

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
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.

LEO
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.

VIRGO
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.

LIBRA
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.

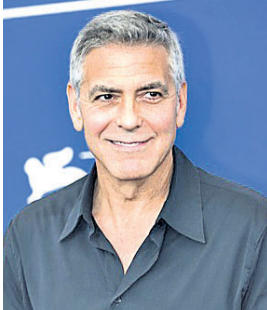
SCORPIO
Ganesha feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baffle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, 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 romantic 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 over-worked, new responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout 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 inquisitive mind and a questioning 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.



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*.



MUMBAI: Aditi Rao Hydari is a natural at blending music, acting, and emotion. She brings a subtle calm and depth to her characters whenever she appears on screen, but hidden within her silence is an artist who loves challenges. In a recent interview, she opened up on what drives her to delivering those brilliant performances. In a recent interview with a news portal, Aditi

Secret behind Aditi's creativity

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. "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 weaknesses are what an actress deserves. "When I'm pushed, I discover something new about myself," she said.

filtered take highlights both her creative drive and her determination to shape stories on 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 12, 2025.

Fearless Radhika

MUMBAI: Actress Radhika Apte says she has absolutely no fear of missing out on anything.

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.

Clarifying that she does not believe this to be true, Radhika said, "If I want to do something, I'll come there. And if I miss it, I miss it."

There's something else I have here. So, I don't believe in that."

She further stressed that she does not have any FOMO of missing out on anything.

"I don't have any FOMO about missing out on anything. I don't think anything is as big as we think it is, you know."

Work-wise, Radhika will soon be seen in the forthcoming thriller, *Saali Mohabbat*.

Shedding light on her character, Smita, she revealed, "Well, I play the character Smita, who's a housewife and who is somebody who loves gardening, and she has a very quiet life."

Radhika added that *Saali Mohabbat* essentially tells the story of an introverted woman who is a plant lover and a simple housewife.



Tisca reveals why she turned director

MUMBAI: Actress Tisca Chopra, who has made her feature directorial debut with *Saali Mohabbat*, has shared why she turned to direction.

Saali Mohabbat blends drama, emotion, and unexpected twists. The film is headlined by Radhika Apte, and dives into a world where relationships, secrets, and ambition collide.

Talking about her journey as a filmmaker she said, "I became a director out of necessity. I'm 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. That's why I became a director."

Her raw, un-



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,

Aamir 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 actual-

ly one family."

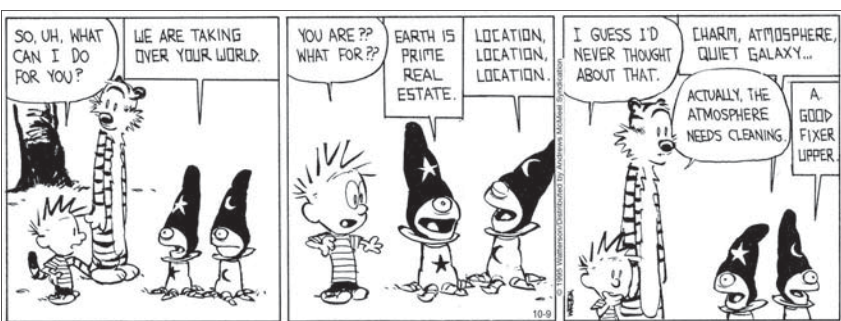
Aamir introduced his girlfriend, Gauri, on his 60th birthday earlier this year. When asked if he ever thought he would get into a relationship again, Aamir said, "No, I didn't. I had reached a point where I thought I probably would never find someone who could be my partner. She brings a

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."

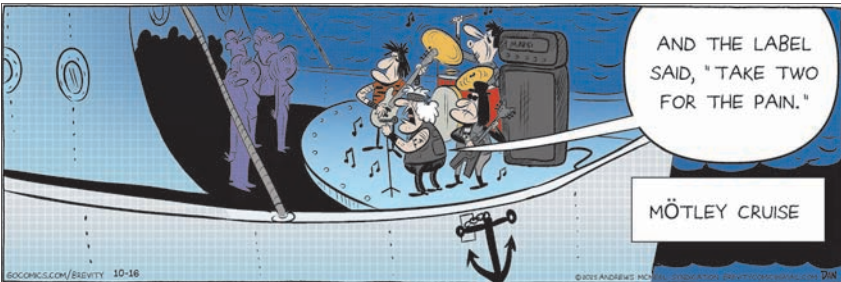
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

