



Kareena's insight

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan shares her parenting philosophy, emphasising kindness over intelligence

LEISURE | P2



China jets target Japan

Japan says Chinese fighter jets have aimed their radar at its military aircraft in 2 'dangerous' incidents near Okinawa islands

INTERNATIONAL | P10

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | DECEMBER 8, 2025



Selling spree

Foreign investors have pulled out ₹11,820 crore (\$1.3 billion) from Indian equities in the first week of December

BUSINESS | P11



Heartbreak for Mandhana

India batter Smriti Mandhana announces that her wedding has been called off, urging fans and media to stop speculations

SPORTS | P12

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Burn victim to be airlifted: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Dec 7: Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling Sunday visited the 17-year-old burn victim admitted to the Burn Centre of Rourkela Ispat General Hospital (IGH) and said she would be airlifted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar or AIIMS New Delhi once her condition be-

Mahaling met the girl's mother and family members at IGH and held discussions with the medical team treating her. Doctors informed him that the survivor has suffered about 92% burns. A team led by Dr Ruby Singh is monitoring her treatment, while another team is consulting with specialists at AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Police said the Plus III second-year student of Saraswati Women's College in Rajgangpur allegedly attempted suicide by setting herself on fire after being harassed by a youth. She was rushed to the IGH in a critical condition.

Mahaling said all medical protocols are being followed. He added that the accused youth has been arrested and produced in court. The minister said he had reviewed the case with the Sundargarh SP and stressed the need for preventive measures to avoid such incidents.



FOR A CAUSE: A vintage car rally over drug abuse and drug peddling in progress at Vidhana Soudha in Bangalore, Sunday, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara and other dignitaries attended the event

FIRE SAFETY THROWN TO THE WIND

Nightclub blaze claims 25 in Goa

Panaji, Dec 7: A fire that tore through an unauthorised nightclub in North Goa, killing 25 people including five tourists, has exposed the reckless and heavy-handed approach of the local administration. The club in Goa, Birch by Romeo Lane, which has presence in several other major cities in India like Delhi, Gurgaon, Meerut, Lucknow and also Bhubaneswar, was operating in blatant violation of fire safety norms. It continued to run even after receiving a demolition notice. Although the nightclub sat along the Arpora River backwaters, fire engines could not reach the site because of narrow access roads.

Fireworks emerged as the likely cause of the blaze at the nightclub at Arpora, officials said, adding that the facility allegedly did not possess even a fire department NOC.

At least six people were in-

them are undergoing treatment at hospitals. The deceased included 20 employees of the nightclub and five tourists, including four from Delhi.

Prima facie, the nightclub had not adhered to fire safety norms Goa CM Pramod Sawant said. Most of the deaths were caused by suffocation, as the

victims got trapped on the ground floor and in the kitchen, said a fire brigade official. Narrow lanes blocked access of fire brigade vehicles, and the water tankers had to be parked

about 400 metres away from the spot. This made controlling the blaze a challenging task, a senior officer from the Fire and Emergency Services said. Small doors coupled with

the narrow bridge leading to it made it difficult for the people to escape, fire officials said.

The club's CGM Rajiv Modak GM Vivek Singh, bar manager Rajiv Singhania, and gate man ager Riyanshu Thakur were arrested, Sawant said.

RREGULAR by MANJUL

My experience says a pilot must get proper rest. He should never work 18 hours a day

CM lays stone for Tarini shrine facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday laid the foundation stone for a peripheral development project worth ₹312 crore at Maa Tarini Temple complex, Ghatagaon in Keonjhar district.

Laying the foundation stone, the CM said, "Maa's blessings have been received, and we've been given an opportunity to serve the Goddess." He noted that the project was a dream conceptualised 18 months ago

and has finally taken shape The plan covers nearly 60

acres and aims to elevate the shrine to a world-class religious and tourism destination within a challenging one-year deadline. The mega revamp includes a 216-bed Yatri Niwas, Pilgrimage Centre, Interpretation Centre, Food Plaza, Watch Tower, Market Complex, Coconut Godown, and a vast Prasad Sevan Hall capable of serving 500 devotees at a time. The project also features enhanced approach roads, new parking



zones, beautification of four temple ponds, shoe stands, changing rooms, toilet blocks, and facilities for drivers.

In a significant decision, the CM instructed officials to include accommodation for the temple's Dehuri priests, direct-

ing the Works department and District Collector to prepare a DPR, assuring that no financial constraint would come in the way of completing this sacred mission. Majhi also announced infra-

structure projects worth more than ₹3,700 crore for his home district.

The projects include a fourlane ring road in Barbil at a cost of ₹2,300 crore and a bypass road in Keonjhar town worth around ₹428 crore. Similarly, a four-lane road will be built in the district headquarters hospital.





KIIT Deemed to be University (Established U/S 3 of UGC Act 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

CONGRATULATIONS

Making Odisha Proud

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in Eastern Region



222 Universities



Meet Records



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KIIT MEN'S RUGBY **TEAM WINS GOLD**



KIIT WOMEN'S HOCKEY **TEAM WINS GOLD**



KIIT WOMEN'S RUGBY **TEAM WINS GOLD**



KIIT 4X100M RELAY MEN'S **TEAM WINS GOLD**



WINS GOLD IN **WOMEN'S** WEIGHTLIFTING (86KG)



MAGANTI KEERTHI SAMARDEEP SINGH GILL WINS GOLD IN **MEN'S SHOT PUT**



KIIT WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL **TEAM WINS SILVER**



KIIT WOMEN'S SWIMMING **TEAM WINS 10 MEDALS & 1ST RUNNERS UP**



ISHA NEHI WINS GOLD IN



KHOIROM REJIYA DEVI WINS GOLD IN WOMEN'S WOMEN'S HEPTATHLON CYCLING INDIVIDUAL **PURSUIT**



RITHVIKA MITTAPALLI

21 MEDALS









🕅 KIIT-DU, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India 751024 🔀 kiit@kiit.ac.in 🌐 www.kiit.ac.in







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eisure



Aamir bats for diversity in film consumption

New Delhi: Bollywood superstar

Aamir Khan said he doesn't have any

biases against streaming platforms, and

Aamir spoke about it at a Summit,

which took place in Delhi. His com-

ments come after his last film Sitaare

Zameen Par, which garnered positive

It was later released on YouTube via

pay-per-view (PPV) model for Rs 100.

Explaining his decision, Aamir said

the films. "I was doing it alone; I was

would be nice if the industry collect

ively tried to create a window for the pay-per-view. It will be helpful

to the industry," he said. When asked about British star

Hugh Grant's critique of streaming platforms detracting from the communal joy of cinema, Aamir

said he isn't "agnostic" about the

xistence of the OTT medium.

all platforms are good. I've enjoyed watching films and

shows on OTT as an audience.

reach a position where we

are mature enough that

we allow the consumer to

decide where he wants to

consume and how, that's

the ideal thing. Any indus-

completing its theatrical run.

PERRY, TRUDEAU MAKE ROMANCE INSTA OFFICIAL Pop star Katy Perry and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have finally confirmed their long-rumoured relationship after appearing together on Instagram for the first time. The 41-year-old singer shared a set of photos from her recent Tokyo visit, and Trudeau featured prominently in the post, turning ongoing speculation into a moment that fans quickly labelled a "hard launch"

SWEENEY'S ADVICE FOR **UPCOMING ACTORS**

Sydney Sweeney, known for her role in Euphoria, began honing her acting skills at the tender age of 12. She advocates for aspiring actors to follow their heart and pursue their dreams, reminding them to cherish every moment of their artistic journey



FORTUNE **Forecas**t

👼 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

Today you will have to give in to your spouse's demands for improving the environment at home. In your own interest it will be advisable, says Ganesha, to hasten the measures needed to be taken and stay focussed on them as you are the one who is guilty of neglect.

TAURUS

Ganesha sees you taking a day off from your work and immersing your self in domestic activities. A lot of time will be spent blissfully with your family folk chatting away or doing this and that. The idea of getting your interiors redone and give your house a new look will surely occur to you.

GEMINI

You will be faced with a slew of demands from various people today, and you will find it difficult to meet all of them. However, you will be able to meet the requirements that need to be met to salvage the day. People will praise your intelligence and creativity, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will tackle with ease, even the most confounding challenges. You may be the scapegoat. fears Ganesha, as it shakes you and lowers your self-confidence. But shake off your weaknesses and obtain Lots of

You are advised to be more attentive to your work today. You will try to do the best work possible by putting in your maximum efforts. However, the results might turn out to be lower than your expectations. You need to be wary of excessive expenses or financial loss today. You need to escape losses today by keeping your wits above you, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Ganesha foretells that your writing abilities will help you give vent to your emotions without hurting others. You will finish all your incomplete tasks successfully Ganesha says that you will experience success in everything that you choose

LIBRA

Ganesha says today is a good day to renovate your home. You will be able to decorate your home artistically because of your designing skills. The atmosphere at your home will be a happy one with the arrival picnic with close friends or relatives.

SCORPIO

It's time to influence people and win their hearts whether it's your crush, love or your boss. You may be eager to express your feelings for them. At work, you are likely to work actively and kick start the projects in the pipeline. Ganesha, advises your to keep your eyes and ears open.

SAGITTARIUS Tough times do not last, but tough people do, remember this fact and move ahead in life. Try to make the complicated life simpler by your optimistic approach. Speak up when it is required and don't get

bogged down by unnecessary pressure.

CAPRICORN

The hassle and bustle around you will not disturb you today. You've been holding your emotions in your heart and they have started suffocating you. Such an uncomfortable situation may hamper your logical reasoning power and make you feel trapped. But, this too shall pass. You will easily come out of the negative zone and move ahead on the path, foretells Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You will go through some heavy mood swings today. And the people who know you well will get shocked and find it difficult to deal with you. Keep your guards on, and don't take uncalled-for decisions, advises Ganesha, rather get your current assignments cross the finishing line.

PISCES There is a thick chance that your day will be profitable on the monetary front. Money may pour in from business or even through overseas investments. Your knack for good public relations and networking will work to your benefit and good deals will come from far and unexpected sources as well.



Mumbai: Actress Kareena Kapoor, who is also a doting mother to her two boys - Taimur and Jeh, used social media to provide the netizens a glimpse into her parenting philosophy. Kareena not just wants her kids to be the

smartest in the room, but she also wants them to be the kindest. Bebo wished for her boys to be able

to love those who seem a little different, because she feels that, at the end, every professional achievement in life fades, but it is only one's character that stands the Kareena took to the Stories section of

her Instagram handle and re-shared a post that read, "I don't just want my kids to be smart. I want them to be kind. To love people who are different. To use their voices even when they shake. To live with faith even when the world makes fun of it. Because grades fade, jobs change, trophies collect dust - but character? That's forever (sic).'

wrote, "Happy Sunday Dosts", along with a red heart, rainbow and star emoji.

pied with Meghna Gulzar's forthcoming crime drama, Daayra. Backed by Junglee Pictures and Pen Studios, the much-await-Suku-

in a cru





Mumbai: Actor Sara Ali Khan is looking back fondly at her debut film *Kedarnath* as it completes 7 years since its release December 7. Marking the occasion she shared a series of nostalgic photos on Instagram along with a heartfelt note thanking her co-star, the late Sushant Singh Rajput, and the film's team.

7 years to Kedarnath. If only I could go back to 2017. not to change a single moment but to relive, cherish and truly appreciate every nanosecond of that magical time, she wrote Sara added that she misses the experience every day but remains deeply grateful for everything it taught her. In her tribute, she thanked Sushant for introducing her to black coffee, trekking, pahadi food, and even inspiring her fascination with the moon She credited him for instilling curiosity and a constant desire to learn. She also expressed gratitude to director Abhishek Kapoor, writer Kanika Dhillon, and her longtime friend Jehan Handa calling the film an integral and sacred part of her life.

Released in 2018, Kedarnath featured Sushant as a 'pithu' at the holy shrine and retold the tragic 2013 Uttarakhand floods. The



Krithi's spooky encounter

Chennai: Actress Krithi Shetty, who plays a Gypsy spirit reader in director Nalan Kumarasamy's upcoming Tamil film Vaa Vaathiyaar, featuring actor Karthi in the lead. has now disclosed that she really came across a spirit a day before she began shooting for the film!

Talking exclusively to this news agency, Krithi discloses, "I play a Gypsy spirit reader in Nalan sir's film." When asked if she believes

in spirits and if whether she has had supernatural experiences, she says, "I definitely believe in spirits. Because I am Tulu. We pray to our ancestors and we believe that they are always around us, protecting us like our guardian angels.

She goes on to add, "Something happened to me which made me believe in spirits even more. I witnessed a spirit in my hotel room. Just the night before my first

day of shoot, it was very, very strange. I am not sure if that spirit came to help me or it came because I did something while learning or while I was in the process of becoming the character.

"I didn't see the face of the spirit. But I saw the body, I saw the figure. And when we turned the light on, there was a loud sound and my mother and I looked at each other knowing that this was something supernatural," she recollects.

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

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

2

5

9

8

7

6

5

2

8

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

6

5 3

SUDOKU

2

5 7

3 2

1

4

PEANUTS

and regulations.

OH, YOU'RE A FINE ONE YOU ARE! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN NICE TO YOU, BUT DID YOU CARE?

NO, YOU DIDN'T! AND NOW A NEW GIRL MOVES IN AND SMILES ONCE AT YOU AND YOU GIVE HER

OH, YOU'RE A FINE ONE YOU ARE! YOU KNOW WHAT I HOPE? T HOPE YOU HAVE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN THAT'S WHAT I HOPE!



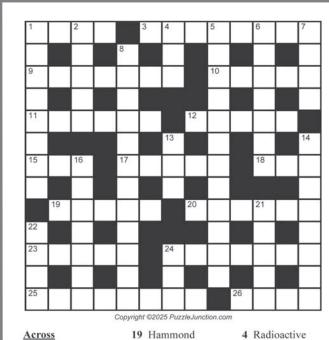
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**



Across

- 1 Table extender 3 Where to find
- castles and horses (5,3)
- 9 Protective wall 10 Wherewithal
- 11 Garish, cheap
- and shoddy
- 12 Poker term (3.2)
- 15 Engine part 17 Great divide

- 18 Sun follower?
- Down
- 1 Purse item 2 Cupid's

projectile

instrument

23 Port-au-Prince's

24 Multi-coloured

25 Medical eruption

20 Jailbird

land

pony

26 Macho-man

- 16 Gin or vodka
- cocktail 21 Anticipate

13 Shrew

22 Clarified butter 24 Taro dish

5 Lacking grey

matter (6-6)

6 Amphitheatre

7 Ivory source

8 Expressing

gratitude

14 Bride-to-be

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Divvangs put up a soulful performance at Bipin Bihari Choudhury School for the Deaf in Bhubaneswar celebrating the State-level Dibyanga Mahotsav-2025



owntown

CM Majhi announces 3rd **Steel City in Keonjhar**

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: During his visit to Keonjhar Sunday, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi unveiled a transformative industrial roadmap for the district, formally declaring Keonjhar as Odisha's third Steel City-after Rourkela and Jajpur-Kalinganagar. Calling Keonjhar the "heart of Odisha" and a treasure trove of natural resources, the CM emphasised that the district had contributed immensely to the state's growth and now deserved accelerated development.

At the core of this announcement is a mega steel plant, the process for which is already underway. The Chief Minister announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the plant would be conducted soon, marking a major step toward boosting industrial capacity, job creation, and economic expansion in the region.

The CM also announced a massive infrastructure develop-



ment drive aimed at supporting the upcoming industrial ecosystem. Major road and connectivity projects include the Paradip-Barbil eight-lane highway, which is progressing under the Central government, a four-lane ring road in Barbil to be constructed at a cost of ₹2,300 crore, and a new Keonjhar bypass road estimated at ₹428 crore.

Beyond roads, a series of technology and industrial facilities were unveiled, including a Tech Park worth ₹168 crore. an OCAC Data Centre at ₹150 crore, a Textile Park at Balabhadrapur costing ₹150 crore, and a Data Recovery Centre at Dharanidhar University worth

announced included the Raisuan Airstrip (Rs 103 crore), a new Keonjhar Stadium (Rs 180 crore), and an RPRC facility at Sanaghagara (Rs 50 crore), all aimed at improving the district's infrastructure, sports, and research capabilities.

In total, a massive ₹35,000 crore has been earmarked for Keonjhar from various Central and State schemes, DMF, OMBADC, and other funding sources. The CM said this unprecedented investment will fuel the creation of a "Golden Keonjhar", aligning with the state government's vision of making Odisha the Growth Engine of India by 2036.

2.5 quintal ganja seized; 1 held in highway chase

POST NEWS NETWORK

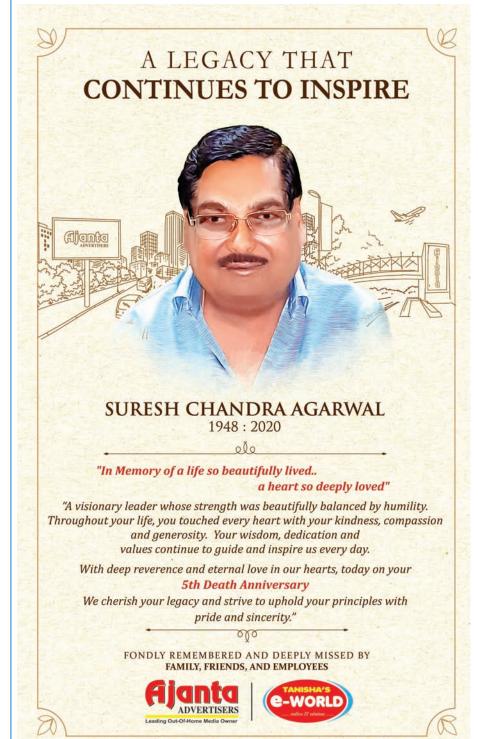
Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: In a major breakthrough, Pahal Police, Sunday morning, arrested a man while transporting a massive consignment of ganja in a vehicle on NH-16. The police seized 2 quintal 52 kg of contraband during the operation.

