



Cryptic post

Actor Kiara Advani sparks curiosity among fans with her latest social-media post, hinting at a new beginning

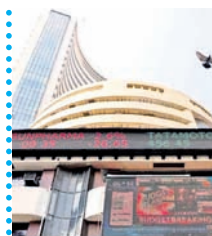
LEISURE | P2



Thai airstrikes

Thailand launches airstrikes along the disputed border with Cambodia as both sides accuse the other of breaking a ceasefire

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Wealth erodes

Investors become poorer by ₹7.12 lakh crore as Sensex nosedives Monday after two consecutive days of gains

BUSINESS | P11



Barabati clash

India will take on South Africa in the much-awaited opening T20I match at the Barabati Stadium today

SPORTS | P12

CRISIS-HIT INDIGO CANCELS 500 FLIGHTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 8: Crisis-hit domestic carrier IndiGo has cancelled 500 flights and plans to operate 1,802 services on Monday, the civil aviation ministry said.

The airline has delivered 4,500 bags to the passengers out of the total 9,000, and will deliver the remaining in next 36 hours, the ministry said in a statement.

“Today (Monday) IndiGo plans to operate 1,802 flights to 137 out of 138 destinations, with 500 cancellations. (Also) 4,500 bags were delivered to customers out of the total 9,000 bags. (the airline) targets to deliver balance bags in the next 36 hours,” the ministry said.

It also said that 5,86,705 PNRs for period December 1-7 were cancelled and refunded, amounting to total ₹569.65 crore. Total 9,55,591 PNRs for period November 21 to December 7 were also cancelled and refunded, amounting to ₹827 crore.

MALKANGIRI: 24-HR INTERNET SHUTDOWN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malkangiri/Korukonda, Dec 8: The administration Monday suspended internet services in Malkangiri district and clamped prohibitory orders in two villages following a clash between two groups over the killing of a tribal woman whose headless body was recovered from a river, police said.

Both sides wrote to the district administration demanding the arrest of the killer, while the police said security has been tightened in the area and the situation is now under control. The opposition raised the issue in the Assembly, accusing the BJP government of failing to prevent the clash Sunday, though tension prevailed in the area following the recovery of the torso of 51-year-old Lake Padiami, a widow, from a riverbank near Rakhelguda village December 4.

P5

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



After singing 'Namaste Sada Vatsale' today, we will discuss the greatness of Vande Mataram!

Hours after nightclub fire, owners flee to Thailand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji/New Delhi, Dec 8: Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, the owners of the Goa nightclub wanted in connection with the fire tragedy that claimed 25 lives at the facility, have fled to Thailand, prompting police to seek the help of Interpol to trace them, officials said here Monday.

According to a statement issued by the Goa Police, the owners of the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora, where the blaze killed people, mostly staff and five tourists, late Saturday night, fled to Phuket at 5:30 AM December 7 in an IndiGo Airlines plane, just hours after the incident.

The owners' escape was discovered after a massive man-



DARE DEVIL: A participant shows his skills during the Home Guard and Civil Defence Foundation Day celebrations in Dehradun, Monday

PTI PHOTO

3 Odias held in Delhi over ₹6.33cr fraud

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested three men – all from Odisha - allegedly involved in operating a cyber fraud network posing as representatives of SEBI-registered stockbrokers that facilitated a pan-India investment scam amounting to nearly '50 lakh, an official said Monday. The accused, identified as Pravash Chandra Panda (43), and his nephews Pritam Roshan Panda (27) and Sritam Roshan Panda (24), are linked to 165 cybercrime complaints across the country, with financial trails indicating transactions worth '6.33 crore, they added. The arrests were made during the investigation of a case registered in Dwarka, involving a complainant who was duped by fraudsters posing as representatives of SEBI-registered stockbrokers, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Aditya Gautam said.

Wife records as hubby rapes woman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Dec 8: A woman was allegedly raped by a man in Kasafal village under Singla police limits while his wife recorded the act on a mobile phone. The couple later allegedly threatened to make the clip viral if the victim did not agree to repeated sexual relations, police sources said Monday. A case was registered after nine days of the alleged incident.

According to the complaint, Ganesh Rana of Kasafal village under Sartha police outpost called the woman to his house November 28 to grind rice flour. Rana's wife was also present at home.