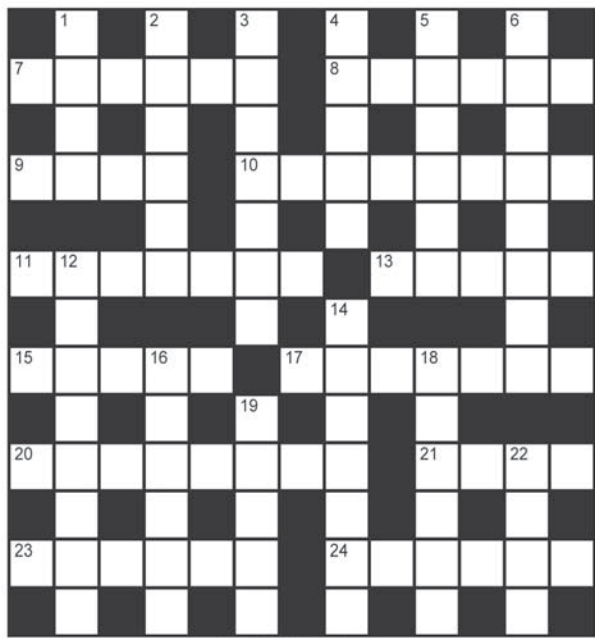


BREVITY



FUN post

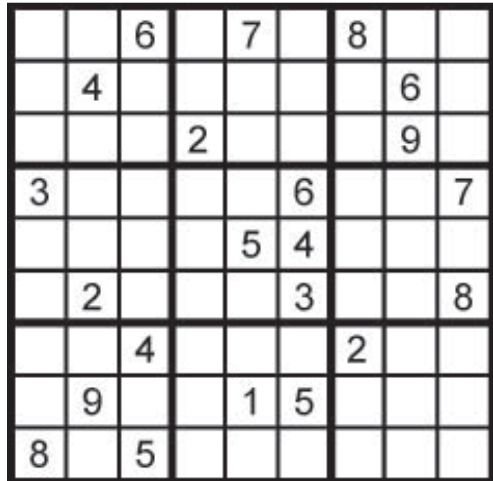
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Swiss lake
 - 8 Knife or spear, e.g.
 - 9 Wise guy
 - 10 Sink in
 - 11 Ex-soldier
 - 13 Kind of jet
 - 15 Offer one's two cents
 - 17 Mystifies
 - 20 Complains
 - 21 Garage job
 - 23 Cavort
 - 24 Egotism
- Down**
- 1 Bill of fare
 - 2 Adzuki bean, for one
 - 3 Saltwater lake between Iran and Russia
 - 4 Bunch of bees
 - 5 Black Forest cake
 - 6 Easily transported
 - 12 Napoleon and his counterparts
 - 14 Source of tapioca
 - 16 Light-footed
 - 18 Criminal offense
 - 19 After cuckoo or grandfather
 - 22 Shower alternative

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.

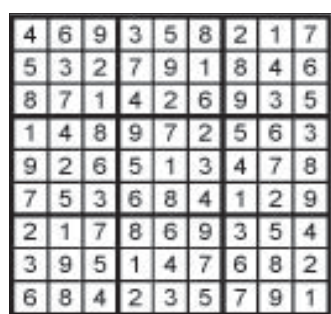


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



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



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

key role, Joshi said the country needs to adopt a balanced approach in generation of both thermal and solar energy.

"India has skill, abundant resources, 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 manufacturing. Once the energy cost comes down, there is no difficulty to manufacture goods at lower cost and become competitive in global market," he said.

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

that the cost of production of per unit solar energy plus battery cost is only Rs 2.70 in Madhya Pradesh," he said.

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 said.

SRIMANDIR OWNS OVER 60,000 ACRES OF LAND

AGENCIES

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).

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

AGENCIES

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

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 (SECI) Limited on behalf of Reliance NU BESS 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.

