ACP Manas Swain, SI Gagan Biswal, ASI Subrat Kumar Padhi, and Hav. Prakash Kumar Swain, the team conducted a raid and intercepted a Bolero vehicle on the National Highway near Khandagiri overbridge. A search of the vehicle re-

covered 11 firearms, including two 9mm pistols, eight 7.65mm pistols, one automatic carbine, along with 12 rounds of 9mm ammunition, cash, and

mobile phones. Preliminary investigation indicated that the weapons were sourced Jharkhand and Munger in Bihar. both known hubs of illegal arms manufacturing.

"We have intensified efforts to dismantle drug and arms smuggling networks across the state

and district. We are working to trace all links in the illegal weapons racket," said Commissioner of Police S Dev Datta

Police are also investigating the intended recipients in Berhampur and probing the wider interstate arms supply network, including financial trails. The duo reportedly has cases registered at multiple police stations in the state.

State okays 55 **NEP** textbooks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: In a first for the country, Odisha has translated and contextualised 55 new NCERT textbooks developed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Grade V and VIII books were reviewed and approved at the 4th Core Committee Meeting on Syllabi and Textbook Development, chaired by School and Mass Education Commissioner-cum-Secretary N Thirumala Naik here Saturday.

The milestone follows the preparation of the Odisha School Education Curriculum Framework 2025 by Directorate of Teacher Education and State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT), which has guided the state's textbook development efforts.

To promote the holistic devel opment of students, Odisha has also introduced textbooks in the three new subjects-Art Education, Physical Education & Well-being and Vocational Education-ensuring that each has been contextualized to reflect the state's needs and culture. All new textbooks will be implemented across schools from 2026-27 academic year.

Odisha has emerged as a leading state in the country by developing the State Curriculum Framework and all new textbooks from Sishu vatika to Class VIII within a very short period. The SCERT has already begun the process of familiarising teachers across the state with the new Curriculum Framework and the academic transaction of the upcoming textbooks, ensuring smooth classroom implementation



13TH CONVOCATION OF CUTM

Embrace innovation, be job creators: Guv

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Saturday urged students to embrace entrepreneurship and become job creators rather than job seekers while addressing the 13th Convocation of Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) here.

"Entrepreneurship is not just about starting a business. It is a mindset—taking initiative, solving problems, owning your ideas, and applying learning to real-world challenges," the Governor said, emphasising that the education and practical exposure provided at CUTM give students a strong foundation to confidently pursue innovative paths.

The Governor advised students who wish to become entrepreneurs to understand government policies, explore available opportunities, and align their initiatives with societal needs. "Every requirement of society presents an entrepreneurial opportunity. Identify it and strive to become an entrepreneur," he added.

During the ceremony, Space and ISRO Chairman and Department of Space Secretary V Narayan, and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Director General (ECS) BK Das were conferred honorary doctorates. Taking the opportunity, Kambhampati urged the organisations to prepare a



Highlighting CUTM's unique strengths, the Governor praised its commitment to inclusive, skill-integrated education, particularly for students in tribal and remote regions

detailed document outlining entrepreneurial opportunities in their respective sectors, including project costs, land and water requirements, available technologies, and other relevant details, to be shared with students of educational institutions.

Highlighting CUTM's unique strengths, the Governor praised its commitment to inclusive, skill-integrated particularly for students in tribal and remote regions and noted the university's multidisciplinary approach across engineering, agriculture, health sciences, maritime studies, and more, which fosters practical learning, livelihood creation, and societal transformation. Kambhampati also lauded

CUTM's international collaborations, especially with institutions in Australia, which enhance research, training, and cross-cultural understanding. He stressed that while students aim high, values such as integrity, humility, compassion, and ethical conduct must guide their actions.

"Education in India is not just for personal growth but for the collective good. Let your

1st Annual Odisha State Pain Conference

OSPCON 2025

work contribute to societythrough innovation, improved livelihoods, or nation-building. Whatever path you choose, ensure it uplifts those around you," he said to the graduating students.

At the end, Vice-Chancellor Professor Supriya Pattanayak presented the university report and applauded the graduates for their dedication and resil ience. She reiterated Centuri on University's unwavering commitment to sustainable development and its mission to uplift underrepresented communities through innovative education and skill based training. "Centurion University stands as a beacon of inclusion and excellence dedicated to building a just and equitable society through

Odisha's first-ever state pain conference kicks off at KIMS

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: The first-ever Annual Odisha State Pain Conference began at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Saturday. Inaugurating the two-day scientific meet, Odisha University of Health Sciences (OUHS) Vice-Chancellor Manas Ranjan Sahoo underscored the vital role of anaesthesiologists in surgical outcomes, remarking that "behind every successful surgeon, there is a good anaesthesiologist."

He emphasised that effective pain management is essential for positive surgical outcomes and announced that OUHS will soon introduce dedicated courses in pain medicine. He also revealed plans to launch PhD programmes for doctors under the OUHS umbrella and urged experts to organise Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions on pain management to enhance academic exchange.

The conference is being jointly organised by the department of Pain Medicine and the PG

gy at KIMS, under the aegis of the Indian Society for Study of Pain (ISSP), Bhubaneswar City Branch. With the theme "Shaping the Future of Pain Medicine in Odisha and Beyond," the event aims to bring together leading clinicians and experts to exchange knowledge, share innovations and collectively advance the discipline.

Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology at KIMS, Amrita Panda, said the conference covers all facets of pain management, with a focus on holistic and evidence-based approaches to improve patient outcomes.

President of the ISSP Odisha Chapter, Ritish Roy, described the response to the inaugural edition as "phenomenal," not-

ing that it reflects the eagerness of doctors across Odisha to deepen their understanding of pain management.

KIMS Medical Superintendent MR Behera stressed that pain demands a multimodal approach involving physical. psychological and medical interventions, adding that the conference would explore its many dimensions.

ISSP National president Krishna Poddar reaffirmed her commitment to strengthening pain medicine in India and urged KIMS to introduce a DM course in Pain Management, expressing hope that premier institutes like AIIMS will also offer such specialised

education," she remarked.

Brown sugar racket

busted; three held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Police busted a brown sugar racket near Bajpayee Nagar Jatra Padia in Salia Sahi, seizing 18 grams of the drug and arresting three persons, Maitri Vihar police said Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Punia Nayak (35), Rajendra Behera (22), and Suresh Sahoo (32).

Acting on a specific tip-off Maitri Vihar Police learned that three youths had arrived on a motorcycle near Bajpayee Nagar to sell brown sugar. A special police team promptly reached the spot, chased, and apprehended the suspects.

Police seized 18 grams of brown sugar (6 grams from each accused), two mobile phones, one motorcycle, and cash. During interrogation. the accused admitted sourcing the contraband from Jaleswan in Balasore and revealed their regular involvement in illegal narcotics trade. Following legal formalities, the trio was arrested and sent to court.

Further investigation is ongoing to trace other links in the supply chain.

Khurda: Health dept seals illegal ultrasound facility

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Dec 6: The Health department authorities have sealed an ultrasound machine and the premises of Nandighosh Hospital on Medical Road here after illegal ultrasounds were being conducted on pregnant women by unqualified personnel

Following complaints, a team from the Health and Family Welfare department, led by state PCPNDT joint director Abhijit Kuanr, along with ADPHO (Family Welfare) Pradeep Sahu, Assistant Collector Madhusmita Nanda, and other officials, conducted an inspection in the presence of a local magistrate.

The team checked all documents from 10 am to 5 pm but found the hospital failed to provide proper paperwork. Violations of health department norms, lack of consent from women undergoing ultrasounds, and other irregularities were discovered.

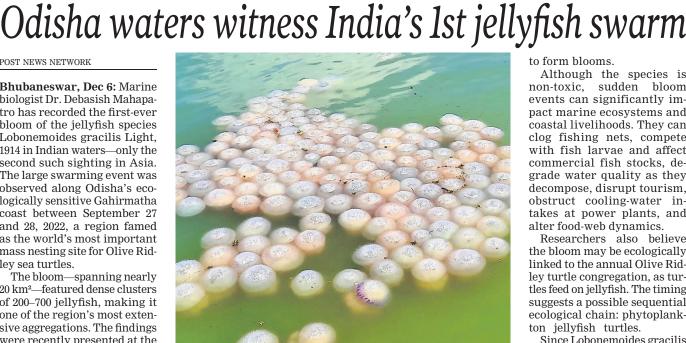


Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Marine biologist Dr. Debasish Mahapatro has recorded the first-ever bloom of the jellyfish species Lobonemoides gracilis Light, 1914 in Indian waters—only the second such sighting in Asia. The large swarming event was observed along Odisha's ecologically sensitive Gahirmatha coast between September 27 and 28, 2022, a region famed as the world's most important mass nesting site for Olive Ridley sea turtles.

The bloom—spanning nearly 20 km²—featured dense clusters of 200-700 jellyfish, making it one of the region's most extensive aggregations. The findings were recently presented at the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Green Frontiers (SGF-2025) at KIIT University in Bhubaneswar.

Dr. Mahapatro noted that while Lobonemoides gracilis Light, 1914 had been reported sporadically from Palk Bay and Chennai, it had never reached bloom-level intensity in India. Previously, large-scale occurrences were known only from Bangladesh, making the Odisha event a significant addition to global marine records.

He attributes the bloom to mix of climate-driven and



human-induced factors, including rising sea surface temperatures, nutrient loading from agricultural runoff, sewage-driven eutrophication, pollution near major ports, overfishing and the decline of natural predators. He also cites cyclone-induced water mixing, frequent algal blooms with high plankton availability, shifts in salinity and coastal currents, and the loss of mangroves and other habitat alterations as contributing triggers.

Water samples showed dense

phytoplankton and zooplankton populations, confirming nutrient-rich conditions favourable for jellyfish proliferation. Specimens collected using bongo nets displayed distinct morphological traits: an umbrella width of 50 cm, body length of 72 cm, and 13–15 rhopalia.

Taxonomic confirmation based on global reference literature and the WoRMS database—officially adds Lobonemoides gracilis Light, 1914 to the list of 14 jellyfish species in Indian seas known

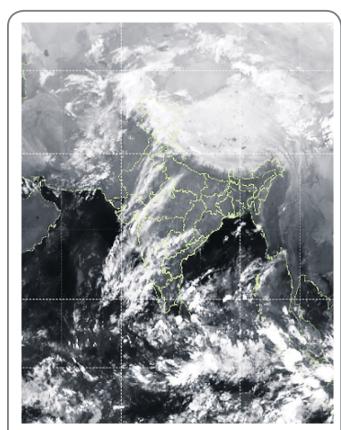
to form blooms.

Although the species is non-toxic, sudden bloom events can significantly impact marine ecosystems and coastal livelihoods. They can clog fishing nets, compete with fish larvae and affect commercial fish stocks, degrade water quality as they decompose, disrupt tourism, obstruct cooling-water intakes at power plants, and alter food-web dynamics.

Researchers also believe the bloom may be ecologically linked to the annual Olive Ridley turtle congregation, as turtles feed on jellyfish. The timing suggests a possible sequential ecological chain: phytoplankton jellyfish turtles.

Since Lobonemoides gracilis Light, 1914 is edible, experts see potential to develop jellyfish-based fisheries-common in Southeast Asia—to support coastal livelihoods. They also stress the need for continuous monitoring and early-warning systems.

This rare bloom highlights the urgency of strengthening marine management as Odisha balances biodiversity conservation with sustainable fisheries. A research article based on these findings has been published in National Academy Science Letters.



WEATHER						
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST			
Max Temp	28.5°	25.8°	Fog/Mist in the			
Min Temp	13.0°	12.4°	morning and partly cloud sky later			
Humidity	67%	72%				
Rainfall	Nil	Nil				

Huge jolt to BJD in Bhadrak

Prafulla Samal fails to stop sons, sister from defecting to BJP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Dec 6: The infighting within the Bhadrak unit of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) intensified over the past few days leading to a wave of resignations as senior BJD leader Prafulla Samal's two sons, sister and kin defected to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Saturday.

Several BJD leaders, including four block chairpersons who had quit BJD earlier, along with a number of sarpanches and samiti members joined the BJP at the party's state headquarters in Bhubaneswar. Despite being tasked with stabilising the party organisation, senior BJD leader Prafulla Samal failed to stop his sons from leaving the party. Under the leadership of his elder son, Prayaskanti Samal, his younger son Praneetkanti Samal, the vice chairperson of Bhandaripokhari block, along with Prafulla's sister Urmila Nayak, the Bhadrak block chairperson, and nephew Pri-



yabrata Nayak, a youth leader, all resigned from the BJD and joined the BJP. Their defection has triggered intense political discussions in Bhadrak district.

Before heading to Bhubaneswar, the group gathered at the new bus stand in Bhadrak and then proceeded to the BJP office in Bhubaneswar. Recently, in a dramatic turn, BJD-supported block chairpersons of Bhadrak, Bant, Basudevpur and Bhandaripokhari had resigned, sending shockwaves through

the district unit of BJD. Following this, several sarpanches and samiti members also quit the party. In response to the crisis, BJD president Naveen Patnaik had summoned senior leaders, including Prafulla Samal, Bhandaripokhari MLA Sanjib Mallik, Chandbali MLA Byomokesh Ray, Bhadrak Zilla Parishad chairperson Prafulla Jena and some senior leaders for discussions at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar. Patnaik

Several BJD leaders, including four block chairpersons who had quit the party earlier, along with a number of sarpanches and samiti members ioined the BJP

signed him the responsibility of reorganising the party in the district and preventing further defections. However, he could not prevent his own sons from switching sides, fuelling public speculation.

Notably, all seven block chairperson posts and the Zilla Parishad were under BJD control until recently. The rapid collapse of the district unit within just a year and a half of the government change has raised questions about Samal's role and the future of the BJD in Bhadrak.

Elderly man killed by minor in dispute over pet mongoose

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kabisuryanagar, Dec 6: A 72-year-old man was killed by his minor neighbour with a sword at Patharapalli village under Kabisuryanagar police limits in Ganjam district Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Krushnachandra Mohanty. According to reports, a neighbour's domesticated mongoose entered Mohanty's house Friday and ate chicken curry. Mohanty complained to his neighbour and asked him to keep the animal restrained.

However, around 7am Saturday, the mongoose again entered Mohanty's home. When Mohanty struck the ground with a stick to drive it away but it accidental ly hit the animal, killing it.

Enraged over the incident, a 15-year-old boy from the mongoose owner's family allegedly confronted Mohanty and struck him on the head with a sword. Mohanty sustained critical injuries and was taken to the Kabisuryanagar CHC, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Youth beats mother to death, arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri. Dec 6: In a shocking incident in Malkangiri district, a 22-year-old man allegedly beat his mother to death Saturday after a heated argument over her habitual drinking.