Rana's wife allegedly forced the woman to sleep with Ganesh. When she tried to flee, the couple restrained her. While Rana raped the woman, his wife recorded the act.



The couple then allegedly threatened to upload the video online unless the victim agreed to have sexual relations with Rana again. The woman then filed a written complaint at Sartha police outpost on the day of the incident alleging sexual assault, but officers initially refused to register a case and sent her away, as per allegations. On December 6, several senior BJD leaders including Swarup Das, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Sukanta Nayak and Sudhansu Sekhar Parida raised the issue with DIG (Eastern Range) Pinak Mishra.

41K crimes against women in 15 months

The state has once again seen a troubling rise in crimes against women in just over a year after the government initially claimed a significant decline. According to data from the Odisha Police, 22,941 cases of crimes against women were registered by February this year, following the formation of the BJP government June 12, 2024. This marked a 4.2% dip compared to the 23,944 cases reported during a similar period under the previous administration. However, in the subsequent seven months, an additional 18,006 cases were registered, as revealed by the Chief Minister in the Assembly Monday. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data further shows that the state reported 31,352 such cases in 2021. This number dropped to 23,648 in 2022, and rose again to 25,914 in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: A total of 40,947 cases of crimes against women, including 3,205 rapes, were registered in Odisha in 15 months till September, according to data provided by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the Assembly on Monday.

These cases were reported since July 1, 2024, Majhi said, in reply to a written question by BJD legislator Prasanna Acharya.

The BJP came to power in the state in June 2024, ending the 24-year rule of the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government.



MAJOR OFFENCES

9,851 cases of molestations
8,863 cases of kidnapping
2,310 cases of public disrobing
1,476 cases of sexual harassment
556 stalking cases
202 cases of attempted rape

The Opposition has been regularly criticising Majhi's government, alleging that crimes against women have increased after the BJP came to power in the state.

According to data provided by the CM, 202 cases of attempted rape, 1,476 cases of sexual harassment, 9,851 cases of molestations, 2,310 cases of public disrobing of women, 8,863 cases of kidnapping of women, 796 eve-teasing and 556 stalking cases were registered in the state during the period.

Among the other cases registered were 129 trafficking, 277 dowry homicides, 49 dowry suicides, 5,861 dowry tortures, 6,773 non-dowry tortures and 152 voyeurism.

Four cases of acid attack were also lodged during the period.

Majhi said several steps have been taken to improve the quality of investigation, fast-tracking of the cases and improving the conviction rate.

Investigative Units on Crime Against Women (IUCAW) are functioning in 29 districts. These units take up investigation of important and sensitive cases, he said.

The Bhubaneswar-based Crime Against Women and Children Wing (CAW&CW) monitors the monthly performance of Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (IAHTU), Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) and IUCAW units of the districts and issues instructions for improvement of functioning, he said.

Majhi said a Children and Women Online Abuse Monitoring Unit is functioning under the CID-Crime Branch to tackle cyber crimes against women and children.

The Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, Protection Officers, and Dowry Prohibition Officers are also working for the safety and security of women and children in the state, he added.

Student dies post self-immolation bid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: A female student of Sudargarh district, who suffered 90 per cent burn injuries after she allegedly set herself on fire, died while undergoing treatment at Ispat General Hospital (IGH) Rourkela, police said Monday.

The undergraduate student was allegedly blackmailed by a 25-year-old man following which she tried to end her life at her home in Rajgangpur police station area Friday night. She was admitted to the IGH with burn injuries.

State Health and Family Welfare minister Mukesh Ma-

haling had visited IGH Sunday and directed the hospital authorities to airlift her to AIIMS Bhubaneswar for better treatment. However, the victim succumbed to the burn injuries Sunday night, the hospital authorities said.

This was the fifth such incident in the state in a span of six months when women died in a similar manner in Balasore, Puri, Kendrapara, Bargarh and now Rajgangpur.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep sorrow over the student's tragic death. He announced '4 lakh ex-gratia assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for student's next of kin.

Ancient pleasure boat found off Alexandria coast

An ancient Egyptian pleasure boat that matches a description by the first-century Greek historian Strabo has been discovered off the coast of Alexandria, to the excitement of archaeologists.