DIGITAL
CABLE TV SHOW 2025

SAARC Region's Largest 26th Annual CATV & Broadband SHOW

DIGITAL CABLE TV

BROADBAND

SURVEILLANCE

NETWORKING

OTT

17 18 19

DECEMBER 2025

11am to 6pm

BISWA BANGLA MELA PRANGAN, KOLKATA

GOLD SPONSORS

ALLIANCE BROADBAND

MEGHBELA BROADBAND

SILVER SPONSORS

CtrlS

JioStar

NETNIP

care

tp-link

WISH NET

ZITA

BRONZE SPONSORS

GenZ

SPI

Syrotech

UBIQCOR

SUPPORTING MESO

GTPL KCBPL

DIGITAL PARTNER

Mfunl

CABLE TV EQUIPMENTS TRADERS & MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Organized by

Electronics Centre, 1/1A, Biplabi Anukul Chandra Street

4th Floor, Kolkata - 700072, Ph. : 033-2212 4057

Mob.: 98310 14294, E-mail : ctmacal@gmail.com

Visit us : www.ctmaindia.com

QR Code

Scan for Free Entry

Fast forward your
MARKET RETURNS

LIC's
INDEX PLUS

UIN: 512L354V01 | Plan No.: 873

Also Available Online

Benefit of LIFE COVER with MARKET RETURNS

NON PAR, LINKED, LIFE, INDIVIDUAL, SAVINGS PLAN

Start with Monthly premium as low as ₹2,500/-

Choice of two funds - Upto 100% invested in select stocks of NIFTY 50 (Flexi Smart Growth Fund) or NIFTY 100 (Flexi Growth Fund)

With Guaranteed additions*

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56764744

Download LIC Mobile App

Visit: licindia.in

Call Centre Services 022 6827 6827

Our Whatsapp No. 8976862090

Follow us: LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Linked insurance products are different from the traditional insurance products and are subject to the risk factors.

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 of the contract, its future 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 returns.

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 heroes 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 Kambhāmpati)

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



POST NEWS NETWORK

**VEHICLE SEARCH RECOVERED
TWO 9MM PISTOLS, EIGHT
7.65MM PISTOLS, ONE
AUTOMATIC CARBINE, 12
ROUNDS OF 9MM AMMO, A
BOLERO CASH, AND
MOBILE PHONES**

**PRELIMINARY PROBE
INDICATES WEAPONS WERE
SOURCED FROM JHARKHAND
AND MUNGER (BIHAR),
KNOWN HUBS OF ILLEGAL
ARMS MANUFACTURING**

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	28.5°	25.8°
Min Temp	13.0°	12.4°
Humidity	67%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Fog/Mist in the morning and partly cloudy later



Whenever In your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so.



THE MOTHER

Mosque to Mandate

On 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 leader from the RSS and found the recipe for electoral success.

He began to invest more in the issue that had brought the dividend. The Congress lost its majority in the election, 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 Ayodhya 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.

RABINDRA NATH TAGORE
- The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.

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

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

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.



Ian Buruma

JAPAN'S ONLY SECURITY, APART FROM ITS POWERFUL MILITARY, IS A DEFENCE TREATY WITH THE US



Aakar Patel

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



Rajiv Gupta

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

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

JAPAN TALKS TOUGH



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 Japanese 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 get rich.

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 do-

ing more to pull their weight, but fitful attempts in Europe and Japan to become less dependent on American security guarantees were nipped in the bud.

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

Americana is not the behavior 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 countries 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 eighth in 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

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Red Fort blast: How safe are we?

It has not been even a month since the horrific 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 pedestrian marketplace be secured when 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

the Red Fort area.

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 shopkeepers 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.

© INFA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgargh 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 IndiGo 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 choreography.

RS Narula, PATIALA



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Sanghralaya 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 Sanghralaya to other popular sites like the Bharat Mandapam, War



Memorial, the new Parliament complex, Dilli Haat, and others, for tourists,” a senior official informed.

There are plans to have evening 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 be 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

THE BUS RIDE WILL BE PRICED AT ₹500 FOR ADULTS AND ₹300 FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SIX AND TWELVE

THERE 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 attractions such as the Signature

Bridge, 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 “Suvidha buses”. They disappeared in 1989, phased out as the ageing fleet wore down.

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, officials said Friday.

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 Nagar 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. In the remaining subdivisions of the state, the operation of auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws will continue to be restricted.

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

Once an e-rickshaw is registered 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 allotted sub-division, and any operation beyond the permitted area will be a violation of the notification and the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, it added.