According to the police sources, they received credible intelligence at around 6:21am that the accused identified as Ramesh Meher (25) of Butupali village in Boudh district, was transporting a large quantity of ganja from Boudh to Balasore in his white Tata Winger and was likely to pass through Pahala towards Cuttack.

Acting on the tip-off, the IIC of Pahala Police Station deployed a police team to intercept the vehicle. The team took position near Jagannath Temple on NH-16 and waited for the suspect.

At about 7:55 am, the police spotted the suspected vehicle coming from Bhubaneswar side. On noticing the police presence, the driver allegedly attempted to flee at high speed. However, the police managed to chase, intercept and apprehend Ramesh around 8:00 am

During the search, police found nine plastic bags with ganja inside the vehicle. The consignment weighing 2 quintal 52 kg along with the Tata Winger was seized on the spot.



GELS 2025 Summit concludes with Draft Puri Declaration

Four strategic MoUs signed to drive India's energy transition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Dec 7: India's first COPstyle platform for interstate energy coordination, the Global Energy Leadership Summit (GELS) 2025, concluded in Puri, Sunday,

with the launch of the draft Puri Declaration and the signing of four strategic Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to accelerate the nation's clean-energy

Based on discussions over the two-day summit and inputs from the Union Power Ministry and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, a draft of the Puri Declaration was presented, marking a major step toward building a lasting, cooperative framework for India's clean-energy transition.

Thanking the visiting dignitaries and expressing optimism about the declaration's future, Deputy CM Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo stated, "The process of consensus for the Puri Declaration is underway, and once completed, it will be a collective acknowledgment that no single state can go alone-and our shared promise is that none will

At GELS 2025, four strategic MoUs were signed to accelerate Odisha's clean-energy initiatives. These included collaborations on renewable-energy pilot projects with NTU Singapore, GRIDCO, and IIT Bhubaneswar; the establishment of a Green Hydrogen Centre of Excellence with GRIDCO, ReNew, IIT Bhubaneswar, and Avaada; a renewable-energy development partnership between NIRL, ORE-DA, and GEDCOL.

Bihar man held in 2023 Odisha exam paper leak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: The Odisha Police arrested a man from Bihar in connection with the question paper leak for the JE (civil) exam 2023, an officer said Sunday.

Raj Mohan Prasad (35), a resident of Bihar's Samastipur district, was arrested by the Crime Branch Saturday and brought to Odisha on transit remand Sunday, he said.

So far, 27 people have been arrested in the case, he added.

The recruitment examination for junior civil engineers was scheduled to be conducted July 16, 2023, but was postponed after the question paper leak. According to the police, Prasad, along with Vishal Kumar, Bijendra Gupta and Ajay Kumar, went to a hotel near Digha in West Bengal with the leaked question papers. Around 87 candidates were supposed to go there to

Acting on a tip-off, the Odisha Police conducted a raid and arrested the accused persons. but Prasad managed to escape from the spot. He continuously changed his location, but was apprehended at last.

Nalco plans to start Pottangi bauxite mines by mid-2026



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: State-owned National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) is aiming to start its Pottangi bauxite mines in Odisha by June next year as the company plans to ramp up its mining capacity supporting its goal of expanding its integrated aluminium business

Nalco CMD Brijendra Pratap Singh said, "Our target is, we will be starting the mines by June next year."

As per reports, the PSU is set to enhance its alumina production capacity at its Damanjodi refinery in Koraput district. Nalco operates a 2.275 million tonnes per annum (MT-PA) alumina refinery at the site and is undertaking the installation of a 5th stream that will add an additional 1 MTPA capacity.

To support this expansion, the Odisha government has granted Nalco a mining lease for the Pottangi Bauxite Deposit in Koraput district. The lease covers an area of 697,979 hectares and is valid for 50 years, ensuring steady raw material supply for the increased alumina production.

This capacity augmentation is expected to strengthen Nalco's position in the aluminium sector and contribute to the industrial growth of Odisha.

The CMD further said till production from Pottangi starts or if it gets delaved by a few months, the production from alternate sourcing of bauxite will come. So, there will not be a shortage of bauxite for the expanded refinery.

"Already we have a separate project where alternate sourcing of bauxite is there. We are making a parallel conveyor downhill from our existing mines, perforated mines, which will be having a capacity of around 30 lakh tons per year. So, that will get commissioned in April-May next year,"

the CMD explained. Nalco is a Navaratna public sector enterprise under administrative control of Ministry of Mines is in the field of alumina, aluminium and has integrated multi-locational facility of bauxite mining, alumina refining, aluminum smelter, power generation and port. The company is one of the largest manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium in the country.

Odisha set to gain big from 6-lane Raipur-Vizag corridor

New Delhi, Dec 7: Odisha is set to be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the upcoming 6-lane greenfield Raipur-Visakhapatnam Economic Corridor, which will cut travel time between the two terminal cities from 12 hours to just 5 hours once completed in December 2026.

Passing through Odisha's mineral-rich belt—particularly Borigumma, Nabarangpur and Koraput—the corridor is being developed by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways at a cost of ₹16.482 crore. The new alignment will reduce the existing 597 km stretch on NH-26 to 465 km, saving 132 km and nearly seven hours of travel time, leading to major fuel savings and lower transportation costs for both public and freight operators.

Under the PM Gati Shakti vision,

the corridor will offer faster logistics and seamless connectivity. Industries in Chhattisgarh and Odisha will gain direct access to Visakhapatnam Port and the Chennai-Kolkata National Highway, enabling quicker exports, smoother supply chains and a major boost to trade. The project is also expected to spur tourism, iob creation and real estate growth along the route, the ministry said.

For truckers, farmers and families along the alignment, the project represents a shift toward better economic prospects. Vishal, a lorry owner plying the Raipur-Visakhapatnam route, says the reduced distance will mean lower diesel consumption and less wear and tear. Farmers, too, are witnessing a transformation, with land values rising sharply since construction began. In some areas, prices have

Residents of Vizianagaram district say that although parting with land was difficult, the upcoming corridor has generated hope and new opportunities. "The value of our remaining land has increased and villagers are feeling happy about the project," said Srinivasulu of Jami village.

Beyond economic gains, the corridor will significantly improve mobility across tribal and remote districts in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, integrating them more closely with markets and essential services. The access-controlled, 6-lane highway—designed for speeds of 100 km/hr-will also decongest the existing 2-lane NH-26, enhancing travel safety, comfort and reliability for both passengers and freight operators.



"The India today is not just 'Vocal for Local' but also providing a global platform to take it to the world"

- Shri Narendra Modi Prime Minister



Empowering Artisans, Continuing Traditions

- Exports of over ₹4.04 lakh crore handicrafts to over 90+ countries
- 1.7+ lakh artisans and allied workers given direct market access
- 4,900 exhibitions leading to commerce of over ₹ 500+ crore
- 75,000 artisans empowered through formation of 250 Producer Companies bringing them into organised economic network
- 71,600 artisans benefited from improved toolkits, enabling better output
- 1.5 lakhs artisans upskilled through specialised training
- 336 handicrafts products given GI registration, preserving their unique *Figures for last 11 years



INDIA CELEBRATES NATIONAL HANDICRAFTS WEEK



14th Dec. 2025

Discover the Magic of Handmade - LEARN, EXPLORE & CELEBRATE

Master Creation	Handicraft Awards	Heritage Week	Craft Katha	Rollout of the Chaupal	Crafted for the Future	Future of Crafts in India
Dilli Haat, INA	Vigyan Bhawan	The Kunj, Nelson Mandela Marg	Handloom Haat Janpath	Scope Auditorium CGO Complex Lodhi Road	National Craft Museum Bhairon Marg	The Kunj Nelson Mandela Marg
1st-15th Dec '25	9 th Dec '25	8th-14th Dec '25	11th-17th Dec '25	12th Dec '25	12th - 21st Dec '25	14th Dec '25
10:00 am - 08:00 pm	11:00 am - 12:30 pm	10:00 am - 08:00 pm	10:00 am - 08:00 pm	11:30 am - 01:00 pm	10:00 am - 08:00 pm	11:00 am - 02:00 pr

Pan India Celebrations through Craft Demonstration, Training Programs, Exhibitions and various other activities

Ghar - Ghar Swadeshi, Har Ghar Swadeshi

#vocalforlocal #myhandicraftsmypride



surged from around ₹15 lakh per











INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA TUESDAY

CP issues traffic advisory ahead of Barabati clash



AUTISM THERAPY CENTRE

CELEBRATES ANNUAL DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: The Commissionerate Police (CP) Sunday, issued traffic advisory ahead of India vs South Africa match December 9 and practice session December 8, scheduled at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack.

Ahead of the T20 match and practice sessions, Cuttack will witness heavy traffic on all major routes leading to the venue. Police have urged commuters to plan their travel and follow traffic instructions to avoid

"In order to ensure player

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Au-

tism Therapy Centre (ATC),

Bhubaneswar celebrated its

Annual Day function, along

with Autism Awareness Day

Sunday at Regional Medical

Research Centre (RMRC) au-

The function was attended

by the autistic children, their

parents, and family members,

besides many distinguished

dignitaries. OMC CSR head and

Executive Director (P&A) Talat

Aafreen attended as chief guest.

nalata Mishra presented the

MAN Trust Chairman Swar-

ditorium here.

security and smooth traffic management, the Commissionerate Police has imposed special traffic restrictions under Odisha Urban Police Act, 2003 and Regulation 36 of the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissionerate (Traffic and Public Order) Regulation, 2008. These restrictions will be in force December 8 from 12 noon to 9 pm, and December 9 from 8 am until the match ends and the crowd disperses," the official notification issued by CP and signed off by Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh mentioned.

According to the advisory vehicles coming from Mata Matha must park at the Lower Baliyatra Ground, while pass-holding vehicles will park at Upper Baliyatra ground. Vehicles from Howrah Motor Square and Mani Sahoo Chowk will be diverted from Madhu sudan Statue and re-routed through Mahanadi Ring Road to Lower Baliyatra ground.

Likewise, no vehicles without valid passes will be permitted towards Barabati Stadium from Biju Patnaik Square, Chandi Mandir square, Hanuman Mandir square, or Lions Eye Hospital square. Similarly, access to Baliyatra ground via Killa Fort from Ananda Bhawan Square will remain restricted.

Heavy vehicles will face strict movement restrictions on both Mahanadi and Kathajodi Ring Roads and within the City limits from 8 am to 2 am. During the players' practice session December 8, heavy vehicle movement will be completely barred between Chahata Square and Sikharpur Square towards Bamboo Depot from 12 noon to 10 pm.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: At a press conference Sunday, Congress brought back the long-running Barapada School of Engineering and Technology (BSET) scandal in Bhadrak into the spotlight, labeling serious allegations of corruption and land misappropriation against former BJD MLA Prafulla Samal and his son Prayaskanti Samal, while sharply criticising the ruling BJP for inducting leaders facing such corruption

Former MP Ananta Prasad

BSET SCAM

Sethi, Bhadrak Congress MLA candidate Asit Patnaik and senior Congress spokesperson Manoranjan Dash were present at the presser.

"Two people hanged themselves by nooses around their necks due to non-payment of salary," claimed the leaders. highlighting tragic human cost of the alleged financial irregularities of the institution. The party further alleged that the 'corrupt money' from the scandal was being

Sethi launched a scathing attack on the BJP, stating, "The BJP has once again proved itself to be a big 'Washing Machine'," and asserted that the party is inducting individuals currently under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for corruption.

"Once the leaders with corruption allegations join the BJP, they become corruption-free and taint-free. The BSET corruption and joining of BJD leaders into the BJP is nothing but a strategy of the

get 20 years RI



Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: In a significant verdict under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. the Second Additional District Judge-cum-Special Judge, Bhu baneswar, Saturday convicted two interstate ganja peddlers, sentencing them to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and imposing a fine of Rs lakh each.

The court further ordered that in case of non-payment of the fine, the accused would undergo an additional one-year of rigorous imprisonment.

The convicts, Anil Kumar from Uttar Pradesh and Ganesh Shah from West Delhi, were charged under Section 20(b) (ii) (C)/29 of the NDPS Act, 1985, for transporting contraband ganja from Odisha to Uttar Pradesh

and Delhi. The duo was apprehended June 21, 2022, on NH-16 near Gohiria Chhak under Tamando Police Station, Bhubaneswar, while transporting the contra

band in a container. During the search, 806.9 kg of ganja was recovered, hidden in a secret chamber of the vehicle. Both the vehicle and the seized

ganja were confiscated. The contraband was sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL), Rasulgarh, where the Scientific Officer confirmed it as the fruiting and flowering tops of the cannabis plant. Following a thorough investigation, a charge-sheet was

filed against the accused. During the trial, the prosecution examined 12 witnesses and submitted 23 documents as evidence. The seized ganja has since been destroyed following the court's orders.

The Special Task Force (STF of Odisha Police, which specialises in curbing organised crime and narcotics trafficking, not ed that this is the sixth NDPS case in the state resulting in a 20-year conviction under the NDPS Act, 1985.

Cong slams BJP, terms it 'washing machine' style of Prayaskanti Samal.

INEFFABLE WINGED GUESTS: A flock of black-tailed godwits (Limosa limosa) in flight at Mangalajodi Wetlands in Tangi, Khurda Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

OPLC 2025 calls for digital libraries in panchayats

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Setting a decisive roadmap for the future of grassroots knowledge infrastructure, Odisha Public Library Conference (OPLC) 2025 concluded here Sunday with a strong collective commitment to establish modern digital public libraries in every panchayat of Odisha.

Hosted at Bhanja Kala Mandap here, the one-day conference was organised by Odisha Society of the Americas (OSA), a global organisation of Odias based in the United States. This year's theme 'Odisha Public Library Vision', focused on a future-ready library ecosystem across the state. Odisha Legislative Assembly Speaker Surama Padhi attended as chief guest and appreciated OSA's visionary initiative. Kendrapara MLA Ganeshwar Behera also graced the event.

"Libraries play a crucial role in enhancing the knowledge of



students, youth, and people from every walk of life. Therefore, establishing new libraries and modernising the present library infrastructure is essential. We must collectively work to realise OSA's proposal for establishing modern public libraries in rural Odisha," said Padhi.

Four panel discussions were held at the conference exploring themes such as building an integrated modern public library network in Odisha, capital investment in India's digital public libraries, libraries of the 21st century—from information centres to innovation hubs and strengthening the civil society-driven library movement in Odisha.

OSA's Odisha Public Library Initiative chairman Ajay Kumar Mohanty, and convenor Nishikant Sahoo presented key proposals and insights. The conference engaged in extensive deliberations on how Odisha can rapidly build state-of-the-art public libraries accessible to every citizen, and how a robust library movement under the leadership of the state government can play a etal empowerment. Karnataka Additional Chief

transformational role in soci-

Secretary and Development Commissioner Uma Mahadevan participated as keynote speaker through video conference and highlighted Karnataka's model of community-centred digital library ecosystem and development of over six thousand public libraries.

The conference emphasised on how modern libraries can enhance youth employability, support skill building across different social groups, expand digital and financial literacy, and create inclusive access to knowledge.

Prominent attendees included OSA members Debendra Das, Jaygopal Mohanty, officials from Odisha Library Network, educationists, library movement activists, faculty of Library Science, administrators of several libraries, media professionals, writers, social workers, and intellectuals.

ECoR to run special trains, augment additional coaches

Bhubaneshwar, Dec 7: In view of the increased demand and to resolve passenger rush following IndiGo flight cancellations, East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to run special trains and augment additional coaches in some regular trains towards Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Howrah regions, said ECoR officials Sunday. Special trains announced by

ECoR includes Bhubaneswar

- LTT special (08401)— will depart from Bhubaneswar December 7, LTT - Sambalpur special (08402) will depart from

annual report and listed various

activities conducted by ATC in-

cluding Annual Sports Meet, ob-

servance of various important na-

tional and religious celebrations

and preparation of ATC calendar.

and debate competition on

theme 'Awareness or accep-

tance & empowerment for

autistic individuals' were

awarded at the event. Gau-

tam Panda was awarded 'ATC

Champion-2025' prize. The

function was presided over

by MAN Trust's executive

body member Madan Mohan

Panda, while Ranjan Kumar

Bal delivered vote of thanks.

The winners of sports meet

LTT December **INDIGO CHAOS** 9, Puri - Anand Vihar Terminal special (08403) will depart from Puri December 8. Anand Vihar Terminal - Bhubaneswar special (08404) will depart from Anand Vihar Terminal December 9, Visakhapatnam – SMVB Bengaluru special (08501) will

depart from Visakhapatnam

December 8 and SMVB Benga-

luru – Visakhapatnam special (08502) will depart from SMVB Bengaluru December 9.

coaches have

In addition to special trains, extra

been added to the regular trains to clear extra rush of passengers. Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Tejas Rajdhani express (22811) December 7 and New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Tejas Rajdhani express (22812) December 8, augmented with one 1st AC. Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Tejas Rajdhani express

(22823) December 8 and New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Tejas Rajdhani express (22824) December 9 augmented with one 3rd AC.