The incident occurred in Badaguda village under Pangam panchayat of Mathili police limits. According to police, the deceased, Dane Bhumia, would consume alcohol daily and frequently return home drunk, leading to quarrels in the family. Her son, Matisingh Bhumia, had repeatedly urged her to stop drinking, but she ignored his requests.

Dane returned home intox-

icated Saturday and created a disturbance in the house. A verbal altercation followed between the mother and the son. In a rage, Matisingh allegedly struck his mother multiple times with a wooden stick. She died on the spot.

Mathili police station incharge Deepanjali Pradhan said officers reached the scene



The deceased's son, **Matisingh Bhumia, had** repeatedly urged her to stop drinking, but she ignored his requests

immediately after receiving information and recovered the body. A murder case has been registered, and the accused has been arrested.

The body was sent to the Mathili Sub-Divisional Hospital for post-mortem and later handed over to the family, Pradhan told the media.

The incident has once again highlighted rising concerns about the unchecked sale of illicit liquor in rural areas, which residents say continues despite repeated complaints.

Similipal shivers at 2°C

Baripada: A sharp fall in temperatures has intensified the cold wave across Mayurbhanj district, with Similipal recording a minimum of 2°C in the past 24 hours. The biting cold has begun to affect wildlife in the Similipal Tiger Reserve, while human activity in urban areas, particularly Baripada, has started slowing down before dusk. The steady flow of cold northerly winds has made daytime conditions increasingly chilly across the district. Residents in all 26 blocks have turned to heavy winter clothing as minimum temperatures hover around 13°C in most areas. However, Similinal remained the coldest, with the Upper Barhakamuda range in the North Division recording 2°C at 6am Saturday. Other temperature readings within the reserve included 4°C in Chahala, 7°C in Barehipani. 6°C in Gudugudia, 12°C in Ramtirtha, and 13°C in Kiajhari and Satkosia. The falling temperatures have also reduced visibility in the early morning and late night due to dense fog, causing disruptions in vehicle movement. Daily life has been affected across the district, with elderly people, chilen, domestic animals and wildlife experiencing conside

2 die as trailer hits motorbike

Lahunipara: Two motorcyclists were killed Saturday morning when a trailer struck their bike on National Highway 143 near Gamlei Square under Lahunipara police limits in Sundargarh district. The deceased were identified as Jhasaketan Kisan, 53, and Lakshmidhara Kisan, 37. According to police, the victims — residents of Tikraposh Nuasahi and Gaud Sahi under Bonai police limits - were travelling on a motorcycle to the weekly market at Gamlei when the speeding trailer hit them from behind around 9:30am. The vehicle reportedly ran over their heads, killing both men on the spot. Tension briefly flared at the accident site, but police managed to pacify the crowd. Officers registered a case (271/25) and began an investigation. Police seized both vehicles and sent the bodies for post-mortem before handing them over to the families.

Bridge collapse cuts off 5 GPs

Anandapur: A bridge over the Kukurua nullah on Tartara-Kantipal main road in Keonjhar district's Anandapur block collapsed Saturday morning, cutting off travel for residents of five panchayats who depend on the route. Residents said the bridge had developed cracks months back, but despite repeated complaints no repair work was taken up. Heavy vehicles had already been avoiding the route due to safety concerns. According to villagers, the bridge had sustained damage during the monsoon nearly three months ago. They had informed the sarpanch and also highlighted the issue through the media, warning that the structure was unsafe. Since then, locals had been restricting heavy vehicles from crossing the bridge. However, a bore-well truck crossed the bridge, and shortly afterward, the structure gave way Saturday morning. A major accident was narrowly avoided, but the collapse has left thousands of residents from Kantipal, Tartara, Kathakata, Shalabani and Baunshqad panchayats stranded

19 held for illegal fishing

allegedly fishing illegally inside the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary near Agarnasi, authorities said Saturday. The patrol team intercepted the trawler Maa Kalijai, reportedly operating from Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts, while it was engaged in unlawful fishing activities within restricted waters. The team seized the vessel along with 13.5 quintals of fish catch and equipment, including one GPS device, two VHF sets, and various types of nets. The operation was conducted under the direction of ACF Manas Kumar Das and led by Gahirmatha range officer Kapilendra Pradhan and forest guard Niranjan Mandal. Forest officials said intensified patrolling is underway to curb illegal fishing activities in the protected marine zone, home to the endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

Panchayat official held for bribery

Baripada: An accountant-cum-data entry operator (ADEO) of Talapada gram panchayat under Badasahi block in Mayurbhani district was arrested Friday for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹2,500. Officers of the Vigilance department caught him red-handed while he was receiving the bribe from a beneficiary to generate a work code under the MGNREGA scheme. The accused has been identified as Hemant Kumar Behera. Vigilance officials said he demanded the bribe to create a work code for a sanctioned farm pond project. The beneficiary, a marginal farmer, had been unable to pay the amount and had reportedly visited the office repeatedly for nearly a month, returning disappointed each time. According to investigators, Behera insisted that the work order would not be issued unless the bribe was paid. The farmer eventually lodged a complaint with the Balasore Vigilance Division.

Vedanta launches 'Shishu Sanjeevani' across AWCs



Aluminium, India's Aluminium, has reinto early childhood well-being with the launch of 'Shishu nutritional supplement

patna, benefitting more than 600 children aged 3 to 6 years. Developed by National Dairy Development Board, 'Shishu Sanjeevani' is enriched with essential micronutrients aligned with the ICMR-NIN guidelines, ensuring safe and consistent nutritional intake under the supervision of Anganwadi workers. This initiative aims to strengthen the nutritional foundation of children during their formative years, reducing malnutrition and supporting holistic growth. This programme complements Vedanta's flagship 'Nand Ghar' initiative, launched in 2015 under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Women & Child Development. Through Nand Ghars, Vedanta has modernised Anganwadi infrastructure nationwide, creating safe and well-equipped early learning spaces. In Odisha alone, 531 Nand Ghars provide preschool education, nutritious meals and take-home rations, basic healthcare through ANMs, and skill-building programmes for women. Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "This initiative reflects our commitment to strengthening early childhood nutrition and supporting holistic community development. Through this effort, we align with the nationwide vision of 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah', ensuring children receive strong foundations in health and education for a brighter future." Jyotsana Barik, Child Development Program Officer, Kashipur, Rayagada, said, "This initiative has been very helpful for the children. The laddoos are nutritious and the children enjoy them, and we feel reassured that they are receiving proper nutrition at the Anganwadi".

reprimanded Samal and as-

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana will generate new employment opportunities for about 3.5 crore youth. "" Prime Minister, Narendra Modi



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OVER 3,400

VIOLENCE

INDIANS WERE

KILLED IN THE

TRIGGERED BY

THE MOTHER

Mosque to Mandate

n yet another 6 December, one feels obliged to write about the most seminal movement in modern India and one that transformed our politics forever.

Forty years ago, the BJP had plateaued winning 7% of the vote in 1984 and only two Lok Sabha seats. When LK Advani took charge in 1986, he had never been a participant in electoral politics. His entry into politics came after time spent as a journalist in the RSS magazine, where he wrote film reviews.

As a politician, Advani had always been a nominated member, whether in the Delhi Council or in the Rajya Sabha. He had no experience of political mass mobilisation and, going by his autobiography (My Country, My Life, published in 2008) does not appear to know how it worked. The Ayodhya issue had actually been launched by the non-political groups inside the RSS, led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

In February 1989, at the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, the VHP said it would lay the foundation stone for the temple in November. This would involve the making of bricks across the country with Ram's name embossed on them and their being carried in processions through towns and villages to Ayodhya in November. Till this time, Advani writes in his autobiography, it was not an issue in mainstream politics. In June 1989, at the BJP's national executive meeting in Himachal

Pradesh, Advani threw the party behind the issue. The BJP resolution demanded that the site 'should be handed over to the Hindus' and 'the mosque built at some other suitable place'.

Elections came a few months later, in November 1989. The BJP's manifesto now made its first reference to Ayodhya: 'By not allowing the rebuilding of the Ram Janma Mandir in Ayodhya, on the lines of Somnath Mandir built by the government of India in 1948, it has allowed tensions to rise, and gravely strained social harmony.' It was a violation of the BJP's own constitution, which on its first page and opening articles pledged it would bear true faith and allegiance to the principle of secularism. A few days before voting, the VHP brought all its processions from across India to Ayodhya and laid the foundation stone next to the mosque. Powered by its divisive, anti-Muslim demand, Advani's BJP won 85 seats, four times as many as the Jana Sangh in the last election it contested alone and more than forty times as many as Vajpayee had delivered in 1984. Advani became the most successful political

ADVANI'S ANTI-**BABRI MASJID CAMPAIGN BUT** IT BROUGHT THE BJP TO THE DOORSTEP OF leader from the RSS and found the recipe for **POWER** He began to invest more in the issue that had brought the dividend. The Congress lost its majority in the elec-

tion, and a coalition led by VP Singh took power with support from Advani, though for only a short period. Three months after the election, in February 1990, the VHP resumed its mobilisation against the mosque and said it would continue the process of what it called kar seva from October. The political escalation, according to Advani, happened by accident. Advani writes in his autobiography that in June he was to visit London, and just before he left he was interviewed by the RSS journal Panchajanya and asked what would happen if the government failed to resolve the Ayodhya matter. Advani said that the BJP supported the decision to begin kar seva on 30 October, and if it was stopped there would be a mass movement led by the BJP. 'Frankly, I had forgotten about this interview,' Advani writes, when

his wife telephoned him and asked, 'What have you said? The papers here have reported it with blaring headlines: "On Ayodhya, Advani threatens the biggest mass movement in the history of independent India".' Advani adds: 'The die had been cast.' After this, Advani says he offered the Muslims a deal. If they would hand over the Babri Masjid, he would 'personally request' the VHP to not campaign against two other mosques in Mathura and Varanasi. He writes that he was 'deeply disappointed' and 'annoyed' that this was not considered to be satisfactory by the Muslims. He announced he would begin his campaign against the mosque on Deendayal Upadhyaya's birthday, 25 September, in Gujarat, and ride a 'chariot' (actually a truck) to Avodhva on 30 October 1990.

Advani writes that he was astonished by the frenzied response his campaign received. 'I had never realised that religiosity was so deep-rooted in the lives of the Indian people,' he said, adding that it was the 'first time he understood the truth of Swami Vivekananda's statement that "religion is the soul of India and if you want to teach any subject to Indians, they understand it better in the language of religion".' At each stop along the way Advani went about talking about why the Babri Masjid had to be taken down, using the vocabulary and metaphors of religion, in basic speeches that he says were no more than five minutes long. The reduction can only be imagined; the consequence was predictable. The scale of the violence unleashed by Advani's decision to politicise a communal issue and mobilise on it was staggering in both the numbers killed and the geographical spread.

Over 3,400 Indians were killed in the violence triggered by Advani's anti-Babri Masjid campaign but it brought the BJP to the doorstep of power. In the general elections held in mid-1991, the BJP won 20% of the vote and 120 seats. In the first election held after the demolition, in 1996, the BJP rose to 161 seats. After 2002 the BJP cemented its position as our only party willing and enthusiastic about pursuing divisive politics, and it has been rewarded handsomely for this.

WISDOM CORNER

Love is an endless mystery because there is no reasonable cause that could explain it.

The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1941:** Japanese bombers launched a surprise aerial attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, precipitating the entry of the United States into World War II.
- 1972: American astronaut Eugene Andrew Cernan commanded the last crewed flight to the Moon, effectively ending the Apollo program.
- 1975: Shortly after declaring its independence, East Timor was invaded and occupied by Indonesian forces.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

JAPAN TALKS TOUGH

didn't take long for Japan's hawkish new prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, to rile the Chinese government. On November 7, just weeks after her election, Takaichi responded to a question in parliament about a possible Chinese attack or blockade against Taiwan by saying that it could constitute a "survival-threatening

Given that Article 9 of Japan's constitution renounces "the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes," Japanese defenders of the status quo took issue with Takaichi's remark. More importantly, her statement was viewed as a provocation by the Chinese government, which regards Taiwan as part of its sovereign territory.

China's response was quick and fierce. Chinese authorities evoked memories of Japan's World War II atrocities in China, advised Chinese tourists to avoid Japan, suspended imports of Japanese seafood, and canceled cultural events featuring Japanese artists. The Chinese Consul-General in Osaka even threatened to "cut off that dirty neck" - presumably Takaichi's-"without a second of hesitation" in a post on X that was later deleted. Relations between the two countries have not been this bad for decades.

There is no question that Takaichi was less than diplomatic. Japanese prime ministers tend to avoid any references to military action, especially when it concerns China. But was she wrong?

Takaichi's statement did not break any new ideological ground. When her mentor, Abe Shinz, was prime minister, he advocated revising the constitution to allow for a more robust military that could engage in "collective self-defense" to support an ally against a common enemy. This resulted in the 2015 security law. In 2021, after leaving office, he also declared that "a



While American president Donald Trump has not said outright that the US would not come to Japan's rescue in an emergency. his erratic and isolationist policies suggest that American defense commitments are no longer reliable

Taiwan emergency is a Japa-

nese emergency." Right-wing nationalists in Japan have chafed against the country's pacifist constitution almost since it was drafted by US jurists in 1946, during the Allied occupation. Even some Americans regarded Article 9 as a mistake. Richard Nixon expressed his dissatisfaction with Japanese disarmament as US vice president in 1953. But most Japanese people, fed up with militarism and content to focus on rebuilding the economy, approved of it.

Like Western Europe, Japan reaped the benefits of Pax Americana in the postwar period. While the United States took care of security, with its nuclear umbrella and numerous military bases, allies in the "free world" could safely

Despite Nixon's criticism of Japan's constitutional pacifism, US presidents were happy with this arrangement, too, because it paved a way to global power that bypassed formal empire-building. There was often talk of US allies doing more to pull their weight, but fitful attempts in Europe and Japan to become less dependent on American security guarantees were nipped in the

Another reason why many Japanese- as well as people in other parts of Asia - resisted efforts to remove the constraints embedded in Japan's constitution was that Japanese nationalists often downplayed or even denied the atrocities committed by their forebears.

But the situation has changed in recent years. China has morphed into a formidable and far more threatening power. China's strongman president, Xi Jinping, has refused to rule out the use of force to "reunite" Taiwan with China. Japanese hawks are right to be alarmed at the prospect of a takeover

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Europeans, too, are facing threats that call into question the comfort of living under American protection.