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 Bilaspur 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.

AIR QUALITY WORSENS IN DELHI

Cleanliness drive to combat pollution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: The Delhi government Saturday launched a city-wide cleanliness drive aimed at clearing garbage, removing debris and 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.

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



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

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 will work together” only then will our Delhi become a clean, safe, and healthy Delhi,” he wrote.

Task force to set up unified metropolitan transport authority

Delhi government has formed a 21-member task force to set up a unified metropolitan transport authority and a dedicated fund to address the mobility needs of the city’s growing population, officials said Saturday. The task force, headed by the chief secretary, will finalise the structure of the Delhi Urban Metropolitan Transport Authority (DUMTA), institutional arrangements, geographical coverage and composition of a DUMTA Board, they said. “The increased population, pollution, pressure on roads and elevated demand of streamlined and organised public transport in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) has necessitated setting up of a Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority,” said a notification.

Delhi plans three new dog shelters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: Amid concerns over stray dog management and public safety, the Municipal Corporation 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 and Bijwasan, officials said.

According to official data, the civic body has so far sterilised and immunised 54,623 stray dogs under the ongoing Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme.

MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar, 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 interaction.

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.

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 in upcoming phases.

The measures come in the backdrop of repeated observations by the judiciary directing civic agencies to intensify sterilisation and vaccination, and ensure proper shelters for stray animals to strike a balance between public safety and animal welfare.

The initiative also follows the Supreme Court’s recent scrutiny of stray dog management in Delhi.

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 territories.

HP: EC’s special drive spurs rise in women voter gender ratio



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, it said.

To assess this, the gender ratio number of women voters per 1,000

male voters is monitored across all Assembly constituencies and special strategies are planned wherever the ratio is low, she said.

As a result, 16 Assembly Constituencies 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 959 to 961.

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 recruitment rules would be made soon to induct women into the Fire Services.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, LATHIKATA
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Bid Identification No. BDO/LKT/02/2025-26
Letter No. 3418 Dt.01.12.2025
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.
1. Bid documents will be available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in from 06.12.2025.
2. Bid must be submitted on "Online" on or before 16.12.2025 by 17.00 hours.
3. 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 authorized agents.
4. Other details will be available in the website tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Lathikata
OIPR-19036/11/0007/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR
E-mail : searoads.khr@rediffmail.com
No. 6312 Date : 02.12.2025
Invitation For Bids
Bid Identification No. SER&BKHR-17/2025-26
1 The Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate Composite (Civil+El+PH) bids in Double Cover system in ONLINE MODE only
2 Nature of work Development of Water Sports at Haripur in Lower: Indra dam/Renewal coat to Gotma Airstrip
3 No. of work 02 Nos. works
4 Tender Paper cost As specified in the notice for the respective Work, to be remitted online only
5 Class of Contractor As specified in the notice for the respective Work
6 Availability of Bid documents in the website 10.00 hours of 09.12.2025 to 17.00 hours of 20.12.2025
7 Date of opening of Technical Bid Dt.22.12.2025 at 11:00 hours
8 EMD/Bid Security As specified in the notice to be remitted online only
9 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 said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar
OIPR-34062/11/0051/2526