Similarly, Puri- Shalimar Garib Rath express (12882) December 8 and 10 and Shalimar -Puri Garib Rath express (12881) December 9 and 11 augmented with one 3rd AC Economy class coach. Puri-Yesvantpur Garib Rath express (22883) December 12 and Yesvantpur -Puri Garib Rath express (22884) December 13 augmented with one 3rd AC Economy class coach.

Santali book stall opens at book fair POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: A dedicated Santali stall, set up by Santali Saoanhed Akhada, was inaugurated at 7th Odisha State Book Festival-2025, organised by state government at Exhibition Ground here. This is the only stall representing Santali language at the fair.

The stall was formally inaugurated by eminent Santali writer Rambai Hembram. Others including Kailash Chandra Baskey, Surukuni

Murmu, Minati Hansda, Sunaram Murmu, Mangat Murmu and others were present during the occasion.

The 12-day-long book festival features a wide range of Santali publications, including journals, syllabus books, reference books and educational materials in Santali (Ol Chiki) script.

The organisers have urged the general public to visit the stall and make use of the opportunity to explore learning materials.

IRC aims to make 25 dists child marriage free

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Giving a thrust to India's goal to become child marriage free by 2030, Just Rights for Children (JRC) has announced an intensive intervention in 25 districts of Odisha which are identified as high-prevalence areas under the National Family Health Survey V (2019-21). JRC targets to make one lakh villages in the country child marriage free by 2026.

The announcement coincides with first anniversary of 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign by Central government. As per the NFHS V, prevalence of child marriage in Odisha is at 20.5 per cent, lower than national average of 23.3 per cent. However, huge disparity in the situation remains in different districts within the state. For instance, in Nabarangapur, Nayagarh, Koraput, Rayagada. Malkangiri and Mayurbhanj, the prevalence of child marriage is higher than 30 per cent. Six other districts also registered a prevalence rate more than the national average.

Extending complete support to the government's campaign and sharing JRC's roadmap for the year ahead, JRC founder Bhuwan Ribhu said, "The role of community groups, faith leaders, panchayats and citizens is central to building a child marriage free India.

"The government's 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign has become a model for the world. It also stands as a celebration of our collective work to end this crime against children. Last year, more than one lakh child marriages were stopped or prevented, showing that when society comes together, change is inevitable. Next year, together we pledge to make one lakh villages child marriage free so that every child has opportunities and a secure future," he added.

JRC uses 3P model of Protection, Prevention and Prosecution to stop child marriages



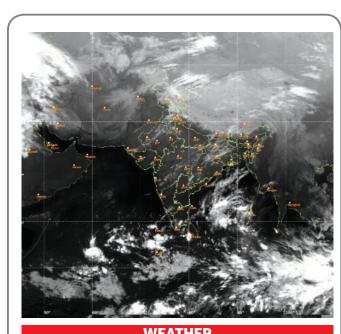
across the country and has prevented over 4,35,205 child marriages between April 1, 2023 and November 14, 2025. Through legal interventions and widespread awareness on child marriage laws in communities, schools, among faith leaders and marriage service providers, the network has driven a major shift in how

child marriage is perceived and tolerated in India.

To mark the successful completion of one year of 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat', Ministry for Women and Child Development has launched '100 Days Intensive Campaign Plan'. The 100day action plan concludes on International Women's Day March 8, 2026.

The action plan includes three phases, to be followed in states, districts as well as villages. During the first phase, the focus would be on generating awareness through schools, colleges and educational institutes. Religious places and marriage-related service providers including temples, mosques, churches, gurudwaras, wedding halls, and band parties would be in focus in the second phase, and strengthening community-level engagement in Gram Panchayats and municipal wards would be part of the third phase.

Responding to the notification, Odisha government has asked all the field functionaries and officials of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Rural Development, department of School Education and Literacy and department of Higher Education to actively participate and make this campaign impactful.



	WEATH	-D		
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	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST	
lax Temp	28.5°	25.8°	Dry weather ver likely to prevail over the district of Odisha	
1in Temp	11.9°	11.8°		
lumidity	67%	72%		
ainfall	Nil	Nil	- Wille	
			L. Just	

Farmers threaten stir over tardy paddy procurement

Instead of engaging with farmers' concerns, leaders of both the ruling and opposition parties are trading political barbs, the farmer leaders said, terming it an affront to the agricultural community

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Dec 7: The kharif paddy procurement process in Bargarh has come to a grinding halt barely days after the process started November 28 sparking anger among farmers as mandis remain clogged with unsold grains. The delay has also kept thousands of farmers waiting for procurement tokens, while millers are reportedly staying away from lifting operations.

At a meeting held Sunday at Samata Bhavan, the Western Odisha Farmers' Organisations Coordination Committee cautioned that the continued deadlock could snowball into widespread unrest if immediate corrective steps are not taken. The warning came as farm-

Burnt, decomposed

body found from hill

Chhatrapur: Police Sunday recovered

the burnt and decomposed body of

of the Sulia hill near Khallikote after passersby reported a foul smell along

SDPO Chandan Kumar Ghadei and

the Medipur-Alapur route. Chhatrapur

Khallikote IIC Ramesh Kumar Pradhan reached the site and seized the body,

which was found in a low-lying area.

peared to have been lying at the spot

deep injury marks and bruises, indicat

ing the person may have been attacked

with sharp objects before being set on

fire with petrol. Police said the possibil ity of murder cannot be ruled out given

the circumstances. A case of unnatura

death has been registered at the Khal-

likote police station, and an investiga-tion is underway to identify the victim

Traffic woes subside as

Sunabeda Municipality

clears vendors from NH

Koraput: The Sunabeda municipal ad-

ministration Sunday carried out a majo

eviction drive to clear makeshift stalls and unauthorised business setups along

the national highway passing through

ic traffic congestion and improve road

safety. Municipal officials, supported by enforcement staff and police, began

the operation early Sunday to avoid

crowding and ensure a smooth process.

Stalls lining both sides of the highway

near the Semiliguda Vending Zone were removed, along with structures operat-

ing from the Semiliguda Traffic Square

Nandapur main road. Authorities said

multiple warnings issued to vendors

in recent weeks had gone unheeded.

Executive Officer Sujit Choudhary said

the eviction was necessary to protect

public safety. "This is a busy national

creating serious congestion," he said

Municipality Chairman Raiendra Patro

said proper vending zones have been identified. He added that officials will

and will monitor the stretch to prevent

highway, and the encroachments were

to the Ganga Maa Temple and along the

According to police, the corpse ap-

for three to four days based on its condition. Officers said the body bore

an unidentified person at the foot

the late opening of mandis, the government has failed to operationalise the procurement

er leaders alleged that despite

Farmers complained that only 'symbolic' quantities of paddy have been purchased at a few centres, leaving thousands of bags piled up without clarity on when they will be lifted. Farmer leaders criticised the government for failing to present any concrete plan even as the Assembly is in session.

Instead of engaging with farmers' concerns, leaders of both the ruling and opposition parties are trading political barbs, they said, terming it an affront to the agricultural com-

The unions also accused suc-

ing millers to dictate procurement terms, pushing farmers further into exploitation. They demanded that the state adopt a direct procurement system on the lines of Chhattisgarh, where the government buys paddy directly from farmers

and transports it to mandis. The Jay Kisan Andolan warned that if the government continues to overlook the crisis, the organisation would have no option but to escalate its agitation at any moment.

The meeting was attended by senior farmer leaders including Siba Prasad Pradhan, general secretary Hara Bania, Arun Kumar Sahu, Bhanian Barik. Arun Pradhan, Surendra Meher, Minister Barik, Bijay Pradhan, Kuna Behera, Prabin Sahu, and Sitaram Meher.

Employee found dead at Badmal ordnance factory

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saintala, Dec 7: Police Sunday recovered the body of a Chemical Process Worker (CPW) from the Badmal ordnance factory premises in Bolangir district. The cause of death remains unclear, officials said.

According to police, two explosive-laden vans from the Aruvankadu factory in Tamil Nadu arrived at the Badmal unit Saturday evening under the supervision of CPW D. Balakrishna. The vans were parked near the factory's bachelor mess, where the team was permitted to rest for the night.

However, the driver reportedly found Balakrishna lying dead behind one of the vans Sunday morning and informed

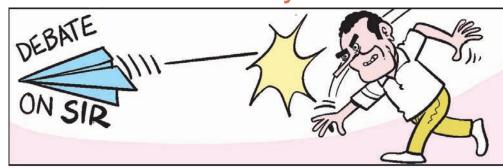
> cials, who alerted Badmal police. Officers seized the body and have begun an investi-

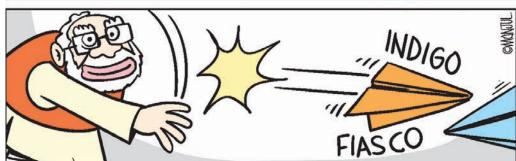
factory offi-

Police said the ex-

act circumstances surrounding the death will be known only after the post-mortem report is

POLITICKLE by MANJUL





Violence, arson rock Malkangiri village

Korukonda, Dec 7: Tension ran high, as residents of Rakhalguda village under this block in Malkangiri district Sunday marched to MV-26 village and allegedly vandalised several houses and set some of them on fire demanding arrest of the accused in a case wherein a decapitated body of a woman was found three days back.

Police recovered the body with its head severed near Poteru river under Korukonda police limits in Malkangiri district December 4. The deceased was identified as Lake Padiami. 50, of Rakhalguda. Residents of Rakhalguda and members of a local tribal outfit have alleged that someone from MV-26 village might have committed the murder. They demanded that police trace the missing head

and arrest the prime suspects immediately.

With no breakthrough even after three days, hostility between residents of MV-26 and Raikhalguda intensified.

Some residents of Rakhalguda and nearby areas reportedly marched to MV-26 Sunday, and vandalised several houses and set some of them on fire.

Collector Somesh Kumar Upadhyay and SP Vinodh Patil H rushed to the spot along with a large police and administrative team. Officials inspected each house in the village and held discussions with residents, assuring them of protection and support. Fire personnel doused the fire while sniffer dogs were pressed into service to trace the severed head. The Collector also said compensation would be provided after assessing the

3 arrested for thrashing, dragging youth on road



Balasore, Dec 7: Three persons were arrested for allegedly thrashing a youth with lathis and dragging him on a road in Balasore district over property dispute, police said

According to the police, the victim identified as Debasis Hati was allegedly beaten up and dragged on a village road tied to a rope till he became unconscious. He was later thrown near the police outpost of Parikhi under Sadar police station in the coastal district

The incident happened at Telgadia village December 3, and it became public after a video clip of the incident went viral on some social me dia platforms, the police said.

After the victim's wife lodged a complaint in the Sa dar police station December 5, the police launched an investigation and apprehended the three persons for their alleged involvement in the incident, a police officer said.

In her complaint, Hati's wife alleged that she was also abused and manhandled while trying to save her husband from the miscreants or that day.

Hati is now being treated at the District Headquarters

Hospital, Balasore. The police said that the incident was the outcome of a property dispute.

"We have arrested three accused persons in connection

Biting cold wave grips G Udayagiri



POST NEWS NETWORK

G Udayagiri, Dec 7: A severe cold wave has gripped the G Udayagiri area in Kandhamal district as temperatures continue to fall affecting normal life of the residents. Accord-

ing to the Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, the minimum temperature in G Udayagiri was recorded at 4.4°C at 8am Sunday. The minimum temperature stood at 5.4°C Saturday.

Government data show that

reported low temperatures, with Semiliguda at 6.1°C, Rourkela at 7.2°C, Daringbadi at 7.5°C, Jharsuguda at 7.6°C, and Phulbani at 8°C. The intense cold wave has

left residents shivering as they are seen warming themselves around roadside fires in the neighbourhoods and market areas. Young people, meanwhile, engage in morning exercise to stay active and cope with the cold while also enjoying the winter chill.

Tourist footfall has increased across various natural attractions in the region. Locals have renewed their demand for the construction of eco-cottages near Sirki Eco Park to boost tourism.

Road blockade after couple, son assaulted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, Dec 7: Miscreants Sunday allegedly beat up a couple and their son with iron rods after they thwarted their encroachment bid at Kruttibasapur village under Thakurgarh police limits in

The incident sparked tension in the area as local residents staged a road blockade by burning tires, demanding the immediate arrest of the

Locals rescued the victims identified as Chhabi Rana, 48, wife Shailabala Rana, 42,

and son Siddhant, 25, and admitted them to the district

Residents said the incident

the person allegedly dumped five truckloads of gravel in front of the shop. When Shailabala and son Siddhant objected, the man and his associates reportedly attacked the family members with iron rods.

Following the assault, villagers staged a road blockade at Kruttibasapur, demanding the arrest of the attackers. When Thakurgarh police arrived and tried to pacify the crowd, agitated locals gheraoed the policemen.

Minor girl drowns; another critical fell into deep water. Her friend.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Dec 7: A minor girl drowned and another rendered critical after they slipped into the deep waters of a pond while taking bath at Chudungpur under this police limits and Sanakhemundi block in Ganjam district around 10 am Sunday.

The deceased was identified as eight-vear-old R Saloni Patra, a Class III student of the village school. Her classmate N Rajeshwari was rendered critical while trying to rescue Saloni from drowning. Police said Saloni accidentally

slipped from the pond's edge and

Rajeshwari tried to save her but also slipped and went underwater. Some villagers, who were nearby, managed to rescue Rajeshwari, but Saloni could not be located immediately. On being informed, Digapahandi fire services personnel reached the spot and pulled both girls from the water. They were rushed to Digapahandi Community Health Center, where doctors pronounced Saloni dead. Rajeswari was shifted to MKCH Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur. Police registered an unnatural death case (46/25)

Angul district.

accused persons.

headquarters hospital for treatment. However, no formal com-

plaint had been filed at the police station when reports last came in.

stemmed from a long-standing dispute over a piece of land near the Kruttibasapur High School Square, where Chhabi runs a bicycle repair shop. A person from the Jarapada area had been claiming ownership of the spot, leading to frequent quarrels.

The incident occurred when

Later, Athamallik SDPO Susanta Kumar Taudia reached the spot and held discussions with the protesters.

with the incident. Two of them will be forwarded to the court Sunday, while another person was under medical care," said Ajay Kumar Murmu, Inspector In-Charge of Sadar police station. The third accused person will be forwarded to the court after getting medical clear-

Barpali Railway Station gets facelift under Amrit **Bharat Station Scheme**

Bargarh: Barpali Railway Station has undergone a major transformation under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, one of the flagship initiatives of the Centre, aimed at ensuring modern, inclusive, and future ready railway infrastructure across the nation. This initiative reflects the Centre's broader vision of providing world class public amenities even in semi urban and rural regions, thereby ensuring balanced regional development. With a redevelopment cost of ₹22.28 crore, the upgraded Barpali Sta tion now stands as a model of modern railway architecture featuring improved accessibility, enhanced safety, enriched cultural aesthetics, and upgraded passenger facilities. Guided by the consistent focus of the Union Minister of Railways on station modernisation and citizen centric services, Barpali Railway Station now emerges as a key infrastructural asset for western Odisha. The modernisation of Barpali Station is expected to bring wide ranging socio economic benefits, improved connective ity, support daily commuters, students, traders, and farmers across Bargarh district and peripheral regions. Enhanced infrastructure will boost opportunities for local businesses and OSOP (One Station One Product) artisans, helping them access a larger marketplace



Missing for 11 years, man brought back from B'desh, reunited with kin

and began a probe.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Dec 7: A tribal man from Mayurbhanj district who went missing 11 years ago was reunited with his family Sunday after authorities in India and Bangladesh coordinated his return.

Sudam Hembram, 41, of Jagannathpur village under the Badasahi police limits, had disappeared in 2014. Officials later learned that he had inadvertently crossed the India-Bangladesh border and ended up in

the Chapai Nawabganj district of Bangladesh.

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka and the Bangladesh Embassy informed the Mayurbhanj district administration and police about Hembram's whereabouts October 28. Acting on the communication, Mayurbhani police verified his identity and completed the required documentation, officials said.

A joint team of district police, district administration officials and members of Hembram's family then travelled to the Haridaspur-Benapole land check post on the India-Bangladesh border Saturday to initiate the repatriation process.

After cross-border and government procedures were completed. Bangladeshi authorities formally handed Hembram over to the Indian side at the Petrapole-Haridaspur check post in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district Sunday, Mayurbhanj Superintendent of Police Varun Guntupalli

Hembram's family, overwhelmed to see him after more than a decade, expressed gratitude to Mayurbhanj police, the district administration, the Indian High Commission and the Bangladesh Embassy for ensuring his safe return.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR 1ST FLOOR, SHYAM ARCADE, KHETRAJPUR, SAMBALPUR - 768003, e-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in

ance, he added.

Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.baanknet.com.

il. o.		Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession Notice/ Outstanding Dues	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount						
1.	Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Ramesh Tandi, S/o: Lambodhar Tandi, At/P.O.: Kukudahad, Kantabanji-767039	All that piece and parcel of Land recorded in the name of Mr. Ramesh Tandi , S/o: Lambodhar Tandi, Khata No.: 93/128, Plot No.: 488, Area: Ac.1.15 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, nded by North: Dhamandanga Mouza, South: est: Road	14.10.2019 / ₹75,48,536/- as on 05.12.2025 + further interest,	₹15,60,000/- / ₹1,56,000/- / ₹10,000/-						
	DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 24 12 2025 from 11 00 AM to 5 00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration									

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS IN THEIR WALLET BY 24.12.2025 I.E. BEFORE E-AUCTION DATE & TIME IN THE PORTAL.

Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 12.12.2025 to 23.12.2025 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link; https://www.baanknet.com Prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch as mentioned in above list., 2) This is a statutory 15 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/mortgagors under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act. 2002, 3) This is a 15 days notice to the Borrower / Mortgagor of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date., 4) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 5) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 6) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Borrowers/Mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost. Place: Sambalpur, Date: 06.12.2025 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank



In order to see, you have to stop being in the middle of the picture

SRI AUROBINDO



hours at 10, and prohibit more than two consecutive night duties.

disruptions created a nationwide chain reaction. Airports struggled to cope with the sudden surge in displaced passengers, terminals bags piled up unclaimed. Rival airlines, already operating at near-full blatant overpricing. Air ticket cost from Mumbai to Bhubaneswar skyrocketed to Rs 90,000. Passengers bore the brunt of the meltdown own wedding receptions.

and other essential services sectors.

Monopolies and duopolies create structural problems that hurt con-

Apart from the companies operating in the Indian aviation sector, it's also the government and the regulator that are responsible for the mess that the sector finds itself in. The government has been keeping ATF prices at very high levels which makes it difficult for low-cost airlines to operate at scale. Also, the demand-based pricing system followed by the airlines with no control whatsoever by the regulator has led to air ticket costs skyrocketing in the country. Besides, the government's eagerness to go all out on privatisation has resulted in India not having even one state-owned airline, whereas countries like Singapore, Indonesia and even Pakistan use their national carriers as diplomatic leverage

craft over a software glitch is going to have its impact on the Indian

If the government continues with its misguided policy of nurturing monopolies and duopolies in essential sectors such as airports, seaports, telecom and other infrastructure sectors, it would prove to be disastrous for the country.

WISDOM CORNER

Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process

People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.

Cost of Monopoly

ens of thousands of Indians had a harrowing experience last week as air travel virtually came to a grinding halt across the country. IndiGo, the country's largest domestic carrier which has managed to corner about 60% market share, suffered its worst-ever operational meltdown leaving thousands of flights cancelled nationwide. At the root of the crisis is IndiGo's operating policy that made it India's most profitable airline. For years, the airline maximised night flying and operated with razor-thin pilot buffers, relying on a 'use-every-aircraft, use-every-crew" strategy that boosted profitability and aircraft utilisation. Under older duty-time rules, this approach worked. But with stricter pilot rest mandates, the system buckled. In January 2024, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) introduced tightened Flight Duty Time Limitations to combat rising concerns over pilot fatigue and to bring India closer to global safety norms. These rules raise pilots' weekly rest from 36 to 48 hours, sharply reduce the number of night-time landings per week, cap night-flying Collectively, these changes dramatically reduce the number of hours pilots can legally fly in a week. Although the revised rules were first notified in January 2024, and theoretically applied from 31 May, 2024, their implementation was subsequently staggered into a phased rollout from July 2025, with full compliance required by 1 November, 2025. Yet IndiGo, despite having all these months to respond, appears to have ignored the government orders, may be deliberately as some critics point out, to keep the operational scale of the transition at

The consequences were there for all to see. For six consecutive days, IndiGo cancelled thousands of flights. As India's largest airline, the were crowded with anxious and furious travellers, and thousands of capacity, were unable to accommodate the overflow and resorted to shot up to an unprecedented Rs 84,000, while from Mumbai to Kolkata with many missing job interviews, crucial business meetings and even

As is always the case in India, regulators stepped in with fare caps, advisories and increased oversight but only after all the damage was done. Also, in a duopolistic market where IndiGo and Air India jointly control more than 91 per cent of domestic capacity, restoring full normalcy will take time. And, herein lies the main problem that is plaguing almost all sectors in the country. When one player or at most two players are allowed to dominate a particular sector or industry, it comes with a huge price for the general population. We see this in airport and seaport operations where one particular corporate is being given all the contracts. Likewise, we see duopolies in telecom

sumers, competition, innovation, and even the broader economy, especially in the service sector. Such markets always come with higher prices for consumers, a gradual decline in service quality, market manipulation and predatory behaviour and concentration of economic power. Also, when one or two firms dominate a sector, their failure can disrupt the entire market, trigger job losses or even force government bailouts. Moreover, such markets are vulnerable to systemic shocks like financial crisis, technical crisis or supply chain issue. In all of these cases, the whole country suffers simply because there is

Under these circumstances, the recent recall of Airbus' A32O air-

In the IndiGo case, it was seen that even the regulator lacked teeth to take action on the errant officials of the airliner. This was amply evident in the show cause notice which the DGCA sent to IndiGo. The letter had no mention of the CEO's name nor of the action the regulator wanted to take against the airline.

he does not become a monster. And if you gaze long enough into an abvss, the abvss will gaze back into you.

FOCUS DIPLOMACY

CAREFUL ON OPTICS

he currency crisis is bound to impact India growth. Indeed, a deep crisis is ahead. The falling rupee is likely to hit the common man's pocket as domestic fuel prices may rise sharply despite a global thaw in crude prices. Would Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit, his close embrace and promises, make a difference? Putin's visit may help New Delhi in many spheres but not in the crude oil sector. Russian crude has impacted Indians, though they never benefitted from the deals. The benefit was only for two companies, one Indian and the other Russian. Their profits alone swelled, while people, government and companies continued to buy fuel at high prices.

India-Russia ties go back to the Soviet era and have endured irrespective of the changing geopolitical landscape, this time coinciding with New Delhi's talks with the US on a trade deal to cut punitive tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump on its goods over India's purchases of Russian oil. Trump has been breathing down each movement of Indo-Russian ties. There was even news that the plane Putin was travelling to New Delhi had the most-monitored movements. Trump shadows all.

The Putin visit is not a nostalgic return to Cold War diplomacy. "It is a negotiation over risk, supply chains and economic insulation," says Global Trade Research Initiative. India has close ties with Russia since the Nehru-Kruschev era of 1950s, the 25-year strategic deal with Indira Gandhi, Putin renewing it in 2000 with AB Vajpayee continuing the legacy. Since then much has changed both in the Ganga and Volga, but "Russia ties like pole star," says Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while



Even with relatively few major deliverables, the visit provided enough substance for **Moscow and New Delhi to reaffirm their** 'special and privileged strategic partnership'

Putin promises non-stop energy. The Ukraine war has added

a new NATO-European dimension. The UK is all for NATO but not keen on joining a war. Russia feels being isolated in Europe. Ambassadors of Germany, France and the UK wrote a rare joint article in an Indian newspaper criticising Russia's stance on Ukraine as he landed in New Delhi. Were the NATO allies acting on their own or at the behest of their masters? Trump's disgust for Russian oil purchases accusing India of fuelling/funding the Ukraine war ignites his sanctions to keep both countries cornered if exactly not on leash.

For Trump, Putin got the freedom to move out with the Alaska meet for peace negotiations on 15 August, where the two leaders discussed how to end the war. That was the first free trip of Putin outside Moscow since 2020. The next is the celebrated visit to New Delhi. Putin's New Delhi visit has plenty of optics with modest deliverables. India is balancing Russia and America with caution.

The visit seeks India's revival of free-trade talks with the \$5-trillion Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). With exports weakening due to steep 50% Trump tariffs, two months of declining shipments, slowdown in manufacturing, and the rupee falling past 90 per dollar, India is urgently seeking new markets. Russia and the EAEU have become priority destinations, as New Delhi works to offset rising pressure on its trade.

India and Russia announced a major expansion of economic ties during Putin's visit. Both sides launched a new Economic Cooperation Programme aimed at sharply increasing trade and investment, with targets of \$100 billion in annual trade by 2030 and \$50 billion in mutual investments. Putin also reaffirmed the commitment to complete four more nuclear plants at Kudankulam.

Bilateral trade already hit a record \$68.7 billion in 2024-25 from a mere \$8.1 billion in 2020. Key agreements were signed in energy, finance (including national currency settlements), fertilizers, healthcare, steel, shipbuilding, coal, and banking. India also plans to open new consulates in Russia to

deepen official engagement. Defence cooperation remains central, anchored by an existing military and technical pact

that runs through 2031. The national currency settlement reiterated by Putin is a commitment to BRICS. He held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attended a business forum and announced the launch of Russia Today (RT),

a Kremlin-funded state-controlled TV network. Interesting-

ly, Trump has a dislike for RT. Even with relatively few major deliverables, the visit provided enough substance for Moscow and New Delhi to reaffirm their 'special and privileged strategic partnership." President Putin praised efforts to expand cooperation, underscored by agreements such as the Russia-India Economic Cooperation Programme, a framework for collaboration on critical minerals and supply chains, and a commitment to strengthen pharmaceutical ties, including a joint

factory in the Kaluga region. Optics did not stop at economics. Opposition leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge were not invited to the dinner hosted for Putin at Rashtrapati Bhavan, though Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was invited. This comes a day after Rahul Gandhi alleged the Modi government is going against "tradition" and doesn't want him or a representative of the Opposition to meet Putin because of its "insecurity."

The Putin visit may have more optics left in the domestic and international scenario. Uncanny Trump, sceptical European leaders and neighbourhood developments in Afghanistan and Iran may have lot to unfold. Is it the beginning of a new era?

SPECTRUM

Shivaji Sarkar

THE EAEU

PRIORITY

WORKS TO

ITS TRADE

RUSSIA AND

HAVE BECOME

DESTINATIONS,

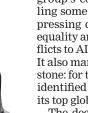
AS NEW DELHI

OFFSET RISING

PRESSURE ON

SOCIETY

Investing in early childhood education



Justin van Fleet & Pia Rebello Britto

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST IS THE SUREST **ROUTE TO A MORE** PROSPEROUS, PEACEFUL, **AND STABLE WORLD**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

The leaders' declaration adopted at the end of the recent G20 summit in South Africa reaffirmed the group's commitment to tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges, from inequality and long-running conflicts to AI and climate change. It also marked a historic milestone: for the first time, the G20 identified education as one of its top global priorities.

The declaration went on to highlight the urgent need to invest in children's early development, pledging to "advance a comprehensive approach" that recognises investment in early childhood care and education (ECCE) as "vital...for a country's social and economic future." This recognition is long overdue. In a world marked by economic volatility, the most effective investments are those made in people, and few yield greater returns than supporting children in their first five or six years of life, when they develop the skills that underpin long-term growth, social cohesion, and peace.

Today, we are failing far too many children before they even reach school age. Globally, more than 40% of preschool children - roughly 350 million - lack access to quality care. The result is a vast loss of human potential that holds back communities. economies, and societies.

Early childhood, when 90% of brain development occurs, is a unique window for establishing the foundations of lifelong learning, health, and well-being. Decades of evidence show that every dollar invested in ECCE generates up to \$17 in economic returns, helping to break cycles of poverty and reduce inequality. Expanding access to childcare also enables more women to enter and stay in the workforce, strengthening households and national economies alike.

The UN already recognised the importance of investing in ECCE when it adopted the SDGs in 2015. This was reaffirmed in UNESCO's 2022 Tashkent Declaration, with more than 150 countries pledging to provide at least one year of free, compulsory pre-primary education for all children and to allocate at least 10% of their education budgets to preschool programmes. Despite these commitments. funding for early education remains woefully inadequate. In low- and middle-income countries, 180 million three- and fouryear-olds still lack access to basic early-childhood services.

Against this discouraging backdrop, momentum for change is building, driven largely by major emerging economies within and beyond the G20. Early-childhood support was central to Brazil's social-inclusion agenda during its G20 presidency, while the launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty in late 2024 signaled a broader push to tackle intergenerational inequities.

Brazil has also introduced ambitious domestic measures. Earlier this year, it launched its National Integrated Policy for Early Childhood, which established a single national database to track children's needs and support a unified strategy across all of the country's 5,568 municipalities, featuring a massive data platform covering daycare availability, vaccination records, and developmental milestones.

The recent G20 summit in Johannesburg – the first to be held in Africa - brought the scale and urgency of the problem into sharp focus. Childhood mortality rates across the continent remain 14 times higher than in high-income countries, and only one in four children in sub-Saharan Africa attends preschool. South Africa, which views investment in ECCE as a national priority, recently launched the largest early-years education programme in its history. President Cyril Ramaphosa has also used South Africa's G20 presidency to frame early-childhood education as a global imperative and urge governments worldwide to invest in their youngest citizens.

Mobilising the political will and financing needed to transform ECCE will require a sustained, coordinated multilateral effort. Over the past two years. Theirworld has championed this agenda through its Act for Early Years campaign, and the recent announcement of the world's first international gathering devoted specifically to funding pre-primary education – initiated by a coalition of stakeholders from both the Global South and North - indicates that early childhood is finally receiving the attention it deserves.

Looking ahead, the International Finance Summit for Early Childhood in 2027 offers a rare opportunity to raise new funding, redirect domestic investment, and unlock private capital. Crucially, it could demonstrate that investing in preschool education is not a secondary concern but a precondition for achieving the SDGs. One principle should guide the policy debates that will inevitably follow: putting children first is the surest route to a more prosperous, peaceful, and stable world.

Justin van Fleet is President of Theirworld. Pia Rebello Britto is Global Director of **Education & Adolescent** Development at UNICEF. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1941: US enters WWII. One day after the Japanese Imperial Navy launched an attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II.
- 1978: The American classic film The Deer Hunter—starring Robert De Niro and Christoper Walken, among others-had its world premiere; an emotionally shattering look at the effects of the Vietnam War on the young American men sent to fight in it, the movie later won an Oscar for best
- **1980:** On this day in 1980, British musician John Lennon—who rose to fame with the Beatles and had a successful solo career—was fatally shot by Mark David Chapman in New York City, causing a global outpouring of grief.
- 1987: US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed a nuclear weapons reduction treaty.
- **1987:** First Intifada begins. The Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories began after an Israeli army truck attacked a car and killed 4 Palestinians. The Intifada ended in 1991 after the Madrid Conference

Entertainment monopoly

Sir, Netflix's bid to acquire Warner Bros marks a bold pivot in Hollywood's power dynamics, injecting political tension into an already high-stakes industry. With Warner Bros rejecting a competing offer from Trump-aligned Skydance, the proposed deal has drawn scrutiny from both the Trump administration and Democratic leaders. Their concerns reflect a mix of regulatory caution and political calculation, as government approval gives Washington unusual influence over the fate of two of the industry's most recognisable brands. Yet history shows that Warner Bros is no easy prize. For decades, the studio has cycled through owners who believed they could consolidate entertainment dominance only to be humbled by shifting technology and consumer behaviour. From the ill-fated AOL-Time Warner merger to AT&T's costly and short-lived acquisition, corporate giants have repeatedly learned that controlling Warner Bros vast library does not guarantee market control. Netflix, long positioned as a disruptor of distribution rather than a traditional content empire, is betting it can break that cycle by pairing its global streaming reach with Warner's deep catalog and HBO's prestige brand. Still, talk of monopoly may be overstated. Netflix holds only about a quarter of the streaming market and less than 10% of the broader TV space, competing head-to-head with Amazon, Disney, and several legacy networks.

Quick fixes

Sir, Our government seems to have quick fixes for all our pressing problems and needs. Not satisfied with government school education? Enroll your child in an expensive private school. Not happy with treatment in a government-run hospital? Visit a private one with state-of-the-art facilities. Not happy with public transport? Buy a car. Not happy with Nagar Nigam's water supply? Buy a water purifier. Not happy with AQI of your city? Buy an air purifier. Not happy with services of airlines? Travel by your own private jet. Not happy with the present government? Thank your stars that you are not living in, say, Syria, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, Haiti or Bangladesh. We Indians are a lucky lot. Avinash Godboley, DEWAS (MP)

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH



TWO STATES





Oppn skips tea party over lack of LoPs

Nagpur, Dec 7: The Opposition in Maharashtra Sunday boycotted the government's customary tea party on the eve of the Winter session, citing its failure to appoint leaders of the opposition (LoPs) in both houses of the state legislature.

Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar told reporters the tea party invitation had been sent to individual MLAs, instead of the LoPs. He addressed a press conference at the Vidhan Bhavan complex here along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Bhaskar Jadhay, Sunil Prabhu and Nitin Raut as well as Anil Deshmukh of NCP (SP).

"There are no LoPs in both the houses. Both these are constitutional posts. By keeping both posts vacant, the government has shown that it does not trust the Constitution. So we have boycotted the tea programme," Wadettiwar said.

Following the Opposition's rout in the state Assembly polls last year, no party could win 10 per cent of the total 288 seats. As per the norm, it is necessary for any Opposition to win at least 10 per cent seats to stake a claim for the post of LoP.

Wadettiwar said that in 1980, the BJP had 14 MLAs, still the LoP's post was given to the saffron party. Similarly, in 1985, the BJP had 16 MLAs, yet it was given the LoP's post.