But the real source of panic among the Asian and European beneficiaries of Pax

ior of China or Russia, but of US President Donald Trump, who has made clear his views on America's informal empire. Trump's "America First" approach to foreign policy, reflecting his obsession with the idea that the US is being played by its allies, means making deals with great powers and letting smaller coun-

tries fend for themselves. As a result, European leaders are now hastily preparing for a post-American world by boosting military spending, forming defense coalitions, and considering the possibility of national service. But even with arms factories in Germany working overtime, Europe's remilitarization will take time, leaving the continent vulnerable to a sudden rupture with the US. At least the Europeans have strong regional allies and won't be hampered by pacifist constitutions.

Japan's only security, apart from its powerful military (ranked eighthin the world), is a defense treaty with the US. While Trump has not said outright that the US would not come to Japan's rescue in an emergency, his erratic and isolationist policies suggest that American defense commitments are no longer reliable.

So, Takaichi is right to tell her fellow citizens, as well as China's leaders, that Japan must be prepared to defend itself even beyond its borders. There should be a national debate on revising Japan's constitution. But Takaichi would be in a stronger position to spearhead that process and strengthen Japan's military muscle if she were willing to recognize her country's 20th-century war crimes. Preparing for a more independent and resilient future requires acknowledging a dark and unflattering past.

The writer is the author of numerous books, including Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah

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SPECTRUM

JAPAN'S ONLY

APART FROM

MILITARY, IS

TREATY WITH

A DEFENCE

THE US

ITS POWERFUL

SECURITY.

SOCIETY

Red Fort blast: How safe are we?



Rajiv Gupta

THE TRUST **DEFICIT BETWEEN** THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE **NEEDS TO BE** RESTORED

🍞 t has not been even a 🌎 trian marketplace be secured 💍 the Red Fort area. month since the horrif-L ic bomb blast at the Red Fort, but already it seems like a distant memory; news related to the incident having been relegated to one of the inner pages of newspapers. One might be tempted to believe that whatever danger was present immediately after the incident is history and we are safe now. But are we really safe?

Immediately following the blast, several of the busy markets in Delhi were "fortified" to prevent any similar incident. The term fortified is in quotes to stress the lack of seriousness this action conveys. The reason for this assertion will be examined next.

Most markets in Delhi, as also in other parts of the country, are pedestrian areas. The explosives that were blown up at the Red Fort were carried in a car, suggesting that they were larger and heavier than what could have been carried on a person. How does a pedeswhen the threat is from a car bomb? Most market places in Delhi are closely integrated into residential areas and restricting car traffic is impractical as it would virtually bring a large part of the city to a standstill.

Second, securing the pedestrian areas is a very big challenge because these areas are porous and have multiple points of entry and exit. This is largely true of older markets in Delhi such as Chandni Chowk, Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, etc. Unlike malls which have restricted points of entry and exit, the other open markets cannot easily be secured. It is interesting to note that, in the case of malls, there is usually a security check at entry even when there is no threat of violence. In the case of open markets there is an appearance of some tightening of pedestrian traffic, but that is short lived in the aftermath of a blast such as the one in

It is not only true that securing an open market poses a significant challenge, but the way in which this is done sometimes reveals a less than serious approach to maintain the safety of the common shoppers as well as the shop keepers in these markets.

The question that needs to be asked is, if malls can have security checks year round. why is increased security in markets not provided in a similar fashion? One suspects that a possible reason might be the lack of adequate police and security personnel. But, why are the existing personnel not deployed more effectively in the market areas? There is never a dearth of security personnel that are assigned to safeguard our politicians.

Better patrolling of crowded areas by the police could go a long way in making our cities secure. The police are typically not considered an ally by the common man. This situation needs to be

addressed by training of the police personnel as well as by education of the population. This could lead to more co-operation among people and the police where citizens would feel encouraged to report any suspicious activity that they may observe.

The police force has been used in India by political parties to seek retribution on their opponents. This has gone a long way to erode the public confidence in the police as they are seen as serving only the politicians, and not the general public. The trust deficit between the police and the people needs to be restored.

Incidents such as the one at the Red Fort are stark reminders that danger can lurk in any place. These incidents cannot be completely prevented, in spite of the best efforts by authorities, but their chances can be reduced. However, better intelligence about suspicious activities can help forewarn of a future incident.

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:

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Tough leader

Sir, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who undertook a whirlwind tour to India is at the helm of "New Russia" since 1999, and is in his fifth term. After inheriting a tough legacy from the erstwhile Soviet Union, Putin grew in stature as only as he can. Alongside, the master strategist has held the Kremlin together. His bitter critics have no kind words to say about him---"dictator" and "arrogant" are only a few. His near absolute control over institutions and dissidence is legendary. But the powerful man is all set to steer his country's fortunes till 2036 because he is "entitled" to contest one more elections in 2030. Firm outlook, quick decision making, risk taking ability, keen eye for detail, unwavering focus are President Putin's strengths. Criticisms apart, the 73-year-old leader's commitment to his country has rarely been questioned.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Stability in diversity

Sir, The mass cancellation of Indi-Go flights in the past three days has exposed the danger of over-dependence on a single dominant player. With IndiGo controlling most of the domestic aviation market after Kingfisher's exit, its sudden collapse in operations has almost paralysed air travel. This disruption offers a clear warning for India's banking sector. The government's move to merge public sector banks into just 3–4 giants may create similar risks. If even one major bank faces a crisis, the entire financial system could be thrown into chaos. Concentration of power is dangerous-diversity ensures stability.

> Sidhartha Kar Mohapatra, BARIPADA

Munir's new role

Sir, Pakistan's President, on the "advice" of the Prime Minister, has announced the appointment of General Asim Munir as the country's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) for five years under the 27th Constitutional Amendment. But honestly, calling this breaking news is like announcing the sun rises in the east. Everyone knows who really runs Pakistan, and most observers believe it was General Munir himself who "advised" the President and PM into taking this bold, democratic... suggestion. The rest, as usual, is patriotic choreog-

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES





Electric double-decker buses set to return on Delhi's roads

New Delhi, Dec 6: Double decker buses are set for return to the roads of Delhi, with the government planning to start one such bus from Pradhanmantri Sanghrahalava to other iconic locations like National War Memorial and Bharat Mandapam.

The electric bus, manufactured and provided by Ashok Leyland under a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, was given to the transport department and was earlier stationed at Okhla depot. Later, the transport department handed it over to the tourism department.

"The tourism department now plans to ply the bus from the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya to other popular sites like the Bharat Mandapam, War



for tourists," a senior official in-There are plans to have eve-

ning tours, with the route more or less finalised and is likely to be flagged off within a month, he said. The official said they have sought a time from the chief minister's office for the

flag-off ceremony and once it is done, the bus will soon he plying on the roads of Delhi.

Measuring 9.8 metres in length and 4.75 metres in height, the bus offers seating for more than 63 passengers in addition to the driver's position.

"Through this, we plan to target foreigners and tourists who visit Delhi," the official

BETWEEN SIX AND TWELVE

HERE WILL BE A GUIDE ON BOARD TO INFORM TOURISTS ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITES THEY WOULD BE VISITING, THE OFFICIAL ADDED

said, adding that the bus can be operated in Lutyens' Delhi since there is no issue of dangling overhead wires, shorter tree canopies

"Since the museum closes by 6 pm, we will start the tour from there, and then proceed to other destinations," he added. The bus is likely to be adorned with pictures of popular tourist atBridge, India Gate, and Bharat Mandapam on it.

In her budget speech, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had announced that her government will develop a new tourist circuit covering the War Memorial, Kartavya Path, the prime minister museum, and the new Parliament complex.

The tourism department had also discussed plans of reviving the 'hop on-hop off' (Ho-Ho) buses model, which was stalled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. However, officials said, for a place like Delhi, the model may not be sustainable.

Double-decker buses were once a staple of Delhi's roads, operated by the DTC as "Su vidha buses". They disappeared in 1989, phased out as the age-

Task force to set up

unified metropolitan

transport authority

HP govt to issue 400

e-rickshaw permits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Dec 6: Himachal Pradesh's Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) have been authorised to grant permits for 400 e-rickshaws across over 25 subdivisions of the state, offi-

A fresh notification under Section 113 of the Motor Vehicles Act. 1988, is issued wherein the respective (RTAs) are allowed to grant permits to e-rickshaws in various subdivisions, a spokesperson of the state government said here.

The passenger permits will be issued in sub-divisions, Palampur and Dharamshala in Kangra district, Chamba (Sadar) and Bhattiyat in Chamba district, Kalpa (Rekong Peo) and Sangla in Kinnaur district, Nahan and Rajgarh in Sirmaur district, they said.

Besides, carriage permits will also be issued in Jogindernagar, Padhar, Sarkaghat and Dharampur of Mandi district, Kullu, Bhuntar, Banjar, Manali, Patlikuhal and Naggar of Kullu district, Theog and Rohru in Shimla district, Kandaghat, Arki, Nalagarh and Baddi in Solan district and

Haroli and Una in Una district they added.

The notification further states that only e-rickshaws will be allowed for new registrations in these areas. Ir the remaining subdivisions of the state, the operation of au to-rickshaws and e-rickshaws will continue to be restricted.

However, this restriction will not apply to auto-rick shaws already operating under valid permits. Each registered and authorised e-Rickshaw will be allowed to operate only within a 20-kilo metre radius of the concerned sub-division headquarters the statement said.

Once an e-rickshaw is reg istered or authorised in a particular sub-division, its operational headquarters will remain permanent and cannot be changed or shifted under any circumstances, it said.

Apart from this, the vehicle must strictly operate within the judicial limits of the allot ted sub-division, and any op eration beyond the permitted area will be a violation of the notification and the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, it

Action taken against illegal fishing in **Govind Sagar lake**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur (HP), Dec 6: The Bilaspur fisheries department launched a two-day intensive campaign to curb illegal fishing and the use of banned nets in the Govind Sagar lake. following which six cases were registered.

These included two cases of illegal net transportation and four cases of fishing without a license. During the inspection. the department seized 20 kilograms of unlicensed fish estimated to be worth ₹2,000 and a fine of ₹3,500 was collected on the spot, officials said Saturday. Assistant Director of the Bi-

laspur Fisheries Department, Pankaj Thakur, said that inspection was conducted in the Bajaura, Naharal, Jablu, and Bagchhal areas of the Sir Khad region Wednesday and Dobad. Lathiani, Mandli and Dohak areas Thursday.

In Lathiani, a person was fined ₹1,000 on the spot, and approximately 15 kilograms of nets were seized. The team also inspected boats installed in the lake.

Thakur said that the department will continue this rigorous and regular monitoring in the future to completely control illegal fish trade, net transportation, and the use of prohib-



ited nets. He appealed to the local fishing community and residents of the area to ensure compliance with the Himachal Pradesh Fisheries rules.

In the same sequence, the teams of the fishery department recovered 16 kg of fish in an illegal transportation case in the Balhsina area and issued a challan of ₹2000 against the concerned person, while ₹1600 was recovered from the seized fish.

New Delhi, Dec 6: The Delhi government Saturday launched a city-wide cleanliness drive aimed at clearing

reducing dust pollution across the national capital. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta participated in the drive at Khyber Pass Chowk in Civil Lines. where she reviewed on-ground

sanitation and dust-control efforts.

garbage, removing debris and

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, who inspected Saidulajab ward and IGNOU Road earlier in the day, said the government has intensified monitoring of waste management and construction-related violations.

"This special drive has been launched, and as part of it, our MLA and Deputy Commissioner have also taken to the streets. As per the Chief Minister's directions, inspections are being carried out three

New Delhi, Dec 6: Amid concerns

over stray dog management and

public safety, the Municipal Cor-

poration of Delhi (MCD) Friday

said it plans to establish three new

dog shelters, with works underway

for one in Dwarka, while two more

have been proposed at Bella Road

According to official data, the civ-

ic body has so far sterilised and im-

munised 54,623 stray dogs under the

ongoing Animal Birth Control (ABC)

mar, who presented the civic body's

₹16,530.50-crore budget for 2026-27

Friday, announced the plan for dog

shelters during a post-budget media

He said the Dwarka Sector-29 shelter

is already under development, while

the two other facilities at Bella Road

and Bijwasan are in the planning stage.

HP: EC's special drive spurs rise

in women voter gender ratio

MCD Commissioner Ashwani Ku-

and Bijwasan, officials said.

programme.

interaction.



AIR QUALITY WORSENS IN DELHI

Cleanliness drive to combat pollution

days a week to clear garbage, debris, dustbins and to monitor construction sites," Sirsa told PTI Videos.

He said legacy waste and accumulated debris were being removed by the PWD and that data collected over the past 7-8 months is guiding the current strategy. "From next week, an extensive drive is going to be launched for industries and construction. We hope that good results will be seen and AQI will be brought down under the leadership of

For housing aggressive, ferocious

and rabies-infected dogs, the civic

body has identified a three-acre plot

in Dwarka, where 1,000-1,500 dogs

are expected to be accommodated,

an official said, adding that the two

remaining shelters will be developed

of repeated observations by the judi-

ciary directing civic agencies to in-

tensify sterilisation and vaccination,

and ensure proper shelters for stray

animals to strike a balance between

The initiative also follows the Su-

In August 2025, the top court had

directed civic authorities to capture

all stray dogs and confine them to

shelters. However, around ten days

later, the court modified its order

and allowed the release of sterilised

and vaccinated dogs to their original

preme Court's recent scrutiny of stray

public safety and animal welfare.

dog management in Delhi.

territories.

The measures come in the backdrop

in upcoming phases.

Delhi plans three new dog shelters

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, he added. In a post on X, Sirsa said he had issued instructions to officials to ensure "no negligence at any level" in roadside cleaning, garbage removal and dust mitigation.

Urging public participation, he appealed to citizens to report instances of dirt or pollution through the MCD 311 or Green Delhi apps for immediate action. "We all will work together'?only then will our Delhi become a clean, safe, and healthy Delhi," he wrote.

etting up of a Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority," said a notification.