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, RAYAGADA
DIST.: RAYAGADA, PIN CODE - 765001, ODISHA
E-mail ID: rayagadam.hud@od.gov.in
Web: www.rayagadamunicipality.in, Phone: 06856-235052
Letter No. 9260 Date: 03.12.25
"e" - TENDER NOTICE
Bid Identification No. RGDA-MUN-07/2025-26
No. C-1669: Bid documents consisting of 28 (Twenty Eight) Nos. of Civil Works with their Tendered amount (Work Value) Cost of Tender Paper, E.M.D., Time of Completion, Class of Contractors, Additional Performance Security Deposit and the set of Terms and Conditions applicable for the contract and other required necessary documents can be seen in the Government website (i.e., <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>).
1 Name of the Work Civil Works as mentioned in the website
2 No of the work 28 (Twenty Eight) Nos.
3 Estimated Cost As mentioned in the DTCN
4 Period of the completion As mentioned against the work in the NIT/DTCN
5 Date & time of availability of Bid documents on the portal From Dated 05.12.2025, 12.00 Noon hrs. to Dated 19.12.2025, 05.30 P.M. hrs.
6 Bids received online to be opened on Dated 20.12.2025, 11.30 P.M. hrs.
7 Name and address of the Officer Inviting the Bid The Executive Officer, Rayagada Municipality, Rayagada
Further details can be seen from the Procurement portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.
Sd./- Executive Officer Rayagada Municipality
OIPR-13150/11/0084/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. : 50-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26. Dtd. 28.11.2025
Name of work: AMC OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER OF TRD DEPARTMENT OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.
Approx. cost : ₹ 4,29,041.00, EMD: ₹ 6,600.00, Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 1,180.00, Completion period: 24 Months.
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1530 hrs. on 22.12.2025.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against 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 without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating, on e-tendering as per instruction.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit 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 Sambalpur
Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. -Saran), Bihar- 841221
Auction Notice No. 01/2026
No. S/RWP/Sale/Auction Programme/ 2025 -26 Date: 03.12.2025 Auction will be conducted for disposal of scrap material Slag, 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 e-Auction : 16.01.2026, SN : 3, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 29.01.2026, SN : 4, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 06.02.2026, SN : 8, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 13.02.2026, SN : 5, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 20.02.2026, SN : 6, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 27.02.2026, SN : 7, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 06.03.2026, SN : 8, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 13.03.2026, SN : 9, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 20.03.2026, SN : 10, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, Date of e-Auction : 27.03.2026. 1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in. 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. 3. To participate 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 website www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. Chief Material Manager-II/RWP/Bela RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/84


GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
No. C-1674 G.P.H. Division No.-II, Sambalpur - 768001
E-mail id: gphdivn.2@gmail.com
Notice No. 21543 Dt.3.12.25
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. 01/SE GPH SBP/2025-26 Dt.03.12.2025
01 Nos. of Work : 10 Nos.
02 Tendered amount in Rs. : Rs.343698/- to Rs.2700129/-
03 Period of Completion : 60 Days to 90 Days
04 Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 10.00 Hrs. of Date: 09.12.2025 to 17.00 Hrs. of Date: 20.12.2025
05 Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal : 17.00 Hrs. of Date 20.12.2025
06 Date & Time of opening of Bids : 11.00 Hrs. of Date: 22.12.2025
07 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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
'e' Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SE MID JSID 09/2025-26
No. 3127 / MID / Date : 05.12.2025
No. A-1063: The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.
1. Name of the works : Civil Construction work
2. Total No. of works : 05 (Five) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.41.03 Lakh to Rs.99.97 Lakh
(Detail list of work annexed)
4. Class of Contractor : As mentioned against work
5. Period of Completion : As mentioned against work
6. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : 08.12.2025 to 17.12.2025 during office hours
7. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 17.12.2025 during office hours
8. Date/time of opening of Technical Bid : 18.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M. at Office of the S.E. M.I. Divn. Jharsuguda
9. Date/time of opening of Financial Bid : 20.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M.
10. Lotterly Date (if necessary) : 22.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M. at O/o. the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda
11. Name & address of the Officer Inviting the Bid : Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda
12. Mode of Payment of Bid cost & Bid Security : Online
OIPR-32291/11/0025/2526 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda

of the day


quote

In sub-sequent years, the Jamaat-e-Islami adopted a candidate-based voting stance 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) CHIEF

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 “severe”.

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 panchayat. 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 Udamala 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 Udamala, who lost her life in the house fire incident in Albany.

Ex-IAS officer gets 5-yr imprisonment

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.

INDIGO CRISIS DAY 5

Over 800 flights cancelled



AGENCIES

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 follow-ups.”

“The system of automatic refunds 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

MoU signed between Patanjali Yogpeeth and Govt of Russia



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 6: A significant Memorandum of Understanding (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 Minister of Commerce of Russia. The agreement focuses on promoting health and wellness, health tourism, skilled human resource exchange, and research initiatives in yoga, Ayurveda, and naturopathy. Swami Ramdev emphasised that the MoU's primary goals are to expand Patanjali's wellness services in Russia, conduct joint research on reversing aging and early detection of diseases, and share India's spiritual knowledge and cultural heritage with Russia. Russia will serve as a gateway for Patanjali to introduce its wellness sciences to nearly 200 countries worldwide. Additionally, the MoU aims to provide Russia with skilled labor and trained yogis from 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 includes promoting Indian and Russian brands in each other's markets, with Patanjali's high-quality products being introduced to Russia. Swami Ramdev also highlighted the longstanding friendship between India and Russia, stating that both nations share deep spiritual, economic, and cultural ties. He emphasized Russia's importance as a global 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 disease-free. This partnership marks a significant step in deepening India-Russia relations, particularly in the fields of health, wellness, and cultural exchange.