With its palaces, temples and the 130 metre-high Pharos lighthouse – one of the seven wonders of the ancient world – Alexandria had been one of the most magnificent cities in antiquity. The pleasure boat, which dates from the first half of the first century AD, was 35 metres long and constructed to hold a central pavilion with a luxuriously decorated cabin.

It was discovered off the submerged island of Antirrhodos, which was part of ancient Alexandria's Portus

Magnus (great port).

Strabo had visited the Egyptian city around 29-25BC and wrote of such boats: "These vessels are luxuriously fitted out and used by the royal court for excursions; and the crowd of revellers who go down from Alexandria by the canal to the public festivals; for every day and every night is crowded with people on the boats who play the flute and dance without restraint and with extreme licentiousness."

The excavations were conducted by the European Institute for Underwater Archaeology under the direction of Franck Goddio, a visiting professor in maritime archaeology at the University of Oxford.

He told the Guardian: "It's extremely exciting because



it's the first time ever that such a boat has been discovered in Egypt ... Those boats were mentioned by different

ancient authors, like Strabo, and they were also represented in some iconography – for example in the Palestrina

mosaic, where you see such a boat of a much smaller size with noblemen hunting hippopotamuses. But [an actual boat] has never been discovered before."

While that mosaic depicts perhaps a 15-metre boat, this one is far larger, judging by its well-preserved timbers, which also span a breadth of about 7 metres. It may have required more than 20 rowers. It had been lying only 7 metres under the water and 1.5 metres under the sediment. Goddio's initial assumption was that there were two ships on top of one another "because the construction type was so strange". He added: "The bow is flat ... and the stern is round ... to be able to navigate in very shallow water."

AGENCIES

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST



GaneshaSpeaks.com™

accuracy • reliability • trust

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*



ARIES

You are in a position to affect other peoples' lives. Since you are very compassionate and caring, people will look up to you whether as a peer or a superior. Make good use of this excess energy to solve prickly issues. Ganesha encourages large-scale projects.



TAURUS

It will be a thought-provoking day with tidbits of success and rewards scattered here and there, says Ganesha. If you feel you got the short end of the stick, do not let it affect your morale. Every sunrise comes with a different promise and today is not the end of the world. There are strong indications that planetary movements will change things for the better from tomorrow, says Ganesha.




GEMINI

Your family members and your friends will have much higher expectations from you today, and trying to fulfill the same will make you irritable. However, you will figure out creative ways to juggle the many demands made upon you and come out on tops at the end of it all, says Ganesha.



CANCER

A wondrous beginning of the day! A unique vibrations in romantic life. Ties with life partner will be cordial. Blissful moments of married life are indicated. Peace and happiness prevail in the family. The whole day will be blooming and jovial, says Ganesha.




LEO

People involved in Sales and Marketing related jobs will attend productive meetings and will make effective presentations. However, delays in journeying are a possibility. It is a good time to recognise your inherent capabilities. You will be able to prove your worth in the next 2-3 days, says Ganesha.



VIRGO

Ganesha suggests that you take a much-needed break from the daily rigmarole. Introduce an element of the exotic in order to replace all the mundane work that fills up your day. You may attend private and social get-togethers, and Ganesha advises you to mingle with other people to keep your spirits high.



LIBRA

Ganesha says you shall pay more attention to your family and family issues. You will want to renovate and change the interior of your house or go in for purchasing new gadgets and décor for the home. You will spend time today with your family members. Ganesha says his best wishes are with you always.



SCORPIO

Just another mundane day in store for you. At work, pressure may mount and lead to a hectic and tedious day. You may even feel irritated at times. Thus, feeling the need to unwind, you may invite your sweetheart for the cup of coffee and spend quality time together.



SAGITTARIUS

For you, appreciation and recognition for the efforts you put in may be delayed, but it's not denied. There's is no point losing heart and getting disappointed. This may only affect your work, instead, wait for a better tomorrow, Ganesha says giving you hope.



CAPRICORN

You will feel little lost in the maze of problems and tricky situations. You will, however, find a way out, feels Ganesha. You like to be in a commanding position at work where you guide others and call the shots. But, it has a flip side, too. While you will be appreciated for the achievements, you will also have to bear the brunt if anything goes wrong.