"The Congress never kept the

MAHA WINTER SESSION



There are no LoPs in both the houses. Both these are constitutional posts. By keeping both posts vacant, the government has shown that it does not trust the Constitution. So we have boycotted the tea programme

VIJAY WADETTIWAR CONG LEGISLATURE PARTY LEADER

constitutional post of LoP vacant. If the government wants to keep these posts vacant and call us for tea, then it is better to boycott," Wadettiwar said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Bhaskar Jadhav claimed the government is scared of the Opposition despite its low number because of the "sins" it has

The LoP's post is constitutional and the government fears the LoP will expose the government, he charged. "The government is not deciding on LoP but has appointed two deputy chief ministers, a post not mandated in any law." Jadhay said.

Wadettiwar claimed six to seven farmers die by suicide every day in the state. The government got votes by promising farm loan waiver, but has been postponing its implementation. he said, adding that cotton and soybean farmers were in huge

As per the National Crime Record Bureau records, in the first eight months of 2025. Maharashtra saw 1.183 farmer suicides, the Congress leader said.

While the state government has claimed it sent a farmers' relief fund proposal to the Centre, the latter denies having received it, Wadettiwar said.

Wadettiwar also cited the "rising" crimes against women in the state behind the Opposition's decision to decline the tea party invitation.

There are no employment opportunities in Vidarbha though Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is from the region,

Assurances of farm loan waiver and ₹2100 to Ladki Bahin Yojana beneficiaries have not been fulfilled, Wadettiwar said. Alleging massive corruption, he said had written to the Fadnavis government seeking a "white paper" on government land transfers. The winter session of the state legislature will be held from December 8 to 14 in Nagpur. Sena (UBT) leader Jadhav has been nominated by his party, the largest Opposition outfit in the lower house with 20 MLAs, for the post of LoP in the legislative assembly, but no decision has been taken on the Cabinet-rank appointment by the speaker.

In the past, Jadhav had written to the state legislature seeking to know if there is any rule mandating that an Opposition party should have 10 per cent of the total strength of the assembly (29 out of 288 seats) to stake a claim to the LoP post.

EC to hold special camp for sex workers in red-light areas

This initiative comes as a response to concerns raised by organisations working for the welfare of sex workers and their children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 7: The West Bengal CEO's office is set to launch a camp on December 9 at Son agachi, Asia's largest red-light district, to aid sex workers in filling up enumeration forms as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, an official said.

This initiative comes as a response to concerns raised by organisations working for the welfare of sex workers and their children.

"A special camp will be held on December 9 at Sonagachi to address the issues of sex workers in filling up the enumeration forms." the official said.

As part of the initiative, Election Commission officials will "visit the wards within the 166-Shyampukur constitnency to meet with sex workers, listen to their concerns. and provide the necessary assistance for completing the enumeration form fill-up" he said. Talking to PTI, an official of Amra Padatik, a civil society organisation, said that they were concerned about the fate of sex workers in Kidderpore and Kalighat red-light areas.

'There are around 50 sex workers in Kalighat and 70 in Kidderpore area. They are confused about filling up the enumeration forms. We will talk to the officials at the CEO's office," he said.

On November 21, three organisations working for the welfare of sex workers - Society of Human Development and Social Action, Usha Multipurpose Co-operative Society Limited and Amra Padatil - sent an email to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), out lining widespread problems with the enumeration process

Some workers were even re ported to be leaving the area out of anxiety related to the

In response, the CEO's office assured that a dedicated camp would be organised to address these concerns and support the community.

MACT Thane grants ₹40 lakh to family of plumber killed in 2018

Thane, Dec7: The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Thane has awarded ₹40.08 lakh as compensation to the family of a man who died in a road accident in 2018.

On November 17 that year, plumber Daulat Waman Davane (38) was hit by a speeding car while he was standing along the service road of Mumbai-Nashik Highway. Shahapur police had registered a case under Indian Penal Code and Motor Vehicles Act at the time.

In the order of November 28, details of which were made available on Saturday, Extra Joint District Judge and Additional Sessions Judge



KP Shrikhande, presiding over MACT Thane, accepted the testimony of the deceased's wife and petitioner Darshana Davane, as well as documentary evidence like FIR, spot panchnama and post-mortem report.

Her evidence about the accident of her husband arising out of the use of the offending vehicle has not been disputed

in her cross-examination, the judge said while rejecting the insurer's claim that the deceased was negligent.

The insurance firm's claim that the driver lacked a valid licence,, which constituted a breach of policy, was also rejected. Accepting that the deceased earned ₹10,000 per month as a plumber and an additional ₹10,000 from a tent business, the MACT calculated the loss of dependency at ₹37,80,000 along with 20 per cent enhancement.

"The petitioners are entitled to the compensation amount of ₹40,08,000 along with interest at 9 per cent per annum from the date of the filing of the petition," the MACT said.

Lakhs participate in mega Gita recital ed the name of Lord Krishna

Kolkata, Dec 7: Amid Krish na name chants and blowing of conch shells, lakhs of devotees. including sadhus and sadhvis from across West Bengal and neighbouring states, took part in a mega Bhagavad Gita recital in Kolkata's iconic Brigade Parade Ground, organisers said.

The monks, clad in saffron robes, read shlokas from copies of the Gita in unison at the venue. Senior BJP leaders, including West Bengal BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar. Union minister Sukanta Majumdar, ex-MP Locket Chatterjee and MLA Agnimitra Paul, and prominent religious figures, including Swami Pradip tananda Maharaj, popularly known as Kartik Maharaj, and Dhirendra Shastri, took part in



event, at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata

Christened 'Panch Lakkho Konthe Gita Path' (Gita chanting by five lakh voices), the programme is being organised by the Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad, a collective of monks and

spiritual leaders drawn from various monasteries and Hindu religious institutions.

The boisterous crowd, which included a large number of young men and women, chantamid blowing of conch shells and ululations. Governor C V Ananda Bose, who addressed the gathering, recited from the Bhagavad Gita and spoke of peace and non-violence.

Pradiptananda Maharaj as serted that the congregation of lakhs was spontaneous and did not have any role of any polit-

"Despite non-cooperation from a section of the administration, over five lakh people turned up spontaneously out of love and devotion to recite the Bhagavad Gita and for saving the Sanatan Hindu Dharma, Pradiptananda Maharaj said.

"In a climate of division, spiritual practice can restore calm and direction," he said. Paul said, "The Gita is not for Hindus alone, it is for all 140 crore people of India.'

MOSQUE ROW

Guv: WB ready to end religious arrogance

Kolkata, Dec 7: West Bengal

Governor C V Ananda Bose

Sunday asserted that the state

was "ready to end religious ar

rogance", while pointing out at

'something witnessed in Mur-

gress MLA Humayun Kabir

Saturday laid the foundation

stone for a mosque modelled

on Ayodhya's Babri Masjid in Murshidabad's Rejinagar.

shidabad a day before". Suspended Trinamool Con-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Maha strengthens support for muscular dystrophy patients



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, Dec 7: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Sunday said the state government will intensify its support for children suffering from muscular dystrophy, including pursuing the Central government to expedite vaccine availability for the rare disease.

He was speaking at a programme in which electric wheelchairs, Ventmed BiPAP machines (non invasive ventilation apparatus to facilitate breathing) and essential medical supplies were distributed to children affected by muscular dystrophy as well as other patients.

'The willpower of these children is very strong. We should all stand by them. The Maharashtra government will continue to follow up with the Union government towards developing a vaccine. The government will immediately provide 100 additional electric wheelchairs, oxygen concentrators and portable ventilation devices to deserving patients." he said. Emphasising the need for affordable physiotherapy for children with the condition, he said the state will mobilise support through CSR funds, the Public Health Department and public participation to reduce treatment costs, adding that every effort will be taken to make it more



Artisans craft idols of Jesus Christ ahead of Christmas festival, in Nadia, West Bengal

Road renovation in Medinipur makes villagers happy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Dec 7: The renovation and construction of a 5.8 km long road from Padadiha to Banshpatri in Kharagpur subdivision of West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district began recently, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

A total of four new culverts are being built along with the road. The project is expected to cost more than ₹5 crore. The residents were elated as it would bring an end to years of roadblocks and traffic jams on the stretch.

For a long time, residents had to suffer daily due to the poor condition of this road. Especially, there was no end to the problems in the transportation of school students. With the much-awaited road renovation and construction of new projects beginning with a deadline, this has created an atmosphere of relief and hope

among the residents. Zilla Parishad party leader

Mohammad Rafiq inspected the progress of the work and expressed hope for its comple-

tion soon. "I saw the quality of the road - it is going great. If this road is built, the people

of Paschim Medinipur as well as Jhargram district will benefit," he told the media persons.

A total of four new

culverts are being

built along

with the road

The project is expected

to cost more than ₹5 crore

The residents were elated

as it would bring an end

to years of roadblocks

and traffic jams

on the stretch

state administration and the Centre for the initiative. Notably, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched by the Central government to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations, as part of a poverty reduction strategy. The objective of the programme is to set high and uniform technical and management standards, and facilitate policy development and planning at the state level to ensure sustainable management of the rural roads network.

The residents have thanked the

Addressing a Gita recital at Brigade Parade Ground here he said that the state is also ready to end corruption.

The governor said that he witnessed something happening in Murshidabad Saturday, without naming anybody or any programme.

Reciting from the Bhagavad Gita, the governor said, "Paritranava sadhunam vinashava cha dushkritam dharma-sansthapanarthaya sambhavami yuge yuge", which means "To protect the righteous, to annihilate the wicked, and to reestablish the principles of dharma I appear on this earth, age after age.'

national



There is no issue with the construction of a mosque, but if someone builds it in the name of Babar, then we will not only oppose it, but we will also ensure it is swiftly dismantled KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA | UP DEPUTY CM

CAMPAIGNING CONCLUDES FOR FIRST PHASE OF KERALA LOCAL BODY POLLS

Campaigning for the first phase of the local body elections in Kerala concluded Sunday evening, with the Election Commission making arrangements for voting in seven districts December 9



Sabha election till 2025...this has been a time of continuous victories for the

BJP. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, our leader Narendra Bhai became the Prime Minister for the third consecutive time and set a record after

many decades AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Where there

is an agitation, I am not there. I will be there if there is a discussion HIMANTA BISWA



It is disap pointing to see the manner in which Tezpur University is being tackled by the

government. At the same time, I am proud of the manner in which the students and faculty of Tezpur University have conducted themselves. Firm, unbending and dignified

GAURAV GOGOI | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT **TAKES**

Massive fire destroys 10 fishing boats

Kollam (Kerala): Around 10 fishing boats anchored in Ashtamudi Lake were gutted in a massive fire in the early hours of Sunday, police said. The incident occurred in the Kureepuzha area under the jurisdiction of the Anchalumood police station. According to police, the blaze was first spotted past midnight, and the boats, anchored in a row, caught fire. Residents and fire personnel rushed to contain the flames. "As per preliminary assessment, around 10 boats were destroyed. The exact cause is yet to be identified, but a gas cylinder blast is suspected," a police officer said, adding no casualties have been reported.

10 Naxals surrender

Balaghat (MP): Ten hardcore Naxalites, including four women, carrying a collective bounty of ₹2.36 crore on their heads, surrendered in Balaghat Sunday, prompting Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to declare Dindori and Mandla completely free from the Naxal influence. The surrendered Naxalits laid down modern weapons, including AK-47 and INSAS rifles, in front of Yaday, They were part of the 'Bhorsadev area committee' of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist). officials said.

Forest fire triggers landmine blasts

Mendhar/Jammu: At least half-a-dozen landmines exploded due to a forest fire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district Sunday, officials said. The fire broke out in the Balakote forest along the zero line around 10 am, detonating about six landmines in the anti-infiltration obstacle system, the officials said.

SHO dies at police station

Patna: The SHO of a police station in Patna died on duty, officials said Sunday. Sanjeev Kumar, the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Ramkrishna Nagar police station, collapsed after returning to his office following a patrol of the area Saturday night, they said. "He was taken to a private hospital, where he was declared dead. Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarpur district, was an officer of the 2009 batch," an official said.

Fireworks likely cause of blaze; 4 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, Dec 7: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Sunday said four staff members of the 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub have been arrested following the fire tragedy, and he has ordered action against officials who allowed the club to operate while flouting rules.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that "electric firecrackers" were set off inside which started the blaze, he said, adding that club owners Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra would soon be arrested. He has ordered state chief

secretary Dr V Candavelou and Director General of Police Alok Kumar to identify and act against the guilty government officials, Sawant said, speaking to reporters hours after the fire at the club claimed 25 lives.

Sawant held a series of meetings with high-ranking officials from the state administration and home department to review the situation following the tragic fire.

The DGP was directed to take strict punitive action against the owners of the club, CHIEF

Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra, against whom an has FIR been registered, Sawant said, adding the duo would be

ar-

soon

rested. The club's chief general manager Rajiv Modak, general manager Vivek Singh, bar manager Rajiv Singhania and gate manager Rivanshu Thakur were arrested by the police, the CM said.



Officials inspect the charred remains of the nightclub after a fire broke out due to a cylinder blast, in North Goa

formed a committee of South Goa Collector, Deputy Direc-

MINISTER PRAMOD rector of Forensic SAWANT HAS ALREADY Laboratory to ORDERED A MAGISTERIAL inquire into INQUIRY INTO THE FIRE. inci-THE POPULAR PARTY VENUE IN ARPORA dent, he in-

formed.

The

committee

will sub-

mit its re-

port within

a week. The

measures to ensure

that such incidents do

ity sector asking them to take

adequate safety precautions,

VILLAGE, LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 25 KM FROM THE STATE CAPITAL, PANAJI, OPENED LAST YEAR

A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY HAS INDICATED THAT THE FIRE STARTED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE CLUB, AND DUE TO CONGESTION AND SMALL DOORS, government THE CUSTOMERS COULD NOT has worked out MOVE OUT, THE CM

not occur again, the CM said. An advisory will be issued to all the nightclubs and other establishments in the hospital-

The government has also

he added. Government officials who allowed the club to operate tor of Fire and Emergen--- even though it violated severcy Services and Dial rules -- would be suspended during the day. Sawant said.

> The state authorities will also conduct an audit of clubs which operate without permissions and also the places where there is a possibility of people gathering in large numbers, the

chief minister said.

An ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh for the nearest kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured would be paid from the State Disaster Management Authority Funds, he said.

Arrangements would be made to take the mortal remains of the deceased to their native places, he informed.

PREZ, PM, OTHERS CONDOLE DEATHS; CONG SEEKS PROBE

NEW DELHI/PANAJI: Leaders cutting across party lines Sunday expressed grief over loss of lives in the Goa nightclub fire

even as the Congress brass demanded a thorough probe into the incident which claimed 25 lives. President Droupadi Murmu

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep pain and sadness over the incident and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured. "Deeply pained by the tragic fire incident in North Goa district resulting in the loss of precious lives. My heart-

felt condolences to the bereaved families. May they find strength during this difficult time. I pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," the President said in a post on X. Prime Minister Modi called the fire incident in Arpora, Goa "deeply sadden

ing". "My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest," he wrote on X. Modi said he spoke to Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant about the situation. Vice President C P Radhakrishnan too condoler

the deaths in the inferno. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also offered his condolences to the families of those who lost their

to the affected. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed his deepest condolences to those who lost their loved ones in the blaze. Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, said he was deeply pained by the tragic fire in Arpora

Trinamool Congress leaders also expressed grief over the loss of lives in the fire. In a post on X, TMC's Rajya Sabha deputy leader Sagarika Ghose called it a total collapse of the "double-engine" model of governance in Goa.

dear ones and said that the local administration is carrying out rescue and relief operations and providing the necessary care

The incident happened at 11.45 pm Saturday, and teams of Fire and Emergency Services and Police rushed to the site immediately, Sawant said.

Initially the fire fighters saw only two bodies on the floor but later found 23 more bodies in the kitchen, and these persons had died due to suffocation, the CM said. Meanwhile, Goa AAP Sunday claimed Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's government has lost the "moral right" to stay in power after the deaths of 25 people in the fire, as it had failed to control the administration in the coastal state.

Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Atishi Marlena demanded to know who created the 'death trap" that resulted in 25 persons losing their lives.

Who has created this death trap? Is local MLA involved in it? Is the minister responsible? Is the CM responsible," Atishi, a former chief minister of Delhi, questioned.

Alleging that restaurant owners from the entire beach belt are complaining about rampant extortion, she asked "who are those taking haftas".

"Why has no senior government officer been suspended so far despite the chief minister admitting the club was operating without any clearances," she pointed. She is also the AAP's Goa desk in charge.

fires in past decade OCTOBER 2015: Colectiv

Timeline of nightclub

nightclub fire in Bucharest, Romania, killed 64 people. Pyrotechnics during a performance by the metalcore band Goodbye to Gravity ignited the club's flammable polyurethane acoustic foam. The fire spread rapidly.

DECEMBER 2016: 'Ghost Ship' warehouse fire in Oakland, California, claimed 36 lives. The deadliest blaze in the history of Oakland was triggered during an electronic music and dance party.

JANUARY 2022: Fire at nightclub in Yaounde, Cameroon, killed 16 people. Blaze occurred due to fireworks lit while champagne was being served in the club.

JANUARY 2022: 19 killed in fire at Sorong nightclub in West Papua province, Indonesia. Club was burned by two groups which clashed inside the building.

AUGUST 2022: 23 charred to death at Mountain B nightclub fire in Bangkok, Thailand. Possible short circuit or an issue with the electrical system believed to have triggered the blaze.

OCTOBER 2023: Fire at nightclub complex in Murcia, Spain, claimed 13 lives. Fire was possibly triggered by an electrical fault.