No. i-410: The Panchayat Samiti Office, Lathikata on behalf of the Govt. of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System on Online mode. Bid identification No. BDO/LKT/02/2025-26 for 03 Nos. Civil work with value of Rs.12.76 Lakh to 42.49 Lakh

Bid documents will be available in website www.tendersorissa gov.in from 06.12.2025 Bid must be submitted on "Online" on or before 16.12.2025 by

Bids shall be opened at 11.00 hours on 18.12.2025 in the Office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or their

Sd /- Block Development Officer, Lathikata OIPR-19036/11/0007/2526

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, LATHIKATA **INVITATION FOR BIDS** Bid Identification No. BDO/LKT/02/2025-26

Other details will be available in the website tendersorissa.gov.in.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR

No. 6312 Date: 02.12.2025 Invitation For Bids

Bid Identification No. SER&BKHR-17/2025-26 The Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate Composite (Civil+EI+PH) bids in Double Cover system in ONLINE MODE only

П	2	Nature of work	Development of Water Sports at Haripur in Lowe	
П			Indra dam/Renewal coat to Gotma Airstrip	
П	3	No. of work	02 Nos. works	
П	4	Tender Paper cost	As specified in the notice for the respective Work,	
П			to be remitted online only	
П	5	Class of Contractor	As specified in the notice for the respective Work	
П	6	Availability of Bid	10.00 hours of 09.12.2025 to 17.00 hours of	
П		documents in the website	20.12.2025	
П	7	Date of opening of	Dt.22.12.2025 at 11:00 hours	
П	Ш	Tochnical Rid		

only The Bidders shall have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the aid website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Khariar (R&B) Division,

OIPR-34062/11/0051/2526

8 EMD/Bid Security

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, RAYAGADA 🐣 DIST.: RAYAGADA, PIN CODE - 765001, ODISHA

As specified in the notice to be remitted onlin

E-mail ID: raygadam.hud@od.gov.in Web: www.rayagadamunicipality.in, Phone: 06856-235052

"e" - TENDER NOTICE Bid Identification No. RGDA-MUN-07/2025-26

C-1669: Bid documents consisting of 28 (Twenty Eight) Nos. of Civil Works with their Tendered amount (Work Value) Cost of Tende Paper, E.M.D., Time of Completion, Class of Contractors, Additional Performance Security Deposit and the set of Terms and Condition: applicable for the contract and other required necessary documents car be seen in the Government website (i.e., http://tendersodisha.gov.in) Civil Works as mentioned in the website

Name of the Work Estimated Cost Period of the completion

tendersorissa.gov.in

28 (Twenty Eigth) Nos As mentioned in the DTCN As mentioned against the work in the NIT/DTCN

Date & time of availability of From Dated 05.12.2025, 12.00 Noon hrs. Bid documents on the portal to Dated 19.12.2025, 05.30 P.M. hrs. Bids received online to be Dated 20.12.2025, 11.30 P.M. hrs.

Name and address of the The Executive Officer, Rayagada Officer Inviting the Bid Municipality, Rayagada Further details can be seen from the Procurement portal http:/

Sd./- Executive Officer OIPR-13150/11/0084/2526 Rayagada Municipality

2025-26. Dtd. 28.11.2025 Name of work: AMC OF FIRE

EXTINGUISHER OF TRD DEPARTMENT OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A Approx. cost: ₹ 4,29,041.00, EMD: ₹ 8,600.00

n period: 24 Months

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier

Fax or in person shall be accepted agains such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily

documents of the above e-tender is available n website : www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be ed on IREPS portal. Only register enderer/bidder can participate on tendering. All relevant paper must have o be uploaded at the time of participating ndering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advise to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) PR-876/Q/25-26

Auction Notice No. 01/2026 No. S/RWP/Sale/Auction Programme/ 2025 -26 Date: 03.12.2025 Auction will be Graphite Mould Blank and Other Misc. Scrap
The date of e-Auction Programme for the
month of January, February & March-2026
SN: 1, Depot conducting Auction:
RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction
09.01.2026, SN: 2, Depot conducting
Auction: RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of eAuction: 16.01.2026, SN: 3, Depot
conducting Auction: PWP/Bela, Saran

f e-Auction: 13.02.2026, SN: 5, Depo onducting Auction: RWP/Bela, Saran, Date f e-Auction: 20.02.2026, SN: 6, Depo onducting Auction: RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction: 27.02.2026, SN: 7, Depo conducting Auction: RWP/Bela, Sarar Date of e-Auction: 06.03.2026, SN:8, Depo conducting Auction: RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction: 20.03.2026, SN: 10, Depot em to be sold in auction will be available teatalogue at www.ireps.gov.in. 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the screal material before the auction during working the stream of the screen of the s ours at nominated locations. 3. To particip in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. For further details regarding registration and other condition of e-auction, please visit railway

Dv. Chief Material Manager-II/RWP/Bela RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/84

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER G.P.H. Division No.-II, Sambalpur - 768001

E-mail ID: gphdivn.2@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No. 01/SE GPH SBP/2025-26 Dt.03.12.2025 01 Nos. of Work

10 Nos. Rs.343698/- to Rs.2700129/-03 Period of Completion 60 Days to 90 Days Date & time of availability of From 10.00 Hrs. of Date: 09.12.2025 bid document in the portal to 17.00 Hrs. of Date: 20.12.2025 17.00 Hrs. of Date 20.12.2025

Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal Date & Time of opening of 11.00 Hrs. of Date: 22.12.2025 Name and address of the

Officer Inviting Bid

Superintending Engineer, G.P.H Division No.-II, Sambalpur, PIN 768001

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Sd./- Executive Engineer OIPR-13006/11/0005/2526 G.P.H. Division No.-II, Sambalpur

E-mail: eemijharsuguda@gmail.co **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA 'e' Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. SE MID JSD 09/2025-26

eemijharsuguda@gmail.com No. 3127 // MID // Date: 05.12.2025

o. A-1063: The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda on behalf of Governo Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mod ly for the works as detailed in the table below.

Name of the works

Civil Construction work

Total No. of works

Of Final Nee Name of the works Total No. of works

Date/time of opening of Financial Bid Lottery Date (if necessary)

Name & address of the Officer

OIPR-32291/11/0025/2526

05 (Five) Nos. Rs.41.03 Lakh to Rs.99.97 Lakh Estimated Cost (Detail list of work annexed) Class of Contractor

As mentioned against work Period of Completion As mentioned against work 08.12.2025 to 17.12.2025 during office Date & time of availability of bid

document in the portal Last date/time for receipt of bid hours 17.12.2025 during office hours Date/time of opening of Technical Bid

18.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M. at Office of the S.E., MI Divn., Jharsuguda 20.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M. 22.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M. at O/o. the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division.

Inviting the Bid

12. Mode of Payment of Bid cost & Bid Jharsuguda Online

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Shimla, Dec

6: Himachal Pradesh's women voter gender ratio has now increased from 981 to 983, reflecting a remarkable rise in women's political participation across multiple constituencies, Chief Electoral Officer Nandita Gupta said Friday.

According to the final publication of Photo Electoral Rolls-2025, the women voter gender ratio was 981 and targeted awareness campaigns were launched in constituencies below the state and district averages which yielded results.

The ratio has now increased to 983, the chief electoral officer said in a statement issued here

The strength of any republic is reflected in the participation of its women. The Election Commission of India has been consistently working to enhance women's participation in the electoral process,

To assess this, the gender ratio number of women voters per 1,000 Assembly constituencies and special strategies are planned wherever the ratio is low, she said. As a result, 16 Assembly Con-

male voters is monitored across all

stituencies recorded significant improvement over the last six months, including Bharmaur from 930 to 948. Indora 939 to 952. Fatehpur 972 to 976, Banjar 967 to 968, Karsog 972 to 977, Seraj 935 to 939, Drang 970 to 972, and Chintpurni

It also noted that Shri Naina Devi from 962 rose to 966, Nalagarh 956 to 959, Doon 922 to 925, Kasauli 949 to 951, Shillai 820 to 833, Shimla 934 to 936, Rampur 946 to 950 and Rohru 955 to 967.

Gupta also held interactions with women in the panchayats of Balikoti, Bandli and Kando-Bhatnol in Shillai subdivision to spread awareness on voter registration, the statement said.

Empowering women

Shimla: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that women would now be inducted into the Fire Services, saying the Himachal Pradesh government is prioritising women empowerment. Presiding over a ceremony marking the 63rd Raising Day of Himachal Pradesh Home Guards and Civil Defence here Saturday, the chief minister said recruitment to the force would commence shortly and necessary amendments to recruit ment rules would be made soon to induct women into the Fire Services.

national



We were working for the devotees and prepared ghats at 1350 places, including along the Yamuna. I ignored the opposition's allegations

COUPLE TRAPPED WHILE ESCAPING FIRE

A 31-year-old man and his wife, who ran a grocery store in Delhi's Tikri Kalan. were suffocated to death after they got trapped inside their blazing grocery store, police said Saturday





In subyears, the Jamaat-e-Islami adopted a candidate-based and sometimes contested elections themselves. During the V S Achuthanandan government (2006-2011), the outfit's youth wing Solidarity, actively worked against the Left Front PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

Why is the government scared of the LoP despite having such a majority? The LoP must be appointed and we have been demanding this

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIE The term home guard signifies

protectors of 8.5 crore people of Madhya Pradesh. The force has

provided a shield of trust and service after Independence when India was building its civil defence structure. People think first of home guards during floods, fires or major accidents because the personnel stand like a rock between crises and society

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

SHORT **TAKES**

No respite from toxic air in Delhi

New Delhi: The air quality in the national capital remained in the 'very poor' category Saturday morning, as the Air Quality Index (AQI) at 9 am settled at 335. According to the Central Pollution Control Board Sameer App, 36 monitoring stations across the capital also reported "very poor" air, with Mundka recording the worst levels at 387. According to the CPCB, an AQI between 0 and 50 is classified "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500

Cong worker killed in clash

Chikkamagaluru: A Congress worker was allegedly murdered during a clash between two groups in this district, police said Saturday, The deceased. identified as Ganesh Gowda (38), was a member of the gram panchavat. The incident occurred Friday night at Sakharayapatna in Kadur taluk, police added. A fight broke out between two groups over a banner near a math at around 9.30 pm. Several members from both sides sustained serious head injuries and were admitted to Chikkamagaluru District Hospital, police said.

Indian student dies in US house fire

New York: A 24-year-old Indian student in the US has died after suffering severe injuries in a house fire, according to the Indian mission here. Sahaja Reddy Udumala was pursuing a Master's degree in Albany, New York. The Consulate General of India in New York said in a post on X Friday (local time) that it is "deeply saddened by the untimely demise" of Udumala, who lost her life in the house fire

Ex-IAS officer gets 5-yr imprisonment

incident in Albany.

Ahmedabad: A special court Saturday sentenced retired IAS officer Pradeep Sharma to five years' imprisonment in a money laundering case related to the sanctioning of government land to a private company at concessional rates between 2003 and 2006, when he was the Kutch district collector. The court also fined him ₹50,000.



Over 800 flights cancelled



MoU signed between Patanjali

Yogpeeth and Govt of Russia

Mumbai/New Delhi, Dec 6: Domestic carrier IndiGo cancelled over 800 flights Saturday, the fifth day of the ongoing crisis, even as the government imposed a cap on airfares and directed the airline to process all refunds by Sunday evening.

The refund process for all cancelled or disrupted flights must be completed by 8 pm Sunday, the civil aviation ministry said in a statement. "Airlines have also been instructed not to levy any rescheduling charges for passengers whose travel plans were affected by cancellations," it said.

IndiGo has also been instructed to set up a dedicated passenger support and refund facilitation cells.

"These cells have been tasked to proactively contact affected passengers and ensure that refunds and alternative travel arrangements are processed without the need for multiple

New Delhi, Dec 6: A signifi-

cant Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) was signed in

Delhi between the Patanjali

Group and the Government of

Russia, represented by Swami

Ramdev and Sergey Cheremin,

Chairman of the Indo-Russia

Business Council and Minis-

ter of Commerce of Russia. The

agreement focuses on promot-

ing health and wellness, health

tourism, skilled human re-

source exchange, and research

initiatives in yoga, Ayurveda,

Swami Ramdev emphasised

that the MoU's primary goals

are to expand Patanjali's well-

ness services in Russia, con-

duct joint research on revers-

ing aging and early detection

of diseases, and share India's

spiritual knowledge and cultur-

al heritage with Russia, Russia

will serve as a gateway for Pa-

tanjali to introduce its wellness

sciences to nearly 200 countries

Additionally, the MoU aims

to provide Russia with skilled

labor and trained yogis from In-

and naturopathy.

AGENCIES

'The system of automatic re funds will remain active until operations stabilise completely," the statement said.

Further, the ministry said the airline should ensure that baggage separated from passengers due to flight cancellations or delays should be traced and delivered to them within the next 48 hours

"The number of cancellations Saturday dropped below 850 flights, much lower compared to Friday. We are continuing to work towards reducing this number progressively over the next few days," IndiGo said.

The airline's teams are focused on stabilising schedules, reducing delays, and supporting customers through this period, it said, adding, "We are also working closely with all airports and partners to ensure timely updates are provided to customers at terminals, on our website, and via direct notifications." In the two-page order on capping the airfares, the ministry said disruptions in

dia. Patanjali has trained over

200,000 people under India's

Skill Development Scheme and

will send qualified personnel to

Russia. The agreement also in-

cludes promoting Indian and

Russian brands in each oth-

er's markets, with Pataniali's

Swami Ramdev also high-

lighted the longstanding friend-

ship between India and Russia,

stating that both nations share

deep spiritual, economic, and

cultural ties. He emphasized

Russia's importance as a glob-

al ally, with strong leadership

from President Vladimir Putin.

Sergey Cheremin, on behalf

of the Russian government,

expressed commitment to

strengthening the partnership

with Patanjali. He noted that

adopting Patanjali's wellness

practices would transform the

lifestyle of the Russian people.

making them healthier and dis-

This partnership marks a

significant step in deepening In-

dia-Russia relations, particular-

ly in the fields of health, well-

ness, and cultural exchange.

high-quality products

introduced to Russia.

Rlys announces 89 special trains

New Delhi: The Railways announced 89 special trains across all zones to be operated in the next three days starting Saturday to help people facing travel disruptions due to the mass flight can cellations by IndiGo. In a coordinated move by the Railway Ministry, the trains, which are to make over 100 trips were arranged in the shortest possible time after analysis of train traffic situa tions in major cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Patna, and Howrah, among others.

flight operations of one of the scheduled airlines has resulted in flight cancellations, leading to capacity constraints and unreasonable surge in the fares on a number of sectors.

Under the limits, for a flight flying up to 500 kilometres, the fares are capped at ₹7,500 and for 500-1,000 kilometres, the ticket price cap is ₹12,000. For flights operating 1,000-1,500 kilometres, the fares are limited at ₹15,000 and for above, 1,500 kilometres, the cap is ₹18,000.

The cap means that for a Delhi-Mumbai flight, which is covered in a distance of over 1,300 kilometres, the fare for at least the economy class is capped at

The limits will be in place till the situation stabilises, the ministry said in a statement.

It excludes User Development Fee (UDF), Passenger Service Fee (PSF), and taxes on air tickets.

Bill to regulate deepfakes tabled in Lok Sabha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: A Private Member's Bill seeking a clear legal framework for regulation of deepfakes has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The Regulation of Deepfake Bill, introduced by Shiv Sena leader Shrikant Shinde in the House on Friday, aims to protect citizens by mandating prior consent from individuals depicted in deepfake content.