AQUARIUS

Flash warning signals to your arch rivals as you will be in a mood to prove you metal and give them a run for their money. Doubts and inhibitions – all will vanish in the air and you will be determined to make your mark, feels Ganesha. While on your path to success you will wins the hearts of one and many.



PISCES

You will be inspired to travel to a far off place or to a foreign land because of a very warm invitation. Some old friend or relative residing in a foreign land will get in touch and please you today. Ganesha says that today is a good day for those wishing to go abroad for some specialized study or work.



HELEN MIRREN ON HOW SHE WANTS TO BE REMEMBERED

Helen Mirren reflected on how she hopes her beauty legacy is remembered, admitting she dislikes the word 'beauty' and prefers 'swagger.' Speaking at an event, she explained that the term never resonated with her and that she wishes to be remembered for something more meaningful when it comes to her personal aesthetic

WINSLET SLAMS WIDESPREAD USE OF WEIGHT LOSS DRUGS

Kate Winslet has offered her uninhibited perspective on the widespread use of weight loss drugs in the entertainment industry. She went on to call the rising and prevalent trend of such medication as 'terrifying' and 'frightening.' Winslet expressed deep concern over the choices people are making to alter their bodies



Kiara hints at new beginning

Mumbai: Kiara Advani has stirred fresh excitement among fans with her latest social-media post, hinting at new beginnings both personally and professionally. The actress shared an arresting image of metallic sculpted sneakers set against a vivid yellow backdrop, captioned simply, "Next chapter, more fire. Let's do this." The cryptic message immediately sparked speculation; will this herald a new film, a collaboration, or perhaps an important milestone in her personal life?

The post arrives shortly after Kiara and her husband Sidharth Malhotra announced the name of their newborn daughter, Saraayah Malhotra, marking the beginning of a joyful new chapter in their journey as parents.

This year has also been noteworthy for Kiara on the global fashion front. She made her debut at the Met Gala, the first Indian actress to attend the prestigious event while pregnant, wearing a custom couture creation titled "Bravehearts" by designer Gaurav Gupta, making a bold and elegant statement.

On the professional side, Kiara was last seen in *War 2*, where she shared the screen with Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR in the high-octane action franchise. She is now preparing for *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown Ups*, a Kannada-English bilingual film slated for release in 2026 opposite Yash. Reports suggest she is also in talks for several other upcoming projects.

AGENCIES



Rakul's hustle in early days

Mumbai: Rakul Preet Singh is enjoying a rewarding phase in her career after the success of *De De Pyaar De 2*, a film that once again highlighted her natural charm and confident screen presence. Its positive reception has further solidified her standing as one of the most engaging and dependable leading actors of her generation. Reflecting on her journey, Rakul recently shared heartfelt memories of her early days in Mumbai and the determination that shaped her path.

She recalled arriving in the city with little understanding of the film industry but immense belief in herself. "I was very naive when I moved to Mumbai. I still am, to some extent. Back then, I simply believed that if I worked hard, auditioned sincerely, I'd get the role," she said with a smile. This sense of optimism helped her navigate the uncertainties of those early years.

Rakul also opened up about the persistence that became her biggest asset. She admitted to calling casting directors repeatedly until they finally noticed her. She wasn't shy, believing she had to put in extra effort for people to recognise her. Today, as she continues to grow with diverse projects, including *Pati Patni Aur Woh 2*, Rakul remains a symbol of resilience, positivity, and determination in Bollywood.

AGENCIES



Krithi joins 8-hour shift debate

Chennai: Actress Krithi Shetty, who is one of the top actresses in the Tamil and Telugu film industries at the present, has opined that cinema has never been a one size fits all kind of industry and that the choice to work for only eight hours or more will depend on an individual and that it will vary from person to person. In an exclusive interview to this news agency, Krithi was asked about the debate over certain actresses insisting on shooting only for eight hours a day while certain others in the film industry were all for working longer hours.

Responding to the question, the actress said, "I think cinema has never been one size fits all. Every single person here is different. Everyone's working process is different. No two people are the same. Obviously no two actresses can be the same. Because I think actresses are a little more different in their process of living and a little more clear because they are so conscious of what they do. So I think it all depends on what works for you."