APRIL 2024: 29 killed in blaze at Masquerade nightclub, Istanbul. Fire broke out when the venue was closed for renovation work.

MARCH 2025: Fire at a nightclub in North Macedonia, killed 62 people. Blaze broke out when sparks from indoor fireworks hit the ceiling and set it alight.

POCSO CASE

After spending 8 yrs in prison, man acquitted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 7: Having spent eight years in prison after being arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a girl, a 56-yearold man has been acquitted by the trial court citing "scanty

The statement of the victim, who was said to be suffering from moderate intellectual disability, contradicted other evidence, said the special court for Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

In the ruling delivered November 28, judge N D Khose held that "evidence adduced by the prosecution is scanty and not sufficient to prove the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt".

As per the prosecution, the incident took place August 23, 2017, in Kurar area of Malad (East).

The accused, who was the girl's neighbour, allegedly entered her house when she was alone, sexually assaulted her, and threatened her

The girl's mother filed a police complaint and the accused was arrested August 24, 2017, for rape under the Indian Penal Code as well as offences under the POCSO Act.

As per the prosecution, the girl was 17 years old at the time of the incident.

The court, however, found that her evidence "does not inspire confidence as she has not stated in detail what actually happened with her"

'Not only that, the medical evidence on record totally contradicts the evidence of the victim girl," the court said. Thus, the special judge concluded, "Prosecution has miserably failed to prove that the accused committed rape on victim girl knowing that she was below 18 years of age and insane." The accused should be released forthwith if not wanted in any other case, the court said.

'Could have done much more'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Dec 7: Indian armed forces "could have done much more" during Operation Sindoor but deliberately opted for a "restrained" response and did what was necessary, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Sunday

Singh, who inaugurated 125 strategically significant infrastructure projects by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in different parts of the country including the Shyok tunnel in Ladakh, stressed that better connectivity, especially in border areas, made the successful

military operation possible. "Our continuous endeavour has been to strengthen our communication and connectivity with all border areas, including Ladakh. We are fully committed to the overall development of each border area," the defence minister said here.



He highlighted the growth in India's defence manufacturing sector, noting that production has risen from ₹46,000 crore in 2014 to a record ₹1.51 lakh crore, and the country that was import-dependent has emerged

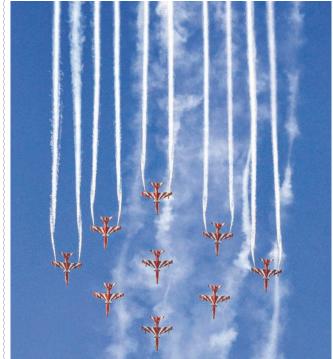
as a producer-exporter. "Just a few months ago, we witnessed how, in response to the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam, our armed forces executed Operation Sindoor, and

the world knows what they did to the terrorists.

"Of course, we could have done much more had we wanted, but our forces demonstrated not only valour but also restraint, doing only what was necessary," Singh said.

Stressing that such a massive operation was feasible due to strong connectivity, Singh said, "Our armed forces were able to deliver logistics right on time. Connectivity with the border areas was also maintained. giving Operation Sindoor its historic success.

"During Operation Sindoor, the coordination we witnessed among our armed forces, the civil administration, and the citizens of the border areas was incredible. I express my gratitude to every citizen of Ladakh as well as the border areas for extending their support to our armed forces," the defence minister said.



IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team performs manoeuvres during an air

UNESCO MEET

India's intangible heritage showcased at Red Fort

New Delhi, Dec 7: From thematic galleries to performing arts, India showcased its rich cultural heritage at the Red Fort complex as the inaugural ceremony of a key UNES-CO meeting on 'safeguarding intangible legacy' began here Sunday evening.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is attending the event as the chief guest. The 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) will take place at the Red Fort from December 8 to 13.

This is the first time that India is hosting a session of the UNESCO panel. Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, UNESCO Director-General Khaled El-Enany, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, and India's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Vishal V Sharma, were present at the opening ceremony.

According to UNESCO, the session will examine nominations submitted by state parties for inscription on the UNESCO ICH lists, review the status of existing elements, and provide international assistance for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Vishal V Sharma will chair

the session. On arrival at the venue, the guests were welcomed with traditional Mysuru headgear and a scarf. Outside, artistes showcased dance forms such as bhangra of Punjab, bihu of Assam and tribal dance forms.

Galleries mounted in British-era barracks by the National Museum, the National Gallery of Modern Art, and others will delight the delegates gathered here from across the world

Tableau of intangible cultural heritage of India on the UNESCO list, such as Durga Puja of Kolkata and Garba of Gujarat, have been showcased at the venue.

In his address, Shekhawat said the Red Fort has been an iconic witness to the continuity of life in India. India hosting this meet is not just a matter of pride, but a reminder that cultural ethics echo through its rich past, he said.

"This event is a gateway to a dialogue for civilisations,"

Shekhawat said.

Ambassador Sharma emphasised the intangible cultural heritage of India, and said, "Communities are the heartbeats of heritage." On December 5, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal had said that India's nomination, the 'Deepavali' festival, will be examined during the UNESCO meet "on December 10, in pursuance of its inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity". "And we expect a positive

show at Atal Sarovar, in Rajkot

outcome," he had told PTI.

The dossier for the nomination was submitted in 2023 India sent the nomination for the 2024-25 cycle.

India currently has 15 elements inscribed on the coveted UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, including the Kumbh Mela, Durga Puja, Garba dance, yoga, the tradition of Vedic chanting and Ramlila -the traditional performance of the Ramayana.

Aggarwal had said that more than 1,000 delegates from 190 countries are expected to attend the event. The 17th-century fort complex has been closed for general visitors from December 5-14 in view of the event.

Built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as the palace fort of his capital Shahjahanabad the Red Fort complex is a UNE-SCO World Heritage Site and a centrally-protected monument.

national



The objective of the **NEP** was to infuse Indian ethos into the Macaulay-era education system

TELANGANA TO NAME ROADS AFTER RATAN TATA. TRUMP

The Telangana government Sunday said it has decided to name the upcoming greenfield radial road at the proposed RRR in honour of the late industrialist Ratan Tata. In another proposal, a high-profile road along the United States Consulate General in Hyderabad will be named 'Donald Trump Avenue', the government said in a release



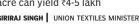


conference appeared full of frustration and theatrics. It is not role to announce the Leader of Opposition. Only the Speaker and the Council Chairman have the authority to do so

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

In Tamil Nadu, the equality lamp lit by Periyar will always shine. There is always someone to oppose and question; inside, there is the fire lit by Periyar M K STALIN T TN CM









leaf?) 4. Amazon + Flipkart 5. Zomato + Swiggy 6. JioFiber + Airtel Xstream Blinkit + Zepto (+ Swiggy Instamart)

8. Naukri + LinkedIn (job posting) Google Ads + Meta Ads Did I miss something?

@law_ninja

Pregnant woman dies at govt hosp

SHORT **TAKES**

Kota: An eight-month pregnant woman died allegedly of medical negligence in a government medical college here Sunday morning, members, along with Congress workers, staged a protest, demanding action against the "negligent staff", officials said. Taking note of the incident, Bundi MLA Harimohan Sharma intervened, prompting the district administration to investigate the matter and constitute a high-level committee. According to officials, Indira Kanwar, 42, a resident of the Keshoraipatan area here, was eight months pregnant and was admitted to the Bundi district hospital at 7.30 pm Saturday.

Chinese national detained

Srinagar: An unusual chatter on the Internet intercepted by the army alerted security agencies in the Kashmir valley, leading to the detention of a Chinese national who had entered Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir without permission, officials said Sunday. Hu Congtai, 29, arrived in Delhi November 19 on a tourist visa, which permitted him to visit Buddhist religious places in Varanasi, Agra, New Delhi, Jaipur, Sarnath, Gaya and Kushi Nagar.

Fire at fertiliser plant

Dibrugarh: A fire broke out at the urea plant of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corp Ltd (BVFCL) in Dibrugarh district of Assam Sunday evening, officials said. The fire started at the compressor house of the urea plant in Namrup and was doused within an hour, a senior official said. BVFCL's senior manager Pankaj Kumar Gogoi told PTI that the unit caught fire due to a suspected

Cold conditions prevail in north India IndiGo refunds ₹610cr,

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said cold wave conditions were "very likely" to prevail in isolated pockets over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha Monday and Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Cold conditions prevailed across north India Sunday, with the Amarnath vatra base camp being the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir at minus 4.3 degrees Celsius and parts of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan reporting minimum temperatures between three and seven degrees Celsius.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said cold wave conditions were "very likely" to prevail in isolated pockets over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha Monday and Tuesday.

In Delhi, the minimum temperature was recorded at eight degrees, up from 6.8 degrees a day ago and yet 1.6 notches below normal.

The maximum temperature was 24.7 degrees Celsius, 0.1 notch below normal, while the relative humidity was 92 per cent in the morning.

For Monday, the weather department forecast a minimum of 10 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 25 degrees Celsius. with mist expected.

Pollution levels in Delhi remained in the "very poor" category Sunday, prolonging the spell of toxic air that has hung over its residents for several weeks now. The city logged a 24-hour average AQI of 308.

Vikram Bhatt,

wife arrested

Rajasthan, an official said.

Rajasthan Police will apply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, an AQI between 0 and 50 is classified "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactorv", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor" and 401 and 500 "severe".

Further in the north, the night temperatures in Kashmir rose by several degrees but stayed below the freezing point, officials said. The Pahalgam resort in south

Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir as the minimum settled at a low of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius.

In Himachal Pradesh, The IMD predicted dense fog in parts of the state until Wednesday. In Punjab, Faridkot remained the coldest place, with

the minimum temperature settling at 4.4 degrees Celsius, while in Haryana, Narnaul saw the lowest temperature at 4.6 degrees Celsius, according to the local meteorological department.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, recorded a minimum temperature of 8.2 degrees Celsius. In Punjab, Bathinda and Gurdaspur recorded a minimum temperature of 4.6 degrees Celsius, while Ferozepur recorded 6 degrees, Amritsar 6.1 degrees, Ludhiana 6.8 degrees, and Patiala 8.9 degrees.

In Haryana, Bhiwani recorded a low of six degrees, Hisar 6.2 degrees, Sirsa 6.6 degrees, Karnal seven degrees, Rohtak 7.8 degrees, and Ambala 9.8

Rajasthan, similarly, reeled

under intense cold, the Meteorological Centre here said.

Meanwhile, in Jharkhand, eight districts recorded minimum temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius, the IMD said, noting a cold wave in parts of the state.

The minimum temperature in Jharkhand's capital, Ranchi, was 7.5 degrees Celsius, while Daltonganj recorded 6.5 degrees and Jamshedpur recorded 9.6 degrees Celsius.

In West Bengal, the mercurv dipped below the 10-degree mark for the first time this winter in the state's plains with Sriniketan in Birbhum districts recording a minimum temperature of 9.8 degrees Celsius on Sunday the IMD said

Darjeeling was the coldest in the hills at 6.2 degrees Celsius, while the other Himalayan tourist town of Kalimpong was warmer at 10.5 degrees Celsius.

IMD further predicted dense fog conditions in isolated pockets of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura between December 8 and 12.

It was also "very likely" in parts of west Madhya Pradesh Monday and in Odisha until Tuesday.

In west India, a gradual fall by two to three degrees over the next three-four days is expected, and no significant change is anticipated thereafter, the

returns 3,000 bags: Govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 7: IndiGo has processed refunds totalling ₹610 crore so far against cancelled or severely delayed flights, and delivered 3,000 pieces of baggage to passengers across the country as of Saturday, the government said Sunday.

It also said the aviation network is moving swiftly towards full normalcy, and all corrective measures will remain in place until operations stabilise entirely.

On Saturday, the government had directed the airline to complete the ticket refund process for the cancelled flights by Sunday evening, and ensure baggage separated from travellers are delivered in the next two days.

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

"IndiGo has so far processed refunds totalling Rs 610 crore. No additional fees are permitted for rescheduling travel impacted by cancellations. Dedicated support cells have been created to proactively assist passengers so that refund and rebooking issues are resolved without delay or inconvenience," the aviation ministry said in a release.

Stating that the ministry has taken rapid and decisive steps to address the disruption caused by the recent IndiGo operational crisis and to ensure

Step by step, we are getting back: CEO

NEW DELHI: IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers Sunday said the airline will be operating around 1,650 flights Sunday and "step by step, we are getting back". In the last few days, hundreds of flights have been cancelled and delayed, causing hardships to thousands of passengers. The country's largest airline, which generally operates around 2,300 flights daily, Saturday operated about 1.500 flights compared to little over 700 Friday, Elbers, in an internal video message to the staff, said the airline's On Time Performance (OTP) is expected to be 75 per cent Sunday

that passengers do not face con tinued inconvenience, it said air travel operations across the country are stabilising at a fast pace.

All other domestic airlines are operating smoothly and at full capacity, while Indi-Go's performance has shown steady improvement Sunday, with flight schedules moving back towards normal levels the government said.

It also said that IndiGo's flight operations have increased from 706 Friday to 1,565 Saturday and are likely to reach up to 1,650 by the end

of Sunday. "Continuous communication is mandated throughout the process. With this push, IndiGo has successfully delivered 3,000 pieces of baggage to

passengers across India as of Saturday," it added.

PM to initiate debate on Vande Mataram in Lok Sabha today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will initiate the debate on the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram in Lok Sabha Monday, which is expected to bring to light several important and previously unknown facets about the national song.

Lok Sabha has listed 'Discus sion on the 150th anniversary of national song Vande Mataram Monday and allocated 10 hours for the debate. Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh is expected to be the second speaker in the debate that will also see the participation of Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra among other members. The debate in Parliament is part of the year-long celebrations on the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, a poem written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and set to tune by Jadunath Bhattacharya. Prime Minister Modi had hit out at the Congress, accusing it of removing key stanzas from the song in 1937 and sowing the seeds of partition. On November 7, Modi launched year-long celebrations to commemorate the 150th year of Vande Mataram aimed espe cially at youth and students to deepen awareness of the song's significance. "Many important and unknown facets related to Vande Mataram will come out in front of the nation during the debate," officials said. Home Minister Amit Shah

will initiate the discussion in Rajya Sabha Tuesday and Health Minister and Leader of the Rajya Sabha J P Nadda will be the second speaker.



for their transit remand in Bandra court Monday, the Mumbai police official added. Bhatt, his wife Shwetambari Bhatt, and six others are accused of defrauding Udaipur-based Dr Ajay Murdia. founder of Indira Group of Companies, of ₹30 crore, the official added. Two people have been arrested in the case earlier, he said. A team of Udaipur Police, which is probing the case, apprehended Vikram Bhatt and Shwetambari Sunday, he said. "Murdia, owner of Indira IVF Hospital, wanted to make a biopic on his late wife. He has alleged that he was promised earnings of ₹200 crore. But nothing materialised, after which Murdia approached Bhopalpura police station in Udaipur, where an FIR was registered for cheating and



J&K: Nearly 61% candidates : Six dead as car falls appear for CCE

A flock of migratory flamingos during the winter season, at the Sambhar Salt Lake in Jaipur

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Around 61 per cent of candidates appeared for the **Combined Competitive Examination** (CCE) Sunday as the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) went ahead with the test despite calls for postponement amid widespread flight cancellations and a row over upper age limit. The examination was conducted in two sessions -- from 10 am to 12 pm, and from 2 pm to 4 pm -- as scheduled, ending last-minute uncertainty amid tension between Lok Bhavan and the Omar Abdullah government over demands to relax the upper age limit. The elected government, several political parties, and many aspirants had urged the JKPSC to postpone the exam.

into 600-foot gorge

NASHIK: Six persons were killed after a car fell into a 600-foot deep gorge in Saptashring Garh Ghat in Nashik's Kalwan taluka Sunday, a police official said. The incident took place at 4pm and the deceased are from Pimpalgaon Baswant in Niphad taluka, the official added. "They died on the spot. The Toyota Innova vehicle, which had seven passengers, suffered heavy damage. The deceased have been identified as Kirti Patel (50), Raseela Patel (50), Vitthal Patel (65), Lata Patel (60), Vachan Patel (60) and Maniben Patel (70). Superintendent of police Balasaheb Patil is supervising rescue operations," the official said. The operations are underway with the deployment of personnel from the police as well as district disaster management committee, said resident deputy collector and District Disaster Authority CEO Rohitkumar Rajput.

Injured foreigner found in Navi Mumbai dies

MUMBAI: An unidentified foreigner who was found seriously injured near a residential building in Navi Mumbai died Sunday evening during treatment at a civic hospital, police said. The deceased man, who did not possess any documents on his person, was found lurking suspiciously in sector 1 of Sanpada, and his nationality is yet to be ascertained, an official said. Police suspect that he was drunk and fell while jumping over a gate, an incident captured on CCTV cameras, he said. He was found with serious injuries and was initially rushed to the civic hospital in Vashi and later shifted to a civic-run hospital in Mumbai, where he succumbed to his injuries, the official said. Police ruled out foul play, citing preliminary investigation.

Manish Tewari brings Bill to free MPs from party whips

freedom to toe an independent line in voting on Bills and motions other than a confidence motion, no-confidence motion, adjournment motion, money Bills and financial matters that could affect the stability of a government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Congress lawmaking".