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

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

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





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

PM: India model of high growth, low inflation



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 economy. 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

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

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

are challenging the world,” Modi said. 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 Rahul 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, Mamkootathil 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 registered against him last week.

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

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, Bhilwani, Karnal, Yamunanagar and Faridabad, also reported

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 CREA. At the state level, Rajasthan had the highest number of polluted 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 Nadu and Kerala.



N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM



PTI PHOTO

international

of the day quote

We're now involved in three significant 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 | CEO OF ISRAEL WEAPON INDUSTRIES, ISRAEL

It is with great responsibility that I confirm the decision of Brazil's greatest political and moral leader, Jair Messias Bolsonaro, to entrust me with the mission of continuing our national project

FLÁVIO BOLSONARO | SENATOR, BRAZIL

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

TORRE SANDVIK | DEFENCE MINISTER, NORWAY

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

Sydney: 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, Saturday. 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.



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

HAKAN FIDAN | FOREIGN MINISTER, TURKEY

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 doctors' group said.

Paramedics on the scene in the town of Kalogi in South Kordofan state were targeted in "a second unexpected attack," Sudan Doctors' Network said in a statement late Friday. Emergency Lawyers, a rights group tracking violence against civilians in Sudan reported 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.

The group condemned the attack, blaming the paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, for the strikes, calling them "a flagrant violation of in-

ternational humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians, especially children, and vital civilian infrastructure."

The death toll is expected to 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 years. It is now concentrating in the oil-rich Kordofan states.

"Killing children in their school is a horrific violation of children's rights," said UNICEF Representative for Sudan Sheldon 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 access for humanitarian assistance to reach those in desperate need."



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 distance

AP PHOTO

Pak, Afghan forces trade fire along Chaman border



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Dec 6: A heavy exchange of fire between Pakistani and Afghan forces was reported from the key Chaman border, according to a media report Saturday.

Injuries were reported from the district hospital, but no fatalities occurred, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Officials from both sides accused each other of instigating the flare-up late Friday night across the border in the Balochistan province.

While Pakistani officials said that Afghan forces had fired mortar shells on the Badani area, Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid claimed it was Pakistan that launched an attack on Spin Boldak, alleging that their forces were responding.

Pakistan's official sources told Dawn that Pakistani forces retaliated against the Afghan aggression and returned fire.

There were also reports of fighting on the Chaman-Kandahar highway, but these could not be immediately verified.

A senior official in Quetta confirmed on condition of anonymity that the exchange of fire started around 10 pm and continued until late at night.

The medical superintendent of Chaman district hospital said that three injured, including a woman, were brought to the medical facility.

There was neither any official word from the Inter-Services Public Relations -- Pakistan Army's media wing -- nor from the Foreign Office.

The Chaman border crossing, also known as Friendship Gate, connects Balochistan province to Afghanistan's Kandahar.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have deteriorated amidst regular allegations by Pakistan regarding the failure of the Afghan regime to deny safe havens to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan terrorists.

Russia hits Ukraine amid diplomatic talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 nearly four-year-old war.

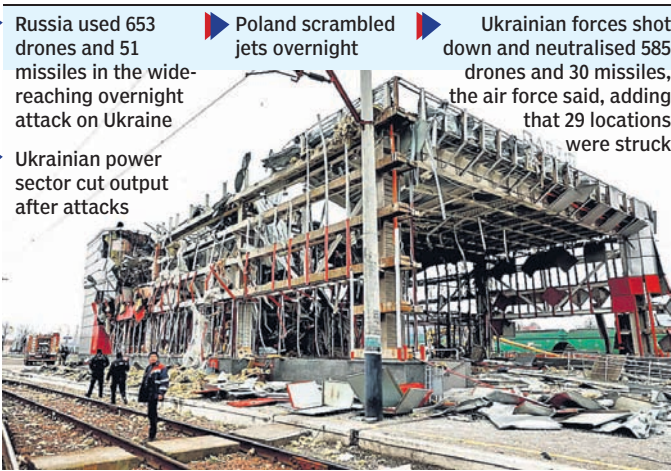
Following talks that made progress on a security framework for postwar Ukraine, the two sides also offered the sober assessment that any "real progress toward any agreement" ultimately will depend "on Russia's readiness to show serious commitment to long-term peace."