"Misuse of deepfakes for harassment, deception and misinformation has escalated, creating an urgent need for regulatory safeguards," Shinde said.

The Bill also lists penalties for offenders creating or disseminating deepfake content with malicious intent. "With advancements in artificial intelligence and deep learning, deepfake technology has emerged as a significant tool for media manipulation. While the technology has potential applications in education, entertainment and creative fields, it also poses severe risks when misused, threatening individual privacy, national security and public trust," Shinde said in the statement of objects and reasons in the Bill.

The proposed Bill seeks to establish a clear legal framework to govern the creation, distribution and application of deepfakes in India, said Shinde. a three-term Lok Sabha member from Kalyan.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Dec 6: Asserting that India is a model of high growth and low inflation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said the country's 8.2 per cent growth in the second quarter of this fiscal shows that it is becoming the growth driver of the global

He also said India's self-confidence had been shaken by the "mentality of colonialism" but now we are moving ahead of it.

Modi said that at a time when the world is full of uncertainties, India is seen in a different league. The changes happening in India are not just about possibilities but are a saga of changing thinking and direction, he said addressing the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit.

'We are standing at a juncture where one fourth of the 21st century has passed. The world has seen many ups and downs: financial crisis, global pandemic, technological disruptions, world falling apart, we are seeing wars, these situations in one way or the other

growth, low inflation confidence. When there is talk of slowdown, India writes the

becoming a bridge builder NARENDRA MODI I PRIME MINISTER

are challenging the world," Modi said.

story of growth. When there

is trust deficit in the world,

India is becoming a pillar of

trust, when the world is moving

towards fragmentation, India is

People look on as IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team performs manoeuvres during an air show at Atal Sarovar, in

PM: India model of high

The world is full of uncertainties but India is being seen in a different league altogether, he said.

"India is full of self confidence. When there is talk of slowdown. India writes the story of growth. When there is trust deficit in the world, India is becoming a pillar of trust, when the world is moving towards fragmentation, India is becoming a bridge builder," Modi said.

Pointing out Q2 GDP figures being more than 8 per cent, he said it is the symbol of our pace.

"This is not just a number but is a strong macroeconomic signal. It is a message that India is becoming the growth driver of the global economy. Modi said.

Global growth is around 3 per cent while G7 economies are growing at an average of about 1.5 per cent, he pointed out. "At such a time. India is a model of high growth and low inflation." Modi said.

There was a time when people, especially economists in our country, used to express concern over high inflation but the same people now talk of inflation being low, he said in his address. India's achievements are not ordinary, it is not about numbers but about fundamental change brought about in the last decade, Modi asserted.

Mamkootathil gets HC relief in rape case PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Dec 6: The Kerala High Court Saturday gave interim protection from arrest to expelled Congress MLA Ra hul Mamkootathil in a case of rape and forced abortion against him.

Justice K Babu said that it will hear Mamkootathil's anticipatory bail plea December 15 and till then he should not be arrested.

"Petitioner shall not be arrested during the pendency. Post December 15, 2025," the court said. Advocate S Rajeev appearing for the expelled Congress MLA confirmed the order. However, Mamkoota thil is accused in a second case of sexual assault. A sessions court in Thiruvananthapuram had Thursday rejected his plea for anticipatory bail in the first



case of rape and forced abortion

A second rape case was lodged against him on Wednesday based on the complaint of a second woman, a resident of Bengaluru. Mamkootathil, who has been absconding since the registration of the first rape case against him, has claimed in his plea in the High Court that he was innocent and his custodial interrogation was not required.

He has also contended that the relationship between him and the first complainant was consensual and when it became strained, a complaint was lodged against him.

The MLA has further claimed that the woman was married, but separated from her husband, and in order to "save her own skin" she disowned their relationship.

Ghaziabad most polluted in Nov, Delhi 4th worst: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

worldwide.

New Delhi, Dec 6: Ghaziabad was the most polluted city in India in November, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 224 microgram per cubic metre and air quality remaining above the national standards on all 30 days, according to a new analysis.

Noida, Bahadurgarh, Delhi, Hapur, Greater Noida, Baghpat, Sonipat, Meerut and Rohtak joined Ghaziabad among the 10 most polluted cities, the report by think tank Centre for Research on Energy

and Clean Air said. Uttar Pradesh accounted for six of these cities, followed by Haryana with three and Delhi. Except Delhi, all other cit-

ies in the top 10 logged higher PM2.5 levels than the previous year. Delhi ranked the fourth most polluted city with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 215 microgram per cubic metre in November, almost double its October average of 107. The city saw 23 very poor days, six severe days and one poor day.

The influence of stubble burning was lower this year, contributing an average of 7 per cent to Delhi's pollution in November, compared to 20 per cent last year. The peak contribution reached 22 per cent, well below 38 per cent recorded last year, CREA said.

Except Bahadurgarh, none of the top 10 cities saw even one day within the safe dai-



ly limit under the national standards. Several other cities, including Charkhi Dadri, Bulandshahr, Jind, Muzaffarnagar, Gurgaon, Khurja, Bhi-

wani, Karnal, Yamunanagar

and Faridabad, also reported

PM2.5 levels above the limit

"Despite a significant reduction in stubble-burning influence, 20 out of 29 NCR cities recorded higher pollution levels than the previous year

Noida, Bahadurgarh, **Delhi, Hapur, Greater** Noida, Baghpat, **Sonipat, Meerut** and Rohtak joined **Ghaziabad among**

the 10 most

polluted cities

and many still did not register a single day within NAAQS limits. This clearly indicates that the dominant drivers are year-round sources such as transport, industry, power plants and other combustion sources. Without sector-specific emission cuts, cities will

continue to breach standards,"

said Manoj Kumar, Analyst at

At the state level, Rajasthan had the highest number of pol luted cities, with 23 of 34 exceeding the national limit in November.

Haryana had 22 of 25 such cities, and Uttar Pradesh had 14 of 20 above the standard High levels were also reported in 9 of 12 cities in Madhya Pradesh, 9 of 14 in Odisha and 7 of 8 in Punjab.

Shillong in Meghalaya was the cleanest city, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 7 microgram per cubic metre. The top 10 cleanest cities included six from Karnataka and one each from Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Na du and Kerala.

national



Farmers are fully cooperating, and the second phase of land pooling is progressing smoothly with their support. The pace of capital construction has gained momentum, and issues are being resolved one by one N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

APEX COURT ORDERS GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FOR DISABLED PRISONERS

The Supreme Court has directed all the states and Union territories to establish a robust, independent and accessible grievance redressal mechanism specifically designed for prisoners with disabilities



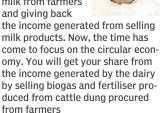
challenges. For the past year, there has been no Congress organisa tion in the state. I

have been appointed as the state Congress president to unite everyone, as I have good relations with all

HIMACHAL CONG COMMITTEE CHIEF

So far, our cooperative dairies have received huge success in procuring milk from farmers

VINAY KUMAR I



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME AND COOPERATION MINISTER

The Union government must take action against IndiGo. Thousands of people have faced difficulties in the







4 Political Parties. ₹31 Crore - BJP ₹6.2 Crore - TMC ₹5 Crore - INC ₹3.8 Crore - NCP

U still believe any action

President, VP, PM offer

tributes to Ambedkar

New Delhi: President Droupadi

Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and several

to B R Ambedkar on his 69th

Parliament House complex.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla,

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also joined Murmu,

Radhakrishnan and Modi

in offering floral tributes to

Ambedkar, the architect of

the Indian Constitution, at the

Prerana Sthal on Parliament

Central Railway to

run 14 special trains

Mumbai: Central Railway is

running 14 'Train on Demand'

during the "festival season and

special services to cater to

winter vacations" Saturday

and Sunday (December 6-7).

major destinations including

Madgaon, Nagpur, Bengaluru,

it said in a release. The

special trains will connect

Lucknow, Gorakhpur and

Hazrat Nizamuddin (Delhi)

and carry a mix of classes -- AC First Class, AC 2-Tier, AC

3-Tier, Sleeper and General

Second Class -- to cater to passengers from all segments,

said the release.

Two men rape

teenager; held

increased passenger rush

death anniversary in the

other leaders offered tributes

SHORT **TAKES**

@idesibanda

Row over construction of mosque in West Bengal

Ayodhya/Baharampur, Dec 6: The anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992 was hailed as 'Shaurya Diwas' by the BJP Saturday, even as the day saw a fresh wave of political tensions in poll-bound West Bengal with an MLA laying the foundation of a 'Babri Masjid-style' mosque in Murshidabad.

Just like the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and the killings of Sikhs after the shooting of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the demolition December 6 is a "black day", AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said in Hyderabad, adding a "wound" was inflicted 33 years ago when the Babri mosque "was made shaheed (martyred)" and the Constitution and rule of law were weakened.

Several BJP leaders from different states also shared them and paid tributes to those who sacrificed their lives during the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement.

Hundreds of 'karsevaks' had, December 6, 1992, brought down the 16th-century Babri mosque in Ayodhya, which Hindu outfits claimed was built on a temple at the birthplace of Lord Rama. VHP and other Hindu outfits have, over the years, marked the day as Shaurva Diwas (Valour Day), while Muslim outfits observed it as 'Black Day' or 'Youme-Gham' (Day of Sorrow). In West Bengal, suspended TMC

MLA Humayun Kabir laid the foundation stone for a mosque he claimed was modelled on Ayodhya's Babri Masjid at Rejinagar in Murshidabad district amid unprecedented security.

"Thirty-three years ago, a deep wound was inflicted on the hearts of Muslims. Today, we are applying a small balm to that wound," he said, adding that he had received threats for announcing the mosque. Kabir, speaking from a

sprawling stage set nearly a kilometre away from the proposed mosque site, cut a ceremonial ribbon with visiting clerics as chants of "Nara-e-Takbeer, Allahu Akbar" rolled across the grounds filled with thousands of supporters carrying symbolic bricks. Clerics from Saudi Arabia shared the dais as Quranic verses played over loudspeakers. Not far away, BJP leader Sakharay Sarkar laid the foundation stone for a Ram temple in Banjatiya's Manindra Nagar in Baharampur, using the occasion to target the chief minister.

Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari said that "the seed of Mughal-Pathan politics had been sown in Murshidabad today," adding that naming the mosque after an "invader" was an insult. "Babur represents tyranny and destruction. Supporting this is playing with fire," he said.



People ice skate at a rink on a cold winter day in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, Saturday

INDIA bloc on life support: Omar

Abdullah compared the INDIA bloc's electioneering to that of the BIP, and said the Opposition alliance is structurally unable to compete with the ruling party's disciplined approach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Dec 6: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the Opposition INDIA bloc is currently "on life support" and risks being wheeled into the "ICU" due to infighting and a failure to match the BJP's round-theclock election machine.

Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit here, Abdullah detailed the "organisational and strategic failures" of the opposition bloc, contrast-



ing its approach with the BJP's "unparalleled" work ethic.

Talking about the INDIA bloc's current health, particularly in the aftermath of the recent Bihar elections, Abdullah said "We're sort of on life support, but every once in a while, some body brings out his paddles and gives us a bit of a shock, and we get up again. But then, unfortunately, results like Bihar hap pen, and we slump down again, and then somebody has to wheel us into the ICU."

Abdullah also blamed the INDIA bloc for the return of Nitish Kumar to the BJP-led

NDA, saying, "I believe that we pushed Nitish Kumar back into the arms of the NDA.' He also pointed to the alli-

ance's failure to take a cohesive view, citing the decision to consciously exclude the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) from the Bihar seat-sharing arrangement despite the party's presence in the state. Abdullah compared the IN-

DIA bloc's electioneering to that of the BJP, and said the opposition alliance is structurally unable to compete with the ruling party's disciplined approach.

"They have an unparalleled election machine," he said, noting that this strength goes beyond mere organisation and funding.

"They also have an incredible work ethic in terms of how they deal with elections... They fight every election as if their lives depend on it. We sometimes fight elections as if we don't care." he said.

ZUBEEN DEATH CASE

Gogoi writes to Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dibrugarh/Guwahati, Dec 6: Assam Congress president Gauray Gogoi has urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to clarify the "association" of his ministry with a key accused in connection with the death of singer Zubeen Garg.

Gogoi has also sought a statement from Jaishankar over Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that Garg's death in Singapore was an incident of murder.

Garg had died while swim ming in the sea in Singapore September 19. He was in the island nation to participate in the North East India Festival

(NEIF), 2025. The SIT of Assam Police has so far arrested seven people in the case, including the chief organiser of the festival, Shy

amkanu Mahanta. Gogoi, in a letter to Jaishankar Thursday, said that the festival was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs with support from the High

Commission of India in Singa-The Congress leader pointed out that one of the accused in the ongoing police investiga tion was "directly associated

with the organisation of the festival", in an apparent reference to Mahanta.

Quad urges justice for Red Fort terror perpetrators

New Delhi, Dec 6: The Quad grouping has called for bringing the perpetrators, organisers and financiers of last month's terror incident near Red Fort in Delhi to justice and urged all UN member states to cooperate on it.

The Quad, which comprises India, the US, Australia and Japan, also unequivocally

condemned terrorism in all its forms including cross-border

Fifteen people were killed and several others injured in the terror incident November 10.

Ways to expand cooperation to combat terrorism under the framework of the grouping was the central focus of a meeting of a two-day Quad Counter Terrorism Working Group meeting

held this week in New Delhi.

"Quad partners unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism," a joint statement said.

"They also expressed their condolences for the heinous terror incident November 10 near the Red Fort in Delhi," it said.

The Quad partners "called for the perpetrators, organiz-

ers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice and urged all UN Member States to cooperate in doing so", it added.

In the meeting, the Quad member countries exchanged assessments on the terrorism threat landscape, including developments in the Indo-Pacific region. "They discussed the full spectrum of counterterrorism

could be used to address existing and emerging challenges," the statement said.

cooperation and measures that

The Quad underscored the importance of ensuring that the Indo-Pacific remains open and free from the threats of terrorism. The Quad also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in multilateral fora.

Kolkata set for historic 'five lakh voices Gita chanting'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 6: Ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, Kolkata's iconic Brigade Parade Ground will host a mega Bhagavad Gita chanting on Sunday, with organisers claiming the participation of five lakh devotees amid the expected presence of top religious figures and senior BJP leaders.

Christened 'Panch Lakkho Konthe



Gita Path' (Gita chanting by five lakh voices), the programme is organised by the Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad, a body of spiritual leaders drawn from various monasteries and Hindu religious institutions. It is being projected as the largest collective Gita recital ever attempted in West Bengal, and possibly in the country.