"I can work 24 hours because I might have the energy to. I don't have as many family responsibilities to take care of. I am willing to. But if someone doesn't, I particularly don't see it as a wrong thing," Kriti added.

IAN S



Mumbai: Bollywood actress Genelia Deshmukh turned motivational Monday morning as she posted a brief note reminding everyone that the week ahead is manageable, no matter what it holds.

Genelia took to Instagram, where she posted three images of herself looking stunning in Indian wear. In the image, the actress is dressed in a deep maroon silk saree. She completed her look with a layered kundan-style necklace along with classic round earrings.

For the caption, she wrote: "This is a Monday morning reminder - that you can handle whatever the week throws at you."

Genelia turns motivator

ing horror comedy *Police Station Mein Bhoot* starring Manoj Bajpayee. This will be the first time Genelia and Manoj will be seen sharing screen space together.

Genelia began her acting career with the Hindi film *Tujhe Meri Kasam* in 2003, and earned recognition in the Tamil film *Boys*, the same year.

She further earned praises for her portrayals in the 2008 romantic comedies *Santosh Subramaniam* and *Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na*. She has worked in films such as *Satyam*, *Masti*, *Sye*, *Sachein*, *Happy*, *Dhee*, *Ready*, *Katha*, *Urumi*, *Force*, *Velayudham* and *Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya*.

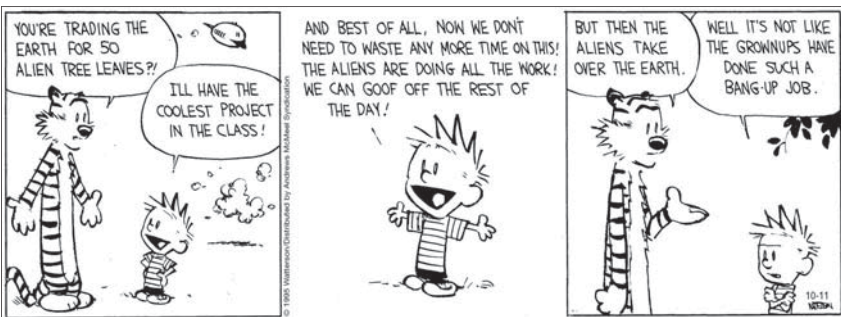
IAN S



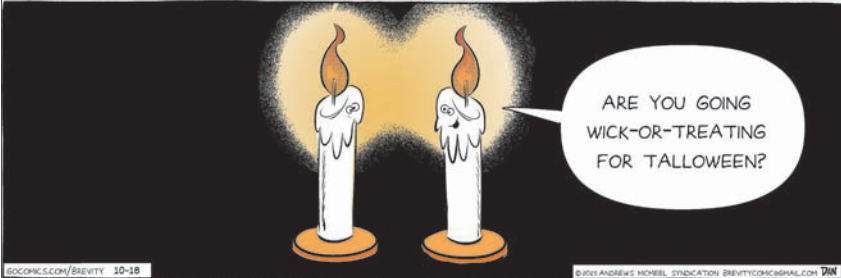
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