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

REUTERS

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

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

SL announces raft of relief for Ditwah affected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 country's disaster-response capacity.

As many as 611 people had died and over 200 remained

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 Freda Brilliant that has been installed at Tavistock Square in London's Bloomsbury since 1968

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

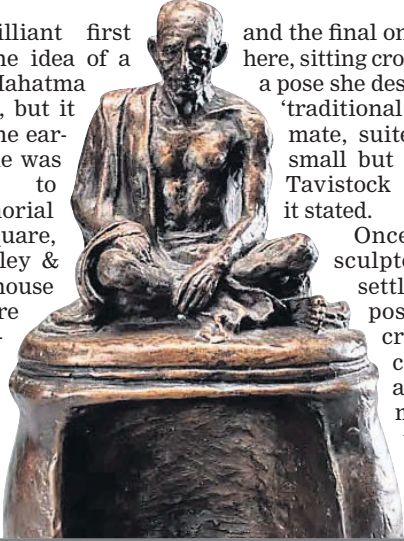
London, Dec 6: A miniature model of an iconic sculpture

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 Freda 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.

"Freda 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 to make the memorial in Tavistock Square, London," Woolley & Wallis auction house from Wiltshire 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'," it stated.

Once the sculptor had settled on the pose, she created a custom-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 Freda'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 Freda's most internationally recognised monuments and sculptures in motion," he said.

The bronze sculpture, created 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.

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 deliveries.

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 authority.

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 Ma-

haraj 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

Temba Bavuma (48, 67 balls) as the visitors moved to a healthy position.

De Kock was severe on Prasidh (4/66), who erred

on length continuously in his first spell (2-0-27-0). The left-hander biffed the pacer for 6, 6, 4 in his second over to milk 18 runs.

The 32-year-old quickly pounced on anything that was short, and pacers Prasidh and Harshit Rana offered him plenty of feed on his pet areas.

De Kock moved to fifty in 42 balls, and never let the tempo down reaching his hundred in 79 balls.

India found temporary relief when Ravindra Jadeja induced a false slash from Bavuma (48, 67 balls) to get caught by Kohli at point.

Brief scores:
South Africa 270 all out in 47.5 overs (Quinton de Kock 106, Temba Bavuma 48, Dewald Brevis 29; Kuldeep Yadav 4-41, Prasidh Krishna 4-66) lost to **India** 227/1 in 39.5 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 116 not out, Rohit Sharma 75, Virat Kohli 65; Keshav Maharaj 1-44) by nine wickets



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.

In 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 Pushkar 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 Badminton Association (OSBA)



President Rajesh Prabhakar Patil announced a special prize for the home state's successful players.

Tanvi Patri will be awarded Rs 5 Lakh, whereas Nimisha Ojha and Swati Nayak will receive Rs 2.5 Lakh. The total prize money for the championship amounted to Rs 40 Lakh.

The closing ceremony was graced by notable dignitaries, including Development Commissioner —cum-Additional 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



POST NEWS NETWORK

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

He added the wicket of Jamie Smith in his next over as England 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 (26) and Zak Crawley (44).

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 tallying 179.2.

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 with an aggregate of 586.

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

INDIA'S BIG SPLASH

Gold-silver podium finish at ISSF WC final



Samrat bags men's air pistol bronze

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 Hajar -- the same district as Bhaker -- earned Euro 5,000 for her effort, while Sainyam received a pay cheque of Euro 4,000.

me. I was struggling in the last 1-2 shots but I enjoyed it and I am happy," said Samrat.

Samrat shot 221.5 in the eight-shooter final.

India's former world champion Rudranksh Patil and Paris Olympic finalist Arjun Babuta missed out on medals in men's 10m air rifle, finishing fourth and sixth respectively.

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

Rudranksh, 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.

Babuta entered the 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

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," said George.

"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 Crespo 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 McLaren 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 out-

side 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."