The spiritual lead will be taken by Swami Gyananandaji Maharaj of the Geeta Manishi Mahamandal, while yoga guru Baba Ramdev and several other nationally known religious figures figure among the special invitees. Organisers said the programme seeks to invoke the state's long spiritu-

al lineage and promote social harmony

"In a climate of division, spiritual practice can restore calm and direction," said Swami Pradiptananda Maharaj (Kartik Maharaj), adding that thousands of Gita enthusiasts from across the state have already pledged participation.

The mega Gita chanting is also unfolding a day after the politically charged foundation-laying of a 'Babri Masjid-style' mosque in Murshidabad by suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir, underlining how questions of faith and identity are rapidly converging in West Bengal's public space ahead of the elections due

The chanting of chapters from the Gita will take place from 9 am, with elaborate arrangements being put in place for crowd management, security and medical support amid expectations of an unprecedented turnout. Yet, in West Bengal's politically charged landscape, religion rarely operates outside the electoral shadow

The Sunday gathering comes exactly two years after the 'one lakh voices'Gita chanting at Brigade in December 2023, held months ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. That event saw the visible presence of BJP leaders and senior RSS figures and, despite being branded apolitical, triggered a fierce political clash with the TMC, which accused the BJP of using faith as a cover for polarisation. This time, the political subtext is sharper.



Place: Sambalpur

Date: 06.12.2025

Regional Office (Sambalpur Region) 1st Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001 POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Authorised Officer

Bank of Baroda

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date o

payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Partners/Guarantors in particular and the public in eneral are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

BOLANGIR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower	Description of the Immovable Property	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Khaja Naik, At/PO: Karlaguda, PS: Bhawanipatna, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN -766001 Khata No.: 189/1894, Plot No.: 598/3199,	Equitable Mortgage and Extension of Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building, situated at Mouza: Bhawanipatna, PS: Bhawanipatna, PS No.: 152, Tahasil: Kalahandi, Dist.: Kalahandi, Odisha, having Area: Ac 0.050 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, standing in the haja Naik, Bounded by East: Seller, West: Ananta Naik,	19.08.2025	₹26,27,286.78 as on 30.11.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Bendrabahal, Bargaon, Near Bhorabhima Banayan Tree, Khariar, Bangaon, Nuapada, Odisha, PIN-766107 / Guarantor: Mrs. Bhumisuta Sabar, Bendrabahal, Bargaon, Near Bhorabhima	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building, situated at Mouza: Bendrabahal, P.S./Tahasil: Khariar, PS. No.: 17, Dist.: Nuapada, having Khata No.: 149/135, Plot No.: 258/1044, Area: Ac.0.090Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, Owner of the Property: Mr. Harisankar Sabar, S/o: Mr. Daya Sabar, Bounded by East: Ganesh Sabar, West: Dinabandhu Sabar, North: Road and South: Dhaniram Sabar	15.09.2025	₹11,97,402.32 as on 30.11.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
S/o: Muralidhar Mahakul / Guarantor: Mrs. Ritanjali Mahakul, W/o: Puspa Kumar Mahakul, Both are Resident of At: Kantuani, Tetelnga, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Boudh, PIN-762014 Muralidhar Mahakul, North: Bijuli Barik ar		19.09.2025 / 06.12.2025	₹8,57,048.44 as on 30.11.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Prop.: Mr. Chakrayudha Kumar Naik, At: Khadalpada, P.O.: Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, PIN-767017 / Guarantor: Mrs. Puspalata Naik, W/o: Late Sridhar Naik, At: Khadalpada, P.O.:	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building, situated at Mouza: Kalapathar, P.S.: Sonepur, P.S. No. 71 (New), Tahasil: Sonepur, Tahasil No.: 93, Dist.: Subarnapur, having M.S. Khata No.: 111/365, Plot No.: 215/2450, Area: Ac.0.050Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, Owner of the Property: Mrs. Puspalata Naik, W/o: Late Sridhar Naik, Bounded by North: Chakrayudha Naik, South: Radu East: Puspalata Naik and Wast: Tripathy Babu.	04.06.2025 / 02.12.2025	₹27,75,169.06 as on 30.11.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

medical college.

Jhansi (UP): Two men allegedly raped a 13-yearold girl here, recorded the act and demanded Rs 5 lakh from her family, threatening to circulate the video, police said. Police nabbed the duo in the Garotha area Saturday following an exchange of fire, in which one of the accused sustained a bullet injury and was admitted to the

international



I believe Turkey and the United **States would find** a way to remove **US CAATSA sanc**tions very soon

HAKAN FIDAN

ZIA'S TRAVEL TO LONDON POSTPONED

The medical board treating critically ill Bangladesh's former prime minister Khaleda Zia Saturday postponed her planned travel to London for an indefinite period, her personal physician said



Sudanese paramilitary drone attack kills 50

Cairo, Dec 6: A drone attack

by the Sudanese paramilitary

forces hit a kindergarten in

south-central Sudan, killing 50

people, including 33 children, a

Paramedics on the scene in the

town of Kalogi in South Kordofan

state were targeted in "a second

unexpected attack," Sudan Doc-

tors' Network said in a statement

late Friday. Emergency Lawyers,

a rights group tracking violence

against civilians in Sudan re-

ported in a statement Saturday

the second strike on paramedics

treating survivors in Kalogi and

said "a third civilian site near the previous two" was also attacked.

tack, blaming the paramilitary

group, the Rapid Support Forc-

es, or RSF, for the strikes, calling them "a flagrant violation of in-

The group condemned the at-

doctors' group said.



three signifi cant programmes First is the contract for 40.000 light machine guns, which

was signed last year. We have completed all tests, trials, and government checks, and we have received the license for production. We intend to supply the first batch at the beginning of the year SHUKI SCHWARTZ I

CEO OF ISRAEL WEAPON INDUSTRIES, ISRAEL



our national project FLÁVIO BOLSONARO | SENATOR, BRAZIL

We see that Russian forces in the North Atlantic and the Barents Sea are increasing their activities



SHORT **TAKES**

9 terrorists gunned down in NW Pakistan

Peshawar: Security forces have gunned down nine terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in two separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan, military's media wing said Saturday. The operations were conducted in Khyber, Tank and Lakki Marwat districts of the province Friday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army said in a statement.

'Gaza ceasefire at critical moment'

Doha(Qatar): Qatar's prime minister Saturday said the Gaza ceasefire has reached a "critical moment" as its first phase winds down, with the remains of just one Israeli hostage still held by militants. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told an international conference in the Qatari capital that international mediators, led by the US, are working "to force the way forward" to the second phase to cement the deal.

Canberra targets Taliban over rights

Svdnev: Australia imposed financial sanctions and travel bans on four officials in Afghanistan's Taliban government over what it said was a deteriorating human rights situation in the country. especially for women and girls. Saturdav. Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the officials were involved "in the oppression of women and girls and in undermining good governance or the rule of law' in the Taliban-run country.

Canada revives **Syria terror listing**

Ottawa: The Canadian government said Friday that it has removed Syria from its list of foreign state supporters of terrorism and removed Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the group that spearheaded the rebel alliance that helped oust President Bashar al-Assad,

from its list of terrorist entities. "These measures are in line with recent decisions taken by our allies, including the United Kingdom and the United States, and follows the efforts by the Syrian transitional government to advance Syria's stability, build an inclusive and secure future for its citizens, and work alongside global partners to reinforce regional stability and counter terrorism," the Canadian government said in a statement.



People carry Santa Claus on the National Mall during the first snowfall of the winter season in Washington. The Washington Monument is seen in the

There were also reports of

fighting on the Chaman-Kan-

dahar highway, but these could

A senior official in Quetta

confirmed on condition of an-

onymity that the exchange of

fire started around 10 pm and

The medical superintendent

of Chaman district hospital

said that three injured, includ-

ing a woman, were brought to

There was neither any offi-

cial word from the Inter-Ser-

vices Public Relations -- Paki-

stan Army's media wing -- nor

The Chaman border crossing,

Relations between Pakistan

also known as Friendship Gate,

connects Balochistan province

and Afghanistan have deterio-

rated amidst regular allegations

by Pakistan regarding the fail-

ure of the Afghan regime to de-

ny safe havens to Tehreek-e-Tal-

iban Pakistan terrorists.

to Afghanistan's Kandahar.

from the Foreign Office.

the medical facility.

continued until late at night.

not be immediately verified.

Pak, Afghan forces trade fire along Chaman border

Russia hits Ukraine amid diplomatic talks

Kyiv, Dec 6: Russia unleashed a major missile and drone barrage on Ukraine overnight into Saturday, after US and Ukrainian officials said they'll meet Saturday for a third day of talks aimed at ending the nearlv four-vear-old war.

Following talks that made progress on a security framework for postwar Ukraine, the two sides also offered the sober assessment that any "real progress toward any agreement" ultimately will depend on Russia's readiness to show serious commitment to longterm peace.

The statement from US special envoy Steve Witkoff, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner as well as Ukrainian negotiators Rustem Umerov and Andriy Hnatov came after they met for a second day in Florida Friday

They offered only broad brushstrokes about the progress they say has been made as Trump pushes Kyiv and Moscow to agree to a US-mediated proposal to end the war.

Russia used 653 drones and 51 missiles in the wide-reaching overnight attack on Ukraine, which triggered air raid alerts across the country and came as Ukraine marked Armed Forces Day, the country's air force said Saturday morning.

Ukrainian forces shot down and neutralized 585 drones and



A railway employee looks on next to a railway station building hit during the drone strikes in the town of Fastiv

30 missiles, the air force said, adding that 29 locations were

At least eight people were wounded in the attacks. Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs Ihor Klymenko said.

Among these, at least three people were wounded in the Kyiv region, according to local officials. Drone sightings were reported as far west as Ukraine's Lviv region.

Russia carried out a "massive missile-drone attack" on power stations and other energy infrastructure in several Ukrainian regions, Ukraine's national energy operator,

Ukrenergo, wrote on Telegram. Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant temporarily lost all off-site power overnight,

the International Atomic Energy Agency said Saturday, citing its Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi.

The plant is in an area under Russian control since early in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and is not in service, but it needs reliable power to cool its six shut-down reactors and spent fuel, to avoid any catastrophic nuclear incidents.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that energy facilities were the main targets of the attacks, also noting that a drone strike had "burned down" the train station in the city of Fastiv, located in the Kyiv region.

Russia's Ministry of Defence said its air defences had shot down 116 Ukrainian drones

to reach those in desperate need.

ternational humanitarian law

including the protection of civil-

ians, especially children, and vital civilian infrastructure."

be higher, but communication

blackouts in the area have made

it difficult to report casualties

Thursday's attack is the latest

in the fighting between the RSF,

and the Sudanese military, who

have been at war for over two

vears. It is now concentrating

in the oil-rich Kordofan states.

school is a horrific violation of

children's rights," said UNICEF

Representative for Sudan Shel

don Yett in a statement Friday

"Children should never pay the

price of conflict," said Yett. He

said UNICEF urges all parties "to

stop these attacks immediately

and allow safe, unhindered ac-

cess for humanitarian assistance

"Killing children in their

The death toll is expected to

over Russian territory overnight into Saturday.

Russian Telegram news channel Astra said Ukraine struck Russia's Ryazan Oil Refinery, sharing footage appearing to show a fire breaking out and plumes of smoke rising above the refinery. The Associated Press could not in dependently verify the video.

Ukraine did not immedi ately comment on the alleged attack. Ryazan regional Gov Pavel Malkov said a residential building had been damaged in a drone attack and that drone debris had fallen on the grounds of an "industrial facility," but did not mention the refinery.

Months of Ukrainian long range drone strikes on Rus sian refineries have aimed to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue the war.

Meanwhile, Kyiv and its western allies say Russia is trying to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water for a fourth consecutive winter, in what Ukrainian officials call "weaponising" the cold.

The latest round of attacks came as US President Donald Trump's advisers and Ukrainian officials said they'll meet for a third day of talks Saturday, after making progress on finding agreement on a security framework for postwar

SL announces raft of relief for Ditwah affected

were responding.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

port Saturday.

istan province.

newspaper reported.

Islamabad, Dec 6: A heavy

exchange of fire between Pa-

kistani and Afghan forces was

reported from the key Chaman

border, according to a media re-

Injuries were reported from

the district hospital, but no

fatalities occurred, the Dawn

Officials from both sides ac-

cused each other of instigating

the flare-up late Friday night

across the border in the Baloch-

While Pakistani officials said

that Afghan forces had fired

mortar shells on the Badani

area, Afghan Taliban spokes-

person Zabihullah Mujahid

claimed it was Pakistan that

launched an attack on Spin Bol-

dak, alleging that their forces

Pakistan's official sources

told Dawn that Pakistani forc-

es retaliated against the Afghan

aggression and returned fire.

Colombo, Dec 6: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Saturday said his government has been able to restore public life to normalcy within a very short period after Cyclone Ditwah devastated the island nation and took over 600 lives

Dissanayake's claim came a day after he announced a massive relief package to all those affected by Cyclone Ditwah and requested the IMF for an additional USD 200 million to meet excess expenditure to cope up with the disaster.



The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Colombo office Saturday said the request would be considered at the global lender's executive board, December 15. The island nation has been

grappling with widespread

flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse following Cyclone Ditwah, which has also acutely strained the disaster-response country's

As many as 611 people had died and over 200 remained

missing even as search operations for those buried under landslides continued a week after the cyclone struck the

Data from the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), as of Saturday evening, showed 1,14,126 persons from at least 33,622 families have taken refuge at 956 shelters.

Dissanayake visited the central district of Kandy, which was the worst hit by the disaster with 232 deaths and 81 disappearances as Saturday and also tops the list for the number of houses destroyed totally and partially.

Syrian Prez: Israel fighting 'ghosts' after Gaza war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Dec 6: Syria's interim president Saturday accused Israel of fighting "ghosts" and searching for enemies following the war in Gaza.

President Ahmad al-Sharaa told an international conference that since he took power a year ago, he has been sending 'positive messages regarding

regional peace and stability.' He said Israel has rejected his overtures, "extrapolating" its conflict with Hamas militants and justifying what he called aggression in the name of security. He promised Syria would not behave in that way. "We are not concerned in being a country that exports conflict, including to Israel,"

he told the Doha Forum. Al-Sharaa, who was once detained by the US for joining al-Qaida in Iraq, called Israe to withdraw its forces from his country and to recommit to a 1974 truce agreement. He called on the international community to put pressure on Israel and expressed hope a formula could be reached to meet "reasonable" security de mands. "There are currently ne gotiations, and the United States is participating and engaged in those negotiations," he said.