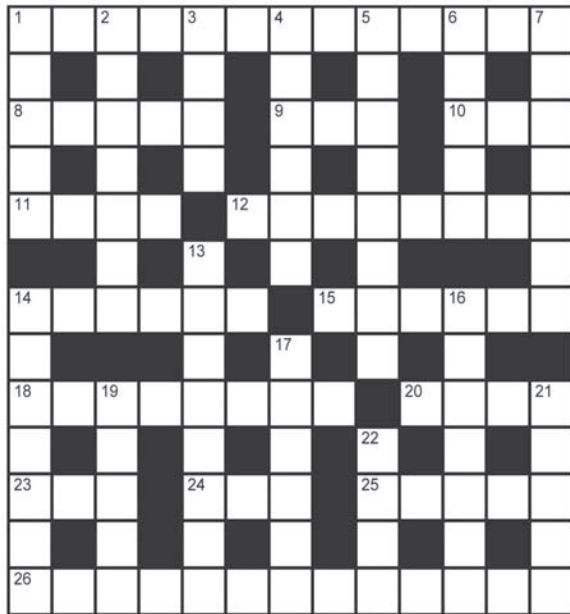


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

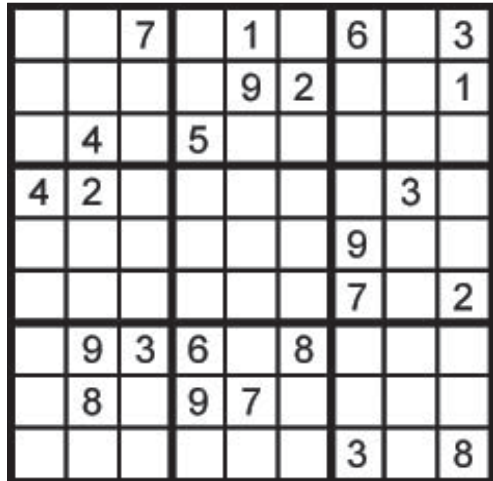


Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

- Across**
1 Ready to jump on a good deal
8 Melee (3-2)
9 Cloak-and-dagger org.
10 Coal container
11 Hourglass contents
12 Macabre
14 Free of charge
15 Breakfast place, maybe
18 Living room piece
- Down**
1 Haven in the desert
2 Fluted funnel-shaped flower
3 Mouth part
20 Straddling
23 Needing a lift
24 Cygnet's father
25 Stream
26 Means of advancement (8,5)
16 Like a busy beaver (2,3,2)
17 Lesser ape
19 Gnatlike insect
21 Black tea
22 "Hamlet" has five
- Across**
4 Stomach woes
5 Queen of Castile
6 Off-limits
7 Yield
13 Bedtime drink
14 Champagne flutes
16 Like a busy beaver (2,3,2)
17 Lesser ape
19 Gnatlike insect
21 Black tea
22 "Hamlet" has five

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DSPL-410

ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ରାଜ୍ୟ ପୁସ୍ତକ ମହୋତ୍ସବ ୨୦୨୫

୨-୧୭ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୫

ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନୀ ପଡ଼ିଆ, ଯୁନିଟ୍-୩, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସର୍ବବୃହତ ପୁସ୍ତକ ମହୋତ୍ସବ
"ପୃଷ୍ଠା ଖୋଲନ୍ତୁ, ସ୍ୱପ୍ନକୁ ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରନ୍ତୁ"

ସୋମବାରରୁ ଶୁକ୍ରବାର

ଦିବା ୨:୦୦ ଘଟିକାରୁ
ରାତ୍ର ୯:୦୦ ଘଟିକା

ଶନିବାର ଓ ରବିବାର

ଦିବା ୨:୦୦ ଘଟିକାରୁ
ରାତ୍ର ୯:୩୦ ଘଟିକା

ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-03001/13/0009/2526

Notary portal launched to boost legal services



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: In a move to enhance transparency and efficiency in legal processes, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan launched the Notary Automation Portal Monday here at the Convention Hall of Lok Seva Bhawan, with several senior officials and department heads in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Harichandan highlighted the crucial role of notaries in certifying and authenticating legal documents. He said the portal would simplify the notary management system, making it more efficient and user-friendly. It will allow notaries to perform functions such as online registration, uploading daily documents, and submitting activity reports, thereby streamlining legal procedures and saving valuable time.

He added that the portal would introduce much-needed transparency in legal processes, contributing to more effective governance. He expressed confidence that the initiative would significantly improve the ease of conducting legal work, benefiting both the public and legal professionals.

Alongside the portal launch, the Minister reviewed the ongoing work of the department's Assistant Directors and other officials, acknowledging their vital role in providing legal advice to the state government and managing active cases. He highlighted that the efficiency and proactivity of these officers are crucial for the smooth functioning of the state's legal machinery.

The event also featured key inputs from Law department Principal Secretary Pabitra Mohan Samal, who urged better coordination among departments

and emphasised the importance of obtaining accurate data from Assistant Directors on ongoing cases. He further highlighted the need for regular training and capacity-building to strengthen the effectiveness of the department's staff.

Developed with support from the Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC), the new system provides a digital upgrade to notary services, making registration and certification processes more accessible, transparent, and faster. With the portal now live, notaries can register online, renew certificates, and amend documents digitally, reducing reliance on paperwork and manual processes.