Tewari, who introduced the

ari for the third time in Lok Sabha after 2010 and 2021, seeks to give parliamentarians the freedom to toe an independent line in voting on Bills and motions other than a confidence motion, no-confidence motion, adjournment motion, money bills and financial matters that could affect the stability of a government.

"This Bill seeks to return conscience, constituency and common sense to the echelons of the legislature so that an elected representative actually functions as the representative of the people who elected him and not as an instrument of a whip issued by his party, transforming lawmakers into mere lobotomised numbers and dogmatic ciphers responding to a



division bell," Tewari told PTI. The statement of objects and

reasons of the Bill state that it proposes to amend the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution with a view to provide for the following -? "a member shall incur loss of his membership only when he votes or abstains from

voting in the House with regard to a confidence motion, no-confidence motion, adjournment motion, money Bill or financial matters, contrary to any direction issued in this behalf by the party to which he belongs to, and in no other case."

"While making such an an-

his membership; and a member shall have the right to appeal against cessation of his membership to the Chairman or the Speaker, as the case may be, within a period of fifteen days from the date of such cessation and the appeal shall be disposed of within a period of sixty days from the date of its receipt by the Chairman or the Speaker of a House," it said. The reason for this is that

or the Speaker of House shall

also specifically inform the

members that the defiance of

the direction issued by a polit-

ical party by any member shall

result in automatic cessation of

parliamentarians do not see a role for themselves in lawmaking which is one of their essential functions, he said.

The Bill, introduced by Tewari for the third time in Lok Sabha after 2010 and 2021, seeks to give parliamentarians the

The Bill, introduced by Tewnouncement, the Chairman

MP Manish Tewari has introduced a B ill in Lok Sabha that seeks to allow parliamentarians to take an independent line in voting on Bills and motions other than those affecting the government's stability in a bid to free them from "whip-driven tyranny" and promote "good

private member's Bill Friday last to amend the Anti-Defection Law, said his proposed legislation seeks to flag who has primacy in a democracy - the elector who stands in the sun for hours to elect his or her representative or the political party whose whip the representative becomes the helot of.



international



The EU should be abolished and sovereignty returned to individual countries, so that governments can better represent their people ELON MUSK

NOBEL LAUREATES ARRIVE FOR WEEK OF EVENTS, AWARDS

Nobel week was underway in Stockholm and Oslo with laureates holding news conferences and lectures before they will be awarded the prestigious prizes





Organization's (SCO) counter-terrorism plans and cooperation efforts

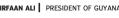
MEHRDAD KIAEI | DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SCO AND BRICS AFFAIRS AT IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

If you're working for a designated terrorist organisation and you bring drugs to this coun try in a boat, we will find you and we will sink you. Let there be no doubt about it

PETE HEGSETH | UNITED







SHORT TAKES

Indonesian Prez to visit Pak from today

Islamabad: Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will undertake his maiden official visit to Pakistan from Monday to deepen bilateral ties and explore new avenues of cooperation. Subjanto has been invited by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the visit from December 8-9, the Foreign Office said in a statement, adding that he will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising key ministers and senior officials. "This will be President Prabowo's first visit to Pakistan," the Foreign Office said.

Mild earthquake jolts western Nepal Kathmandu: A 4.6-magnitude

earthquake hit western Nepal's Sudurpashchim province Sunday morning. There were no immediate reports of damage. The earthquake was recorded at 8:28 am with an epicentre located in the Ghusa area of the Darchula district, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre. Tremors were felt in the neighbouring districts as well. However, there were no immediate reports of any damage caused by the tremor.

Pak: Security forces foil attack on Jaffar Express

Karachi: Security forces foiled an attempt to attack the frequently-targeted Jaffar Express passenger train in Pakistan's Balochistan province, according to a media report Sunday. Unidentified insurgents planted an improvised explosive device (IED) on the track used by the Peshawarbound train in the Nasirabad area of the province Saturday, the Dawn newspaper reported. Law enforcement agencies cordoned off the area after receiving information about the device and defused it, the report said, quoting a police official.

Supporters of **Machado march**

Caracas: Supporters of Venezuelan Opposition leader María Corina Machado demonstrated Saturday in several cities worldwide to commemorate her Nobel Peace Prize win ahead of the prestigious award ceremony next week. Dozens of people marched through Madrid, Utrecht, Buenos Aires, Lima and other cities in support of Machado, whose organization wants to use the attention gained by the award to highlight Venezuela's democratic aspirations. The organization expected demonstrations in more than 80 cities around the world Saturday.

Pakistan criticises Jaishankar's remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Dec 7: Pakistan Sunday criticised External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks against its military, saying its institutions, including armed forces, are a pillar of national security Speaking at the Hindustan

Times Leadership Summit in New Delhi Saturday, Jaishankar said much of India's problem emanates from Pakistan's military and even referred to its support for terror groups. Like there are good terrorists and bad terrorists, there are good military leaders and apparently not-so-good ones, he said, seen as a reference to Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. "Pakistan categorically rejects and condemns the highly inflammatory, baseless and irresponsible comments made by the Indian External Affairs Minister," Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said in response to media queries regarding Jaishankar's comments.

Andrabi said that Pakistan is a "responsible" state and its all institutions, including armed forces, are a "pillar of

Cotonou (Benin), Dec 7: A

coup that was announced in Be-

nin Sunday has been "foiled,"

the interior minister said in a

day, December 7, 2025, a small

group of soldiers launched a

mutiny with the aim of desta-

bilising the state and its insti-

tutions," Alassane Seidou said.

"Faced with this situation, the

"In the early morning of Sun-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

video on Facebook.

'Chinese jets target Japanese aircraft'

Tokyo, Dec 7: Japan said Sunday that Chinese fighter jets had aimed their radar at Japanese military aircraft in two "dangerous" incidents near Japan's Okinawa islands, an account Beijing disputed.

"These radar illuminations are a dangerous act that went beyond what is necessary for the safe flight of aircraft," Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told reporters, adding that Japan had lodged a protest with China over Saturday's "extremely regrettable" incident. Defense Minister Shinjiro

Koizumi, meeting with his Australian counterpart Richard Marles in Tokyo, said Japan would respond "resolutely and calmly" to China's conduct in order to maintain regional peace and stability. But a Chinese navy spokesperson, Colonel Wang Xuemeng, said Japanese aircraft had repeatedly approached and disrupted the Chinese navy as it was conducting previously announced carrier-based flight training east of the Miyako Strait.

Armed forces foil coup attempt: Benin govt

oath, remained committed to

the republic." Earlier, a group

of soldiers had appeared on

Benin's state TV Sunday to an-

nounce the dissolution of the

government in an apparent



Japan and Australia urged calm, a month after the Japanese leader's recent remarks on Taiwan that stirred tensions between Tokyo and Beijing

CHINA-JAPAN TIES STRAINED OVER TAIWAN

The encounters near islands East Asian powers.

itself the Military Committee

for Refoundation, announced

the removal of the president

and all state institutions. Lt Col

Pascal Tigri was appointed pres-

ident of the military committee,

the soldiers said. Following its

independence from France in

1960, the West African nation

witnessed multiple coups, espe-

cially in the decades following

its independence. Since 1991, the

country has been politically sta-

ble following the two-decade rule

the past month since Takaichi warned that Japan could respond to any Chinese military action against Taiwan if it also threatened Japan's security.

Directing a radar beam at an

- Most serious China-Japan military confrontations in
- Radar illuminations considered a threatening act
- Australian minister 'deeply concerned' about China's
- China-Japan relations soured over Japan PM's Taiwan comments

tion. Japan did not say whether the Chinese had locked on their planes or how Japan's aircraft responded. Wang, in a statement on official social media channels, countered that Japan's statement was erroneous and its actions had seriously endangered flight safety. "We solemnly demand that the Japanese side immediately stop slandering and smearing and strictly restrain front-line actions," Wang said. "The Chinese Navy will take necessary measures in accordance with the law to resolutely safeguard its own security and

Hong Kong votes in legislative election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong, Dec 7: Hong Kong voters are casting ballots Sunday in their second legislative election since a 2021 overhaul of the system eliminated the pro-democracy Opposition in the Chinese territory.

The poll, coming less than two weeks after an apartment fire that killed at least 159 people, is a possible test of public sentiment about the govern ment's handling of the tragedy

The focus is on voter turn out, which fell to about 30 per cent in the last election in 2021 after the overhaul dampened interest. Some analysts believe mounting public anger over government accountability in the blaze could suppress turnout further.

Turnout stood at about 20 per cent of eligible voters at 3:30 pm local time, after the polls had been open for eight hours. The polls close at 11:30 p.m.

"I'm performing my civic duty as a citizen to vote ... but I'm not too certain which candi date is hardworking and which is not," retiree Kwan Lam said outside a polling station. "I chose the one who cares for the elderly." City leader John Lee called on citizens to vote, say ing it would send a signal on promoting reforms. He said he would put forth a proposal to the new legislature on how to support the fire survivors, many of whom have been left homeless Ahead of the vote, Chinese

authorities called foreign me dia to a rare meeting to warn them that they need to comply with the city's national securi tv laws. Election campaigning was suspended after the fire and remained subdued in the final days out of respect for the victims. Government efforts to drive up turnout, seen as a ref erendum on the new electoral system, had been in full swing before the blaze

claimed by both Japan and China are the most serious run-ins between the two militaries in vears and are likely to further escalate tension between the two

Relations have soured in

other aircraft is a threatening step because it signals a potential attack and may force the targeted plane to take evasive ac-

US, Ukraine officials wrap up third day of diplomatic talks attack on infrastructure in the ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Dec 7: Russian missile and drone attacks overnight into Sunday killed at least one person in Ukraine, after US and Ukrainian officials wrapped up a third day of talks aimed at ending the war.

A man was killed in a drone attack on Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region Saturday night, local officials said, while a combined missile and drone

central city of Kremenchuk caused power and water outages. Kremenchuk is home to one of Ukraine's biggest oil refineries and is an industrial hub. Kviv and its Western allies

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

Beninese Armed Forces and coup, the latest of many in West of Marxist-Leninist Mathieu their leadership, true to their Africa. The group, which called Kérékou.



People dressed as Santa Claus ride their Harley Davidsons through the streets of Lugano, Switzerland, for the traditional Santa Claus parade, December 6



Uzbekistan's Jayokhir Sindarov in action against Hans Niemann of the US during the Diving Chess



A performer spits fire during a parade marking National Clown Day in San Salvador, El Salvador, December 3



Motorcycles pass a puddle by a war-damaged building in Yarmouk, a Palestinian neighborhood originally established as a refugee camp in 1957, in Damascus, Syria, December 7

business



in Q2, just grew about 3.5-4 per cent. So. it's not been something which has been really great. Monsoon was the spoilsport, and the festive window was also small AMIT SYNGLE | MD & CEO,

\$800BN: MUSK REJECTS **SPACEX VALUATION**

Elon Musk on Saturday dismissed media reports that SpaceX is raising funds at an \$800 billion valuation, calling them inaccurate. "SpaceX has been cash flow positive for many years and does periodic stock buybacks twice a year to provide liquidity for employees and investors," Musk said in a post on X



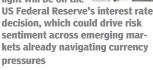
MF equity investments

surge 2X in November

guidance on credit growth. it from 12 per cent to 14 per cent. We see a robust credit

growth, particularly from the RAM segment, MSME is almost growing at 17-18 per cent and agriculture and retail is around 14 per cent CS SETTY | CHAIRMAN, SBI

This week markets will closely track **India's CPI print** on December 12... Globally, the spot light will be on the



AJIT MISHRA | SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING LTD





FOMC meeting outcome and the Fed Chair Jerome Powell's commentary as well, while on the data front, the focus will be on China's trade and inflation data and the US iobs data

PRANAV MER | VICE PRESIDENT, EBG (COMMODITY & CURRENCY RESEARCH), JM FINANCIAL SERVICES

FPIs' exodus reaches ₹1.55L-cr

Indian Rupee depreciated by nearly 5% against the US dollar this year, which makes dollar returns smaller for foreign investors and encourages withdrawal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Foreign investors have pulled out Rs 11,820 crore (\$1.3 billion) from Indian equities in the first week of this month, primarily driven by the sharp depreciation of the rupee.

This sharp withdrawal follows a net outflow of Rs 3,765 crore in November, further pressuring markets.

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

According to NSDL data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew a net amount of Rs 11.820 crore from Indian equities in the first week of this month. This takes the total outflow for 2025 to Rs 1.55 lakh



Analysts attribute the renewed selling primarily to currency concerns.

"The rupee has depreciated nearly 5 per cent this year, prompting FPIs to pull out during such periods," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments.

Adding to this, year-end portfolio repositioning by global investors, a typical December trend before the holiday season, has also intensified selling, noted Vagarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One.

Khan said delays in final-

have further dampened global sentiment.

"However, despite the FPI exodus, the impact on markets has been cushioned by strong domestic participation. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 19,783 crore during the same period, completely offsetting the foreign selloff," Vijayaku-

DII confidence has been supported by India's robust GDP numbers and expectations of an improvement in corporate earnings ahead.

The sentiment received an

SELLING SPREE

 Foreign investors pull out ₹11.820cr in first week of Dec

•This sharp withdrawal follows outflow of ₹3,765cr in Nov

25-bps rate cut on December 5. when FPI flows turned positive for the day at Rs 642 crore.

This shift was significant, considering FPIs had sold nearly Rs 13,000 crore by December 4

The RBI not only reduced rates but also raised its FY26 growth guidance to 7.3 per cent, while cutting its CPI forecast to 2 per cent. A strong growth environment augurs well for Indian equities," Khan

Looking ahead, global liquidity may get another lift. The CME Fed Watch Tool indicates that the FOMC is expected to cut rates by 25 bps next week, a move that typically benefits risk assets worldwide, he said.

India, he said, could be a key beneficiary, though the absence of a concluded India-US trade deal remains a

Meanwhile, in the debt market, FPIs invested Rs 250 crore under the general limit while withdrawing Rs 69 crore through the voluntary retention route during the same

Mutual funds invested net ₹43,465cr in equities last month

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Dec 7: Mutual funds sharply increased their equity purchases in November, riding on a steady rise in investor inflows and improving market sentiment. According to data sourced

from SEBI, MFs invested a net Rs 43,465 crore in equities last month -- more than double the Rs 20,718 crore they pumped in during October. Market data shows that fund

houses were consistent buyers through almost the entire month, stepping back only on two days when they pulled out Rs 2,473 crore. The strong and steady buy-

ing interest from mutual funds helped lift overall market mood and contributed to the rise in benchmark indices While equity inflows surged,

mutual funds turned significant sellers in the debt segment. Net outflows from debt funds shot up to Rs 72,201 crore in

November, compared with Rs 12,771 crore in October. The strong domestic invest-



when the industry has already been witnessing robust participation from retail investors through systematic investment plans (SIPs)

In October, SIP inflows hit an all-time high of Rs 29,529 crore, rising from Rs 29,361 crore in September, as per data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Industry experts say this steady flow of money, es pecially into SIPs - reflects disciplined investor behaviour despite short-term market volatility.

They believe such consistent contributions have helped expand the industry's total assets under management and continue to provide crucial support to equity markets.

Analysts also note that while confidence in equities remains strong, some investors are gradually diversifying towards debt-oriented schemes and gold given the uncertain global en

UIDAI considering

ban on Aadhaar

New Delhi, Dec 7: A new rule

to discourage entities like ho-

tels, event organisers, etc, from

taking photocopy of Aadhaar

cards of customers and storing

them in physical form will be

photocopying

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHORT **TAKES**

Advent ends Whirlpool **India stake discussions**

Mumbai: Global private equity firm Advent International's talks to acquire US giant Whirlpool's India unit for up to \$1 billion have collapsed due to disagreements over valuation, four people familiar with the matter told Reuters. Advent had emerged as the frontrunner to acquire a 31% stake in Whirlpool of India from its Michigan-based parent. Whirlpool Corp, which would have triggered a mandatory open offer to acquire a majority stake, the sources said. In January, the USlisted home appliance maker said it had a 51% stake in its India unit and wanted to pare that to about 20% to nay off a maior chunk of its debt amid a major rejig of its global assets.

Mcap of 5 of top-10 most-valued cos rises

New Delhi: The combined of the top-10 most valued firms surged by Rs 72,284.74 crore last week, with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest winners. While Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Bajaj Finance were the gainers, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced erosion from their valuation. Last week, the BSE benchmark eked out a marginal gain of 5.7 points, while the NSE Nifty dipped 16.5 points. Reliance Industries remained the most-valued domestic firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Larsen &

BoM slashes retail loan rates by 25 bps

New Delhi: Public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Sunday announced reduction in interest rates by 25 basis points on retail loans, including home, car, education and other loans linked with Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) in line with the RBI rate cut. With the revision effective Saturday, the bank's home interest rate and car loan from 7.45 per cent, which is among the lowest in the

JAN DHAN ACCOUNTS NOW HOLD ₹2.75L-CR



Indo-asian news service

New Delhi, Dec 7: India's financial inclusion drive has reached a major milestone, with Jan Dhan accounts across the country now holding a total balance of about Rs 2.75 lakh

This works out to an average of Rs 4,815 in each account, according to M Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services.

Delivering the 69th Foundation Day Lecture on India's Financial Inclusion Journey at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Nagaraiu said India has witnessed a transformation in how people access and use financial

services

He described the country's progress as "nothing short of a miracle", noting that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) launched in 2014 played a crucial role in bringing more than 57 crore people into the formal banking system

He said that financial inclusion is now deeply linked with India's development model, especially through Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT).