Miniature model of London's Gandhi statue set for UK auction

The 27-cm tall bronze maquette is said to be the earliest complete vision of the statue by **Polish sculptor Fredda Brilliant that has been** installed at Tavistock **Square in London's Bloomsbury since 1968**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Dec 6: A miniature model of an iconic sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi from a central London square is set to go under the hammer at an auction in England next week, with a guide price estimate between 6,000 and 8,000 pounds

The 27-cm tall bronze maquette is said to be the earliest complete vision of the statue by Polish sculptor Fredda Brilliant that has been installed at Tavistock Square in London's Bloomsbury since 1968.

In September, its plinth was targeted with "racially aggravated" graffiti and had a spruce up in time for Gandhi Jayanti, October 2.

"Fredda Brilliant first conceived of the idea of a sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi in 1949, but it was not until the early 1960s that she was commissioned make the memorial in Tavistock Square, London," Woolley & Wallis auction house Wiltshire from said in a statement

"She initially explored three poses, one of Gandhi standing, one of him walking,

and the final one offered here, sitting cross-legged, a pose she described as traditional and intimate, suited to the small but beautiful Tavistock square',' Once

had sculptor settled on the pose, she created a

ary metal miniature. It is the first

> of two

of these

maquettes that is being offered at auction next Thursday. A second maquette sold back in June 2019 for 65,000 pounds to a private collector.

"Given Fredda's growing reputation and the fierce bidding we've seen for her Gandhi works in the past, the emergence of this first maquette from a private London collection is significant," said Victor Fauvelle, Woolley & Wallis specialist.

"It offers collectors an exceptional chance to secure the piece that set one of Fredda's most internationally recognised monuments and sculptures in motion," he said.

The bronze sculpture, cre ated with the backing of India League, was unveiled at the square as a nod to Mahatma Gandhi's days as a law student at the nearby University College London.

The sculpture depicts Gandhi in a classic meditative pose, with the inscription on the plinth saying: "Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948.

Gandhi Jayanti, designated as International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations, is commemorated with floral tributes and Gandhiji's favourite bhajans at the monument in London annually, October 2.

business



We need a complete overhaul of customs... we need to have customs simplified for people to feel that it is not cumbersome to comply... need to make it more transparent

EPC HIRING SURGES

India's Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) sector is expected to create more than 25 million jobs by 2030, supported by expanding infrastructure development, says a report. According to HR solutions provider CIEL HR's 'EPC Sector Talent Study, 2025', the EPC sector is one of the country's most powerful job creators and witnessed a 51 per cent surge in hiring demand since 2020





es, customers and students. This includes empowering over 15 million small businesses and providing

ment-school students by 2030 AMIT AGARWAL AMAZON'S SVP FOR EMERGING MARKETS

Al literacy to 4 million govern-

At SMFG **India Credit** we have proactively imple pan-India offices to reinforce our focus on inclusion and the holistic well-being of women employees

RAVI NARAYANAN MD AND CEO, SMFG INDIA CREDIT





in the cinema-first model. If this acquisition proceeds, the risk is two-fold: a meaningful reduction in high-quality content for cinemas and the potential for shortened or non-existent theatrical windows

KAMAL GIANCHANDANI | PRESIDENT, MAI

releases that it does not believe

SHORT **TAKES**

India, US 3-day trade talks from Dec 10

New Delhi: India and the United States will commence three-day talks on the first phase of their proposed bilateral trade agreement here from December 10, sources said. The visit is crucial as India and the US are working to finalise the first tranche of the pact. "The three-day talks will start on December 10. It will conclude on December 12 and it is not a formal round of talks," said one of the sources. The US team will be led by **Deputy United States Trade** Representative (USTR) Rick Switzer. This visit of the US officials marks their second trip since the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market due to the purchase of Russian crude oil. On September 16, the US

Biocon integrates **Biocon Biologics**

officials last visited India.

Bangalore: Indian biopharmaceutical company Biocon said Saturday it would fully integrate its biosimilar unit Biocon Biologics as a wholly owned subsidiary. consolidating Biocon's biosimilars and generics businesses under one roof. Biocon said it will acquire the remaining stakes in Biocon **Biologics from Serum Institute** Life Sciences, Tata Capital Growth Fund II and Activ Pine LLP through a share swap of 70.28 Biocon shares for every 100 Biocon Biologics shares, at a price of ₹405.78 (\$4.51) per Biocon share. The deal values Biocon Biologics at \$5.5 billion. Biocon Biologics Chief **Executive Shreehas Tambe will** be CEO and managing director of the combined entity, and Kedar Upadhye will be the chief financial officer, Biocon said in a press release.

ICICI Prudential **AMC to float IPO**

New Delhi: ICICI Prudential **Asset Management Company** (AMC), a subsidiary of ICICI Bank, is gearing up to launch its initial public offering (IPO) December 12. According to market sources, the issue size is expected to be around ₹10,000 crore. The company's maiden public offering will conclude December 16 and bidding for anchor investors will take place December 11, according to the red herring

FOREIGN OUTFLOWS

DIIs outshine FIIs

DECEMBER, FIIS HAVE

SOLD EQUITY FOR

₹10,401CR IN THE CASH

FIIS HAVE BEEN

SELLING BECAUSE OF

SHARP DEPRECIATION

OF RUPEE BY AROUND

5% THIS YEAR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 6: The heavy buying by domestic institutional investors (DIIs) overshadowed the persistent fund outflow by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) due IN THE FIRST WEEK OF

to depreciation in Indian currency this week, analysts said Saturday. The first week

of December has begun with sustained selling by FIIs on all days, as FIIs have sold equity for ₹10,401 crore in the cash market.

This sell figure has been completely eclipsed by the sustained strong buying by DIIs, who bought equity for ₹19,783 crore during this period, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited. According to the analyst, the

fundamental reasons behind the FII selling and DII buying are different. FIIs have been selling because of the sharp depreciation of the Rupee by around 5 per cent this year. It is normal for FIIs to sell

and take the money out during times of currency depreciation.

In contrast, DIIs have been investing systematically, assisted by continuous fund flows and recently they have been buoyed up by the robust GDP growth numbers and expectations of an uptick in corporate earnings, going forward.

Meanwhile, the 25 bp rate cut by the RBI and the proposed huge liquidity infusion have further improved sentiments in favour of the bulls.

"The decision to give further monetary stimulus to the economy even when the economy is firing on all cylinders reflects a courageous pro-growth central bank," the analyst

> noted. With pro-growth fiscal and monetary policies, growth re gaining momentum

and indications of accelerating earnings growth, DIIs will continue to buy, he added. Meanwhile, despite the resilient

domestic situations, FIIs are expected to continue pulling off funds in the coming week as well. "The trends suggest that at higher levels, FIIs will again sell since they feel that valuations are on the higher side and they can sell and invest the money in cheaper mar-

kets," Vijayakumar said. In this tug of war between FI-Is and DIIs, there will be days of sharp movements in the markets, in response to news and events, he added.

For instance, if there is a fair trade deal between India and the US, that can buoy up the sentiments in both equity and currency markets.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund, Dharitri ₹ depreciation: organise smart investing workshop

Cuttack, Dec 6: Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund, in collaboration with leading Odia daily *Dharitri*, organised a smart investing workshop titled Shikshit Niveshak for Viksit Bharat' at Marwari Club, Cuttack Saturday.

The initiative aims to promote financial literacy and encourage informed investment practices among the people of Odisha.

Editor of *Dharitri* and OrissaPOST, Tathagata Satpathy, graced the occasion and highlighted the long-standing need for financial awareness in the state.

'We thought of this initiative to bring something new to Odisha. Odia people have great capacity to invest, but the culture of financial education has not been strong here," Satpathy said.

"Earlier, Bhubaneswar even had its own stock exchange, but it closed because we often do not support good initiatives sometimes we criticise instead of encouraging. If people become financially aware, it will benefit the entire state. Through this programme, we want to start changing that mindset.

He added that Marwari Club was an apt venue to begin the movement and thanked the attendees for turning up in large

"I thank Aditya Birla Capital and the entire team. I hope this initiative will guide our youth towards a secure financial future. For a truly Viksit Bharat, prosperity should reach everyone, not just a few," he said.

Mohammed Aamir Sulaiman, AVP, Investor Education & Distribution Development, ABSL AMC Ltd. conducted the main session on mutual funds and investment planning. He



explained how common citizens could participate in the nation's wealth creation story. "We partnered with *Dharitri* to

ensure financial awareness reaches every household. To achieve the dream of Viksit Bharat, people need to be financially educated first," Sulaiman said.

"Unless we save, we cannot in vest. Savings secure the pres ent and investments secure the future. People in Odisha traditionally invest in gold, real estate or deposits, but many other options offer better, more structured returns. He stressed the importance

of goal-based investing-edu-



The workshop also featured a special session on cyber security by Anila Anand, OPS, DSP and In-Charge of the Cyber Crime

Police Station, CID-CB. She warned participants about rising cyber frauds linked to fake investment schemes. "We handle thousands of cy

ber fraud cases every year, and treat every complaint-whether from a vendor or an influential person-with equal seriousness," she said. "The moment you use the

internet, your data is compromised. Be extremely cautious about the links you click on and the files you download," she added A panel discussion followed

moderated by Debasish Mishra, Branch Manager, Cuttack Re tail Sales, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd. Mutual fund investors Girindra Narayan Ghosh Akhaya Barik, and Dilip Kumai Swain shared their personal investment journeys and the longterm benefits they experienced through disciplined investing. The event was attended by

Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Presi dent, Marwari Samaj; Shankar Lal Gupta, Secretary, Marwari Samaj; and a large gathering of investors, professionals, and youth from Cuttack and near

RBI's dovish stance leaves room for more rate cuts if growth softens

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 6: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 25 bps repo rate cut and its dovish stance creates scope for further easing in FY27 if growth weakens. while ongoing foreign-exchange depreciation could improve export competitiveness, a report has said. The report from HSBC Global

Investment Research welcomed the RBI's plans to infuse domestic liquidity in December, saying it could infuse about ₹1.45 trillion of liquidity. The RBI unveiled plans of ₹1

trillion of open market operations purchases and a a 3-year USD/INR buy-sell swap of \$5

HSBC said that its inflation forecasts are about 50 basis



points lower than the RBI's roughly 3.5 per cent for H1FY27.

The firm forecasted inflation to remain below 4 per cent in FY26 and FY27.

"We believe growth is strong now, but will soften by the March quarter due to fiscal tightening, weaker exports, and the GST boost fading. Fiscal policy will remain tight in a world of fiscal intolerance, and the onus for supporting growth will fall on the RBI," it added.

The RBI cut inflation forecasts, discussed sectors where growth could soften, and assured ample liquidity, the report said.

The central bank's policy

was dovish as it lowered inflation forecasts for FY26 and the first half of FY27 by 60 bps and 50 bps, respectively, and raised its GDP projection for FY26 to 7.3 per cent.

"On liquidity, not only is the RBI providing ₹1.45 trillion worth of funds in December, the governor mentioned that more could be made available if needed," the report noted.

RBI MPC members unanimously decided to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent from 5.5 per cent earlier to spur growth in the economy.

Analysts said that RBI's decision to cut the repo rate is a move that uses the monetary space created by low inflation to stimulate consumption and strengthen the growth cycle.

smartphone shipments in Q3

Samsung tops global foldable

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Seoul, Dec 6: Samsung Electronics solidified its top position in the global foldable smartphone market in the third quarter this year, industry data showed Saturday.

Samsung accounted for 64 per cent of all global shipments of foldable smartphones in the July-September period, up 8 percentage points from a vear ago, according to a report from Counterpoint Research, a market tracker, reports Yonhap news agency

The company further widened its gap with China's Huawei Technologies Co., whose market share remained un-

calling it "pretty horrifying."

users

data.

changed from a year ago at 15 percent during the cited period the report said.

Motorola Mobility ranked third with a seven percent market share, followed by China's Honor Device at 4 per cent, Vivo Mobile Communications at 4 per cent and Xiaomi at 2 per cent.

"Global shipments of fold able smartphones went up 14 percent on-year and climbed to a record quarterly high, led by the popularity of Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold 7 series," the re port said.

Foldable smartphones accounted for 2.5 percent of all smartphone shipments made in the third quarter this year. according to the report.

India weighs phone-location surveillance; tech giants protest

CENTRE THIS WEEK REVOKED AN ORDER REQUIRING STATE-RUN APP IN PHONES

REUTERS

New Delhi. Dec 6: India's government is reviewing a telecom industry proposal to force smartphone firms to enable satellite location tracking that is always activated for better surveillance, a move opposed by Apple, Google and Samsung due to privacy concerns, according to documents, emails and five sources.

A fierce privacy debate erupted in India this week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was forced to rescind an order requiring smartphone makers to preload a state-run cyber safety app on all devices after activists and politicians raised concerns about potential snooping.

For years, the Modi administration has been concerned its agencies do not get precise locations when legal requests are made to telecom firms during investigations. Under the current system, the firms are limited to using cellular tower data that can only provide an estimated area location, which can

be off by several meters The Cellular Operators As-

sociation of India (COAI), which represents Reliance's Jio and Bharti Airtel, has proposed that precise user locations should only be provided if the government orders smartphone makers to activate A-GPS technology - which uses satellite signals and cellular data - according to a June internal federal IT ministry email.

That would require location services to always be activated in smartphones with no option for users to disable them. Apple. Samsung and Alphabet's Google have told New Delhi that should not be mandated. said three of the sources who have direct knowledge of the deliberations. A measure to track de-

vice-level location has no precedent anywhere else in the world, lobbying group India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA), which represents both Apple and Google, wrote in a confidential July letter to the government, which was viewed by Reuters. 'The A-GPS network service

.. (is) not deployed or supported for location surveillance," said the letter, which added that the measure "would be a regulatory

overreach.

'DEDICATED SURVEILLANCE DEVICE' India's home ministry had

scheduled a meeting of top smartphone industry executives to discuss the matter Friday but it was postponed, a source with direct knowledge of the matter said. On Thursday, Reuters sent questions related to this topic to the ministry.

India's IT and home ministries, which are both analysing the telecom industry's proposal, did not respond to Reuters queries. Apple, Samsung, Google, Reliance and Airtel did not respond to requests for comment. Lobby groups ICEA and COAI also did not respond. At this

point, no policy decision has been made by the IT or home ministries.

technology - which is typically only turned on when certain apps are running or when emergency calls are being made could provide authorities with location data precise enough that a user can be tracked to within about a meter, according to technology experts.

'This proposal would see phones operate as a dedicated surveillance device," said Junade Ali, a digital forensics expert associated with Britain's Institution of Engineering and Technology. Cooper Quintin, a security

Taking advantage of A-GPS

the country

researcher at the US-based Electronic Frontier Foundatelecom group. tion, said he had not heard of It warned their user base any such proposal elsewhere.