The Notary Automation Portal also helps curb fraud and corruption by digitally recording and tracking all transactions, significantly lowering the risk of malpractice and ensuring a cleaner, more transparent system. The launch marks a major step in modernising Odisha's legal infrastructure and paves the way for similar technological upgrades across other legal and administrative functions, aligning with the state's goal of promoting good governance through digital solutions.



TAKING TO THE STREET: Members of State Block Grant (New Aided) Secondary School Teachers and Employees Association stage a protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Monday, to press for fulfillment of their seven-point charter of demands

Block grant school teachers, employees stage protest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: Members affiliated to Block Grant (New Aided) Secondary School Teachers and Employees Association Monday took out a rally and staged a dharna at Lower PMG to press for their pending demands, including provision of pension.

The association, representing over 6,000 teachers and employees who have served

in new grant-in-aid schools since 2004, cited discrimination in government policies and apathy of the government in redressal of their grievances despite repeated representations to the School & Mass Education department and the School & Mass Education department.

In an official letter to the Chief Secretary, the association urged authorities to address their concerns before

December 5, 2025 to avert the planned agitation. The major demands include provision of pension and other benefits as per 1981 rules, provision of GPF in accordance with 1983 rules, service conditions as per 1974 rules, leave rules of 1977, extension of retirement age up to 62 years, career advancement incentives after 48 years of age, and regularisation of Class IV employees.

Association President

Kishore Kumar Mohanty and General Secretary Ashok Kumar Lenka said, "It was a peaceful demonstration aimed at drawing attention to the 'apathetic and step-motherly attitude of the government towards our long-standing demands.'"

The association has appealed to the government to resolve the issues promptly to avoid an intensified agitation planned in near future.

Four arrested over group clash in City

Bhubaneswar: Four persons were arrested Monday after a group clash broke out near Dianox bar here, Sunday night over past enmity. The arrested were identified as Duryodhan Barik, 25, Atanu Sabhyasachi Biswal, 25, G Litu Pradhan, 27, and Gurudev Mishra, 30, who belongs to another group. According to sources, while Gurudev was near the bar with his group, Duryodhan and others arrived at the spot. Soon both the parties engaged in heated exchange over some past enmity which later turned into a violent clash. Both the gangs attacked each other with sharp weapons, resulting in injuries to at least two persons, including Gurudev, who sustained head injuries. Later, both the parties filed complaints at Saheed Nagar police station. Based on the complaints, the police arrested three persons from one group and one person from the other group. Prima facie, it appears that the arrested persons were previously involved in anti-social activities. The weapons used in the crime were seized and the accused were booked under Sections 126(2)/118(2)/109(1)/3(5) of BNS. Later, the accused were forwarded to the court.

KIITIS SEN GLOBE 11TH FOUNDATION DAY Nobel laureate Banerjee highlights inclusive edu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: Kiit International School's SEN Globe department celebrated its 11th Foundation Day Monday with the theme "Empowering Beyond Labels", highlighting inclusive education and holistic development for neurodivergent children. The event was graced by chief guest Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, Nobel Laureate and Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at MIT, USA.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Banerjee highlighted the profound impact of the SEN project on children with special needs. "We are all different. Yet we often measure success in fixed ways, shaped by how we view economics and productivity. Each of us makes choices, and it is our responsibility to



discover what is truly productive," he said.

He also criticised rigid learning methods, particularly in mathematics. "Insisting on a single way of doing maths discourages children. It suppresses their innovative thinking and unique approaches to words and numbers. In doing so, we unknowingly hinder education," Prof Banerjee noted.

Emphasising opportunity over labels, he added, "Children will rise to the opportunities they are given. Rather than deciding who is capable or not, we should nurture and develop the

unique abilities of each child."

KiIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta praised the Nobel laureate during his address, saying, "Today, we have with us a remarkable human being, Abhijit Banerjee ji, who has delivered a meaningful and inspiring lecture for all of you."

He also highlighted the uniqueness of KiITIS SEN Globe, noting that no other international school integrates children with special needs into mainstream education as comprehensively.

KiIT International School chairperson Mona Lisa Bal expressed pride in hosting Prof Banerjee, noting that his pioneering research on poverty alleviation and educational interventions aligns with SEN Globe's mission to support children with special educational needs.