In the current financial year alone, Rs 3.67 lakh crore has been transferred directly to beneficiaries, ensuring transparency and timely delivery of government support.

Nagaraju highlighted that

counts continue to benefit people living outside major cities.

About 78.2 per cent of these accounts are located in rural or semi-urban areas, while women hold around 50 per cent of them.

This, he said, reflects the government's emphasis on empowering rural households and improving financial access

He also pointed out that India's Financial Inclusion Index has steadily improved, standing at 67 as of March 2025.

The rise indicates better access, wider usage and improved quality of financial services, supported by ongoing initiatives under PMJDY.

Responding to a question, the DFS Secretary said that LIC is in the final stages of digitising its product purchase and benefits disbursement systems.

These fully digital services are expected to be rolled out for consumers "in a couple of

India's financial inclusion efforts have been gaining momentum through awareness events and ground-level initiatives across the country.

Recently, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra attended a Jan Dhan anniversary event in Indore, where he emphasised that financial inclusion remains central to India's growth story.

Olympians promote solar power at TPCODL's stall



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Hockey India President and Olympi an Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey, along with Olympians Sravani Nand and Deepgrace Ekka, visited the TPCODL stall on the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana at the Kalinga Stadium.

The athletes interacted briefly with the team at the stall and were apprised of the key features of the rooftop solar initiative.

Tirkev said that solar energy has become an important choice for households and encouraged citizens to make use of the support available under the scheme.

Utkal Karate School Secretary Hari Prasad Pattnaik also

visited the stall and received an outline of how easily and affordably rooftop solar panels can be installed through this scheme.

Under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana - ULA model, consumers can install a 1 kW rooftop solar system for only 5,000 (solar meter cost extra). The solar modules come with a 25-year warranty. The DISCOM will provide maintenance services free of cost for five years.

Consumers are eligible for subsidy support from both the central and state governments.

By adopting green energy, consumers can reduce high electricity bills while contributing to a more environment-friendly atmosphere.

published soon, a senior government official said. Such practices are in contra vention of the present Aadhaar The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar told PTI that the authority has ap

proved a new rule mandating registration of entities that seek Aadhaar-based verification like hotels, event organisers, etc, to provide them access to a new technology that will enable them to verify an individual by scanning QR code or connecting with new Aadhaar app in

"The new rule has been approved by the authority and will be notified soon. It will mandate registration of offline verification-seeking entities like hotels, event organisers. The objective is to discourage

the works, the top official said



paper-based Aadhaar verification," Kumar said.

The new verification process will also resolve issues related to several works that get hampered due to downtime of intermediate servers that connect with the central Aadhaar database. Entities seeking offline verification will get access to API (application programming interface) through which they can update their system for Aadhaar verification.

UIDAI is beta-testing a new app that will enable app-to-app verification without needing to connect with the central Aad haar database server for every verification.

The new app can also be used at places like airports, shops that need to sell age-appropriate products, etc.

"The ease of verification will enhance offline verification without the use of paper while maintaining privacy of users or any risk of their Aadhaar data getting leaked for misuse,

Eternal founder unveils teaser of 'Temple'

Deepinder says Temple is an 'experimental device' designed to measure brain blood flow accurately, in real time, and on a continuous basis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 7: Deepinder Goyal, founder and CEO of Zomato's parent company Eternal, Sunday shared a first look at his new product, a brain blood flow monitoring device called 'Temple'.

He posted a short teaser on Instagram with the caption "Getting there," giving users a glimpse of the small wearable

gadget. The device has sparked curi-

wearing a tiny golden sensor on the right side of his forehead. Many users wondered what it

was, prompting him to explain its purpose in an earlier Linke-Goyal said that Temple is an

'experimental device' designed to measure brain blood flow accurately, in real time, and on a continuous basis. He said the device was cre-

ated while he was researching his recently discussed 'Gravity Ageing Hypothesis'. Last month, Goyal shared a series of posts outlining this

"scientific yet unconventional" idea. He suggested that gravity could directly affect how humans age. In his words, he was sharing

the theory not as a CEO but as someone curious enough to follow a strange scientific path. He noted that while Newton defined gravity and Einstein

described how it bends space-

time, he believes gravity may also shorten human lifespan. Goyal said he is studying

connections between three factors: how standing upright slightly reduces blood flow to the brain, how sensitive cer-

tain brain regions like the hypothalamus and brainstem are to small changes in circulation, and how these regions control the ageing process.

According to him, these links could open a new understanding

gevity and cognitive health. Because of that, he believes Temple remains useful even if his gravity-based ageing theory proves incorrect. Addressing speculation that

of how ageing works

ant global health tool.

Goyal revealed that he has

been using the Temple device

for a year and feels it has the

potential to become an import-

He pointed out that brain

blood flow is already considered

a key biomarker for ageing, lon-

the hypothesis was simply a

strategy to promote the device, Goyal denied any such intention. He said Temple would be a "small, cute company" compared to Eternal and made it clear that he would never risk customers' trust for marketing.

He emphasised that the Gravity Ageing Hypothesis was not created to sell the device, but emerged from genuine scientific curiosity.

Kumar said. The new app is expected to finetune Aadhaar authentication service in line with Digital Personal Data Protection Act. which will be completely oper ational in 18 months.

loan starts from 7.10 per cent banking industry, BoM said.

osity ever since Goyal was seen

Not a fairy tale ending for Mandhana, Palash India's FIH Junior a dreamy proposal turned into a quiet goodbye as indian star batter, music composer call WC dream over

OFF WEDDING, BRINGING AN END TO A TWO-WEEK SAGA AND A SIX-YEAR RELATIONSHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: India batter Smriti Mandhana Sunday announced that her wedding had been called off and urged fans and media to stop the speculation, while music composer Palash Muchhal confirmed that he had "decided to move on" from the relationship.

Muchhal also warned of legal action against those spreading defamatory rumours.

Mandhana, one of India's most prominent women cricketers, issued her first public statement on social media after rumours about her personal life had intensified over the past month. She was supposed to marry



purpose driving us all and for me level. I hope to continue to play and win trophies for India for as long as possible

was hospitalised due to a heart ailment. "I need to clarify that the wedding is called off. I would like to close this matter here and implore all of you to do the same," she wrote.

Calling herself a "very private person", Mandhana said the need to set the record straight compelled her to speak. She requested fans and the public to "respect the privacy of both families" and allow them the 'space to process and move on".

Soon after Mandhana's post,

Palash Muchhal issued his own statement, confirming that he had "decided to move on" and expressing anguish over what he described as baseless online chatter. 'I have decided to move on in my life and step back from my personal relationship. It's been very difficult for me to see people react so easily on baseless rumours about something which has been most sacred to me. It's the most difficult phase of my life and I will deal with it gracefully holding on to my beliefs," he wrote.

Both statements come against the backdrop of intensified social media discussions and unverified reports, prompting public figures to step in to curb conjecture.

Mandhana, 28, has been a central figure in Indian women's cricket for nearly a decade, and her presence in the batting line-up has been crucial across formats. With India set for a busy 2026 calendar, the left-hander reiterated that her professional commit ments remain her priority.



Colts lose to title holders *Germany 1-5 in semifinals*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Dec 7: India's dream of reclaiming the FIH Men's Junior World Cup after a hiatus of nine years went up in smoke as they lost 1-5 to seven-time champions and title holders Germany in the semifinal here Sunday.

The Indians had last won the Junior World Cup in 2016 in Lucknow. The ruthless Germans scored through Lukas Kossel (14th, 30th minutes), Titus Wex (15th), Jonas von Gersum (40th)

and Ben Hasbach (49th). India pulled one back in the 51st minute through a penalty-corner conversion by Anmol Ekka. Spain had earlier defeated Argentina 2-1 in the first semifinal. India started the match on a positive note but the Germans took control of the proceedings as the game progressed.

Germany had the first shy at the goal in the eighth minute but goalkeeper Princedeep Singh was alert to deny Ben Hasbach's reverse hit.

Germany grew in confidence as the match progressed and secured their first penalty corner in the 13th minute.

Germany earned a penalty stroke as the goal-mouth flick from the resultant penalty corner

hit the body of an Indian defender. Lukas Kossel made no mistake in slotting home the goal.

Germany doubled the lead at the stroke of the first quarter when Wex deflected in a cross from Kossel. Just 11 seconds from the end of the second quarter, Germany secured their second penalty corner and Kossel was on target as the reigning champions took a handsome 3-0 lead half-time

India will now play Argentina for the bronze medal Wednesday, while **Germany will take on Spain in the final**

India had a bright chance to pull one back three minutes after the change of ends but Sourabh Anand Kushwaha fumbled in front of an open goal. Germany continued their domination as the Indians looked a pale shadow of themselves.

Germany secured back-to back penalty corners in the 36th minute but wasted both the chances. Down and out, India secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 51st minute and Anmol found the net from a vari ation effort. The Indians tried to press hard thereafter but by then the match was already over.

SHORT **TAKES**

Saraswat bags title

Guwahati: India's Sanskar Saraswat clinched his maiden Super 100 title after eking out a three-game victory over compatriot Mithun Manjunath in the men's singles final of the Guwahati Masters here Sunday, The 19-year-old from Jodhpur showcased grit and firepower while unleashing a barrage of smashes to outwit former national champion Manjunath 21-11, 17-21, 21-13 in an all-Indian final that lasted 50 minutes. However, Tanvi Sharma, a world junior championships silver medallist, registered a runner-up finish in women's singles after losing 18-21 18-21 to Tung Ciou-Tong of Chinese Taipei in the finals. Indian men's doubles pair of Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K also finished second best after losing 13-21 18-21 to Malaysia's sixth seed Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai in a lop-sided final.

Villa stun Gunners

London: Aston Villa ignited the Premier League title race with a last-gasp 2-1 victory over leaders Arsenal that allowed Manchester City to close the gap to two points Saturday, Substitute Emiliano Buendia struck the winner in the fifth minute of stoppage time with virtually the last kick of a sizzling Villa Park duel to leave the resurgent Midlands club just three points behind Arsenal who slipped to their first defeat in 19 games in all competitions. City enjoyed a routine 3-0 home win against Sunderland. Champions Liverpool remain 10 points behind Arsenal though after drawing 3-3 at Leeds United. Fourth-placed Chelsea drew 0-0 at Bournemouth, while Everton are up to fifth as they beat Nottingham Forest 3-0 at home. Tottenham Hotspur claimed only their second home league win of the season in a 2-0 defeat of Brentford.

Kane scores hat-trick

Berlin: Harry Kane was substituted in at the hour mark and still had enough time to score a hat trick. The England captain took his goal tally for Bayern Munich this season to 28 and the defending champions maintained their eight-point lead over secondplaced Leipzig with a 5-0 thrashing of Stuttgart on the road. With Kane on the bench. Konrad Laimer took on the scoring duties and produced a superb finish.

Norris new champion BRITON CLINCHES FIRST FORMULA ONE WORLD TITLE, ENDS McLAREN'S 17-YEAR DROUGHT ■ Norris ends Verstappen's ner-up eight times in 110 starts. four-year reigr

Abu Dhabi, Dec 7: Mentally fragile, too cocky, a privileged Gen Z kid bankrolled by a wealthy father, rapid but lacking the killer instinct that separates champions from the rest -- Lando Norris has faced plenty of criticism on his road to the top in Formula One. He has been booed by hostile

crowds in parts of the world with different favourites, replying with a smile and wave from the podium, and taken flak for mistakes including colliding with McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri. The 26-year-old, who was world

karting champion in 2013 and became Britain's 11th Formula One champion since the 1950s with third place in Abu Dhabi Sunday, has repeatedly made the naysayers eat their words. There are plenty of fired-up

fans ready to defend their hero, although maybe not in Australia

been asked and conspiracies raised alleged about McLaren favouritism of the Brit over local boy Piastri. Until last year's Miami Grand

Prix, social me-

dia keyboard

warriors dubbed Norris 'Lando Nowins' -- holder of the Formula One record for most podiums without a win (15) after finishing run-

I've not cried in a while. I didn't think I would cry but I did. It feels amazing. I now know what Max feels like a little bit



- Verstappen wins race, Piastri second
- McLaren celebrate first title double since 1998

have come from pole position.

HEART ON SLEEVE

Norris has increasingly worn his heart on his sleeve, speaking out openly about mental health issues and becoming a role model as a new type of F1 driver far removed from stereotypes of old

Retired four-times world champion Sebastian Vettel was quick to identify that attitude as a source of strength rather than weakness

"Heroism is fine but it's also part of the heroism to just talk about your problems and your weakness. I think that's a great development to see and to witness," he told Reuters in April.

Unlikely hero Neser helps Australia take 2-0 Ashes lead

Brisbane, Dec 7: Australia stormed to an eight-wicket victory in the second Ashes test in Brisbane to go 2-0 up in the series on Sunday as England's resistance was broken on day four by a pace blitz from unlike ly hero Michael Neser

Helped by the catching magic of home captain Steve Smith, 35-year-old Neser finished with 5-42 at his home ground in his first test in three years, leaving the hosts needing 65 runs to win the day-night match.

While England quick Gus Atkinson grabbed two wickets, opener Jake Weatherald (17 not out) and number four batter Smith (23 not out) mowed



down the target after dinner condemning England to a 15th loss in their last 17 tests in Aus-

England seamer Jofra Archer had a heated exchange with Smith in the final overs but ended up getting smashed for two fours and a six by the fired-up skipper.

Australia finished on 69 for two and Smith sealed the win in style, thumping Atkinson for another six over deep square to the delight of the home fans in the crowd of 27,888.

With Adelaide to come among three matches left in the series, England captain Ben Stokes refused to concede the urn was lost after battling hard in a 152-ball 50.

It would nonetheless take something extraordinary for

Only one team has ever come back from 2-0 down to win the series in nearly 150 years of test cricket - Don Bradman's Australia in the home Ashes

ISSF WORLD CUP FINAL

Golden shot by Simranpreet

SILVER LINING FOR AISHWARY, ANISH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, Dec 7: Young Simranpreet Kaur Brar overcame a challenging field to win the women's 25m pistol gold while men's 50m rifle 3-position exponent Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar bagged a silver on his ISSF World Cup Final debut here Sunday.

World Championships silver-medallist in 25m rapid-fire pistol Anish Bhanwala also ended the year on a high with another second-place finish as India took their tally to six, including two gold, three silver and a bronze.

With another strong showing on day two, India maintained their second position on the medal tally behind China who have three gold, two silver and three bronze. Simranpreet, whose father left his govern-



The other Indian to qualify score of 581.



ment job to support his daughter, did her parents proud with biggest achievement of her career by shooting a superb 41 in the final, equalling the World junior record in the process.

for the eight-shooter final, Esha Singh finished seventh. Double Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker could not make the final after finishing ninth in the qualification round with a

FC Goa defend Super Cup title Manolo Marquez's team

wins the tournament for record-extending third time, books spot in CL 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Margao, Dec 7: FC Goa won the AIFF Super Cup after they prevailed over East Bengal FC in sudden-death shootout here Sunday, the title triumph also giving them a spot in next season's AFC Champions League 2.

The win helped Manolo Marquez's team to become the first side to defend the Super Cup title and win it for a record-extending third time.

In a riveting contest at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, the Gaurs emerged 6-5 victors in the shootout to clinch their second successive title in the tournament played among the top teams from Indian Super League and I-League.

The match went into extra time after both teams were unable to find the target, and



they could not score in the additional 30 minutes too, taking the contest to tie-breaker.

The teams were locked 4-4 in the penalty shootout, and the match was then decided in sudden death with FC Goa having the last laugh. In the sudden death, Sahil Tayora scored the winner for FC Goa after Udanta Singh too found the back of the net.

Substitute Hamid Ahadad scored for East Bengal but PV Vishnu missed the target for East Bengal.

The final ebbed and flowed

both ways right from the start. The hosts, buoyed by the boisterous support from the stands, began well with a couple of setpiece opportunities early on, which the East Bengal defence eventually negotiated.

East Bengal, however, soon recovered their composure and began orchestrating chances. Their first opportunity came in the 12th when Miguel Ferreira was played in behind the defence and had just goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Singh Gill to beat, but shot wide.







Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir, leg-spinner Kuldeep Yadav and South Africa captain Temba Bavuma clicked while being welcomed at a City hotel Sunday. Players of both the teams have arrived in Bhubaneswar for the first twenty-20 match to be played at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack

Inter Miami bag first MLS Cup title



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Fort Lauderdale, Dec 7: Inter Miami CF secured a historic 3-1 win over Vancouver Whitecaps FC to clinch the Club's fourth trophy and first-ever MLS Cup

Lionel Messi assisted second-half goals from Rodrigo De Paul and Tadeo Allende, delivering Miami their first Philip F Anschutz Trophy in the club's sixth season. Notably, Messi earned MLS

Cup MVP honors after dishing out two assists. Additionally, Spanish legends Jordi Alba and

Sergio Busquets were selected as Icons of the Match presented by Royal Caribbean as they closed out their stellar careers lifting one last title.

Inter Miami have earned their most sought-after trophy since signing Messi in July 2023, a monumental move that kick-started a new era of North American soccer. They previously won Leagues Cup (2023) and Supporters' Shield (2024) titles, and are now the 16th alltime MLS Cup winner. This all comes in Miami's sixth season, and with the club set to open Miami Freedom Park next April.

England to win it from here.

of 1936/37.

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