Governments world-**REVIEWS** seek new ways TELECOM INDUSTRY to better track PROPOSAL FOR ALWAYS-ON cellphone LOCATION TRACKING movements APPLE, GOOGLE, SAMSUNG OPPOSE

Russia has mandated NO PRECEDENT FOR SUCH the installa-**DEVICE-LEVEL LOCATION** tion of a state-TRACKING, EXPERTS backed communications app on

all mobile phones in ing to access your location.'

TELCOS VS SMARTPHONE FIRMS

India is the world's second-biggest mobile market with 735 million smartphones as of mid-2025, where Google's Android powers more than 95% of the devices, with the rest using Apple's iOS, Counterpoint Research says.

Apple and Google's lobby group, the ICEA, argued in their July letter that there are significant "legal, privacy, and national security concerns"

with the proposal from the

would include people from the military, judges, corporate exec utives and journalists, adding that proposed location

tracking risked their security given that they hold sensitive information. Even the old

way of location

tracking is becoming problematic the telecom group said, as smartphone makers show a pop-up message to users, alerting them that their "carrier is try-

"A target can easily ascertain that he is being tracked by security agencies," said the telecom group, urging the government to order phone makers to disable the pop-up features.

Privacy concerns should take priority and India should also not consider disabling the popups, Apple and Google's group argued in its July letter to the government. This will "ensure transparency and user control over their location.'



balls) as the visitors

position.

The

The 32-year-old

Rana offered him

plenty of feed on his pet

De Kock moved to fifty

in 42 balls, and never let

the tempo down reaching

his hundred in 79 balls.

rary relief when Ravin-

dra Jadeja induced a

false slash from Bavu-

ma (48, 67 balls) to get

caught by Kohli

Brief scores:

South Africa 270

all out in 47.5 overs

(Quinton de Kock 106, Temba Bavuma 48,

1-44) by nine wickets

Dewald Brevis 29; Kuldeep

Yadav 4-41, Prasidh Krishna

4-66) lost to India 2271/1 in

39.5 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal

116 not out, Rohit Sharma 75,

Virat Kohli 65; Keshav Maharaj

at point.

India found tempo-

areas

moved to a healthy

De Kock was se-

vere on Prasidh

India humble SA, seal series 2-1



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Dec 6: Yashasvi Jaiswal reeled off an unbeaten maiden ODI hundred, carrying India to a nine-wicket victory in the third and final one-dayer and a 2-1 series win against South Africa here Saturday.

It was always a case of the margin of victory once Jaiswal (116 not out, 121 balls) and his senior opening partner Rohit Sharma (75, 73 balls) stitched 155 runs in 25.5 overs, and it turned precisely so as India finished with 271 for one in 39.5 overs, chasing 271.

Virat Kohli contributed a classy 65 not out off 45 deliv-

Quinton de Kock made a refined 106 off 89 balls, his 23rd ton in ODIs, but it remained a shiny footnote as Indian batters dictated the course with

Jaiswal was not comfortable initially in his innings but the assured presence of Rohit at the other end was a massive blessing for him.

Rohit guided the understudy, who was playing only his fourth ODI, through some early turbulent phases, and also did the bulk of the scoring.

The 38-year-old reached his fifty in 54 balls, tranquil by his standards but those patented, magical swivel pull shots, three of them sailed for sixes, lent the innings a touch of aggression.

It enabled Jaiswal to collect runs unhurriedly, and walked to fifty in 75 balls. But once he reached his fifty, the left-hander grew in confidence and opened a lot more, unbuckling some of those drives and cuts that he carefully avoided in the early phase of his innings.

Rohit, who became the fourth Indian batter to reach 20000 international runs during his knock after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Kohli, looked set for another hundred.

But an ill-timed sweep off left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj cut short his stay. But that didn't deter Jaiswal, who, accompanied by Kohli, kept India's innings moving.

The 23-year-old reached the coveted three-figure mark in 111 balls with a single off pacer Corbin Bosch and immediately tore his helmet away to slip into an energetic celebration a combination of sprint, jump, roar and punch in the air.

Jaiswal and a typically assertive Kohli added 156 runs for the second wicket as India calmly went past the target to whip some frenzy among a nearly 27000-strong crowd.

Earlier, a largely disciplined bowling effort also played its part in keeping South Africa to a manageable total, an effort led by pacer Prasidh Krishna (4/66) and Kuldeep Yadav (4/41).

After Arshdeep Singh sent back Ryan Rickelton early, De Kock (106, 89 balls, 8x4, 6x4) struck his seventh century against India and put on 113 runs off 124 balls with skipper NAT'L SUB-JUNIOR BADMINTON C'SHIP

TANVI WEARS DOUBLE CROWN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: The 37th National Sub-Junior Badminton Championship concluded at Dalmia Bharat Gopichand Badminton Excellence Centre in Kalinga Stadium Complex here Saturday, with local star Tanvi Patri dominating the girls' categories by clinching a remarkable double crown.

Tanvi emerged victorious in both Under-15 and Under-17 Girls' Singles categories on

the final day of the championship, showcasing exceptional skill and resilience.

the U-15

Girls' Singles final, Tanvi defeated Avani Vikram Govind of Telangana in straight games, 21-9, 21-13. The U-17 Girls' Singles final was

a high-octane affair, where Tanvi demonstrated high-quality play to overcome Diksha S R of Tamil Nadu in a thrilling three-game match: 20-22, 21-17,

and 22-20. Local Pair Finishes as Runners-Up

Odisha also saw representation on the podium in the U-15 Girls' Doubles as the duo of Swati Nayak and Nimisha Ojha finished as runners-up They were defeated by the Maharashtra pair of Sarayu Ranjane and Soyara Shelar with scores of 15-21, 14-21.

In U-15 Boys' Singles Push-

kar of Karnataka beat Harshit Khatri (Delhi) in final. In U-17 boys singles top seed Jagsher Singh Khangura of

Punjab won final beating Biraj Sharma. During the prize distribution

ceremony, Odisha State Bad minton Association (OSBA) President Rajesh Prabhakar Patil announced a spe-

cial prize for the home state's successful players. Tanvi will be awarded Rs 5 Lakh, where as Nimisha Ojha

and Swati Nayak will receive Rs 2.5 Lakh. The total prize money for the championship amounted to Rs 40 The closing cer-

emony was graced by notable dignitaries, including Development Commisioner -cum-Ad ditional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Sports and Youth Services Commissioner-cum-Secretary Sachin Ramchandra Yadav and other key officials from OSBA and Badminton Association of India.



Odisha athletes get crucial bone health check-up



Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: In a move aimed at injury prevention, Sports Science India (SSI) successfully conducted the first-ever free Bone Mineral Density (BMD) screening camp for young athletes at Kalinga Stadium here Saturday.

150 budding and state-level athletes were screened using DEXA-based portable scanners to check for bone-related deficiencies. SSI founder and sports science expert Sarthak Patnaik stated the goal is to "build strong, injury-resistant athletes across the state." Odishas Athletics Project chief operating officer Dinesh Suri noted the significance and said, "Early detection has its own advantage. Low BMD increases the chances of stress fractures in high-impact sports, allowing us to design better, safer training."

2ND ASHES TEST

Mitchell Starc torments England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brisbane (Australia), Dec 6: Mitchell Starc has been menacing England with the ball in this Ashes series. Now he's doing damage with the bat, too.

At stumps Day 3 of the second test. England was teetering on 134-6 in its second innings and still needed to score 43 runs to make Australia bat again.

Starc was voted player of the match for his 10-wicket haul in Australia's thumping eight-wicket win in the series opener at Perth last month.

Now he's in line for another award in the day-night test in Brisbane. After taking six wickets in England's first innings of 334 Days 1 and 2, Starc scored an innings-high 77 as Australia responded with 511 Saturday afternoon and then took two wickets in the night session.

England's hopes now rest on skipper Ben Stokes, who will resume Sunday on 4.

Starc's day out The 35-year-old Starc made England's bowlers toil all afternoon in sunny, subtropical conditions at the Gabba as he led Australia to a 177-run first-innings lead.

With the lights on and the pink ball starting to move around on the third night of the



match, Starc took the crucial

He added the wicket of Jamie Smith in his next over as En-

(26) and Zak Crawley (44).

wicket of top-ranked Joe Root (15) to have England reeling at 123-5, still 54 runs in arrears.

gland slipped to 128-6. Scott Boland and Michael Neser combined to take the

first four wickets for Australia after Starc, for the first time in the series, didn't take a wicket in the first over of the innings. Boland removed Ben Duckett

(15) and Harry Brook (15) and Neser took two sharp return catches to dismiss Ollie Pope

Neser later credited Starc with being the greatest left-arm bowler of all time.

tallying 179.2.

with an aggregate of 586.

after finishing eighth in quali-

INDIA'S BIG SPLASH

Gold-silver podium finish at ISSF WC final

Doha, Dec 6: Suruchi Singh came up with yet another commanding performance to clinch women's 10m air pistol gold, while compatriot Sainyam took silver as India made a big splash on the opening day of the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final, here Saturday.

After a disappointing outing by the 10m rifle exponents earlier during the day, Suruchi lit up the day by firing a superb 245.1 in the final on her way to the top podium finish, while former junior world champion Sainyam made it a gold-silver finish for the country with a score of 243.3

Double Olympic bronze-medallist Manu Bhaker, who also made it to the final, finished fifth

Suruchi, who was ranked No.1 in the world in September-October following four back-to-back World Cup gold medals earlier this year, was in great form as she finished the qualification round in the elite 12-shooter field in second place

Bhaker (578) came in sixth, while Sainyam (573), the 2023 junior world champion, barely managed to make the final



fication.

However the final saw the 21-year-old Sainyam in a different zone altogether as she led the field for a major part of the final before conceding the top spot to Suruchi after shooting four below-average scores of 9.5 each in the elimination round.

Suruchi, the daughter of a Havildar hailing from Jhajjar -- the same district as Bhaker -earned Euro 5,000 for her effort, while Sainyam received a pay cheque of Euro 4.000.

Karnal shooter Samrat, who recently became the 10m air pistol world champion in Cairo, looked set for another blazing performance in Doha. But a couple of rank-poor shots in the final cost him a potential silver -- or, perhaps gold -- as China's Hu Kai took sweet revenge on the Indian.

air pistol bronze

"I like this range and winning bronze in the first ever world cup final in an achievement for

1-2 shots but I enjoyed it and I am happy," said Samrat. Samrat shot 221.5 in the

me. I was struggling in the last

eight-shooter final. India's former world champi-

on Rudrankksh Patil and Paris Olympic finalist Ariun Babuta missed out on medals in men's 10m air rifle, finishing fourth and sixth respectively.

Elavenil Valarivan also came un short in women's 10m air rifle, finishing ninth in the qualification round, failing to make the eight-shooter final.

Rudrankksh, the 2022 world champion who has shown good form this season by clinching the World Cup gold in Buenos Aires, came into the star-studded final after finishing fourth in the qualification round with a score of 631.9.

entered Babuta eight-shooter final after finishing third 633.3 even as double Olympic gold medallist at the Paris Olympics, China's Sheng Lihao led the field tallying 637.7. while former world champion Victor Lindgren of Sweden was second with a score of 633.5.

World Championships bronze medallist in trap, Zorawar Sandhu was placed ninth among 12 shooters after he notched up 70/75 on day one of competition

East Bengal, FC Goa summit clash today Max Verstappen takes pole

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Margao, Dec 6: East Bengal FC and FC Goa, the champions of the past two editions, will square off in the summit clash of the Super Cup football tournament here Sunday, with the winning team booking a berth in the AFC Champions League Two Preliminary Stage

Kolkata giants East Bengal won the title in 2024 and they would be looking to go level with FC Goa in terms of the number of Super Cup trophies. FC Goa. the defending champions have their maiden title in 2019.

The Gaurs are on a six match winning streak against the Red and Golds, five of them with a one-goal margin. However, the last time they met outside the Indian Super League, East Bengal ran out 1-0 winners in the 2018 Super Cup semi-finals

Like the semi-finals, FC Goa will again miss captain and defender Sandesh Jhingan as he

DEFEND OR RECLAIM



is out with a calf injury. Striker Iker Guarrotxena, who was shown a red card before the start of the semi-final, will also be unavailable for the final.

East Bengal will have to take the field without head coach Óscar Bruzón in the final after he was sent off during their 3-1 semi-final win over Punjab FC. But the plan remains intact, according to assistant coach Bino George. "First of all, it is a moment of pride for East Bengal Club, players and our supporters. A couple of months ago, we lost the Durand Cup semi-final and later the IFA Shield final. Now this is the time. We are here to compete and fight for the cup,'

"FC Goa are a good team, and

we respect them. They are good

with build-ups. We're focused on

our preparations. We aren't just here to participate but to fight and become champions." East Bengal captain Saúl Cre-

spo and FC Goa's Borja Herrera have already won two Super Cup titles and both would be looking for their third on Sunday.

East Bengal have never won against FC Goa at the JLN Stadium here, so that's a piece of history George's side will need to script if they are to become Super Cup champions again. More East Bengal fans are expected to travel from Kolkata to Goa for the final. FC Goa, on the other hand, will become the first club to win three Super Cup titles if they beat East Bengal Sunday.

'The excitement is always there when you play a final. It doesn't matter if it's twice or seven times. It's a final, and both teams will have the same excitement. In fact, we are the last two teams to win this trophy. I think it will be a good final," said FC Goa head coach Manolo Márquez.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), Dec 6: Max Verstappen took pole position for the title-deciding Abu Dhabi Grand Prix ahead of Formula 1 title rivals Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri Saturday.

The thrilling three-way battle will be decided Sunday at the Yas Marina Circuit. The Mc-Laren driver Norris is 12 points ahead of Red Bull's Verstappen and 16 ahead of McLaren teammate Piastri.

Verstappen is aiming for his fifth straight F1 title - Norris and Piastri are chasing their first. All three drivers have won seven races.

Pole position is crucial in Abu Dhabi, with every driver winning from pole since 2015.

Verstappen had already set the fastest lap on his first go but went even quicker on his second attempt and set a lap time of 1



minute, 22.207 seconds, making him .201 faster than Norris and .230 quicker than Piastri. "That was insane," Verstappen said over team radio after his eighth pole of the season and 48th overall. "Yes. Lovely."

Norris will win the title if he's on the podium in Abu Dhabi. Even if Verstappen wins, the Dutchman needs Norris to be fourth or lower. If Piastri wins. he requires Norris to finish outside the top five.

Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton was eliminated from Q1, the first section of qualifying, for the third straight race. He also crashed in third practice due to a driver error earlier Saturday, and has not qualified inside the top 10 for four consecutive races.

"I'm so sorry," Hamilton said over team radio. "There are no words to express how I feel.

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