PJ Group holds 20th annual athletic meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: The PJ Group of Institutions held its two-day 20th Annual Athletic Meet December 5 and 6 with great enthusiasm. The event kicked off with a marathon race featuring active participation from students across various departments.

A variety of sporting events were organised under the supervision of Senior Lecturer Rashmi Ranjan Sarangi. Students participated in large numbers, displaying their talent and competitive spirit.

The valedictory ceremony was coordinated by PJCMT director Santosh Kumar Biswal. Sports and Youth Affairs department deputy secretary Sonali Chand, the chief guest, encouraged students to stay health-conscious and foster a greater interest in sports and

5-day KGBV wardens' training inaugurated



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: A five-day residential training programme for Master Trainers, aimed at strengthening and empowering wardens of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV), was inaugurated Monday under the School and Mass Education department. The programme is jointly organised by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Government of India, and the Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Bhubaneswar. Over 30 senior trainers and gender coordinators from across the state are participating in the training, which will continue until December 12.

The inauguration was attended by several dignitaries, including OSEPA state project director Ananya Das, OSEPA additional director Sangita Behera, RIE chairman Manasi Goswami, NIEPA project direc-

tor Santwana Mishra, OSEPA joint director Santosh Kumar Rout, RIE coordinator Sarita M, and OSEPA general coordinator Lahari Mohanty.

As chief guest, Ananya Das highlighted the significance of the training programme, noting that wardens play a crucial role in supporting girls' education and addressing their concerns with sensitivity. She emphasised reducing dropout rates, particularly in tribal-dominated areas, and stressed the importance of child-centric education.

Manasi Goswami underlined the need to ensure the mental and physical well-being of hostel girls, focusing on training in self-defence, health awareness, and enhanced safety protocols. NIEPA project director Santwana Mishra spoke on strengthening life skills, self-defence, and group activities for hostel residents. The programme began with a welcome address by Sangita Behera.

18th state-level Kalinga Herbal Fair from Dec 10

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: The 18th State-level Kalinga Herbal Fair, 2025 will begin December 10 at Unit-III IDCO Exhibition Ground here and continue till December 16.

The fair will be inaugurated by Forest, Environment & Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia, who will attend the event as the chief guest. Senior officials, including Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, PCCF and HoFF Suresh Pant, PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Prem Kumar Jha, and SMPB Chief Executive Karthick V, will also be present.

Organised by the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Odisha under Forest, Environment & Climate Change department, the annual event—held since 2008—has grown into a key platform for forest protection committee members, farmers, traditional healers (vaidyas), medicinal plant collectors, entrepreneurs, researchers, students, voluntary outfits and self-help groups (SHGs).

The seven-day fair will feature 130 stalls and over 260 participants from Odisha and other states. Regional Kalinga Herbal Fairs will also be held in Rairangpur, Keonjhar and Malkangiri under the supervision of the respective local divisional forest officers (DFOs). The event will

include sales and exhibitions of medicinal plants and herbal products, free health consultations by government Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors, and cultural programmes every evening from 7pm to 9pm.

The primary objectives of the event are to strengthen coordination, business, education and awareness among stakeholders in the medicinal plants sector and to promote traditional AYUSH systems of treatment. The fair will also offer free treatment and health guidance to visitors.

A series of thematic activities has been lined up for the week. A Medicinal Plants Quiz will be organised for government High School students December 11. A

Women's Convention on Roof-top Nutrition Gardens will be held December 12, followed by a debate competition December 13. The Medicinal Plant Farmers' Convention is scheduled for December 14, while a Traditional Healers' Workshop will take place December 15. An online quiz competition for students will also remain open throughout the fair period.

Last year, renowned companies such as Dabur, Emami, Arya Vaidyasala Kottakkal, Baidyanath, Multani and Basac Ayurveda participated in the fair, generating a total business of ₹1,02,89,600. With higher participation expected this year, the turnover is projected to cross ₹2 crore.



physical activities.

Also present were PJ Group of Institutions director Laxmidhar Biswal, Principal (+2 Wing) Jagadish Kar, and Dean Ipsita Patra. Chairman Pratap Chandra Jena and Vice Chairman Pramod Kumar Jena extended their best wishes to all participants.

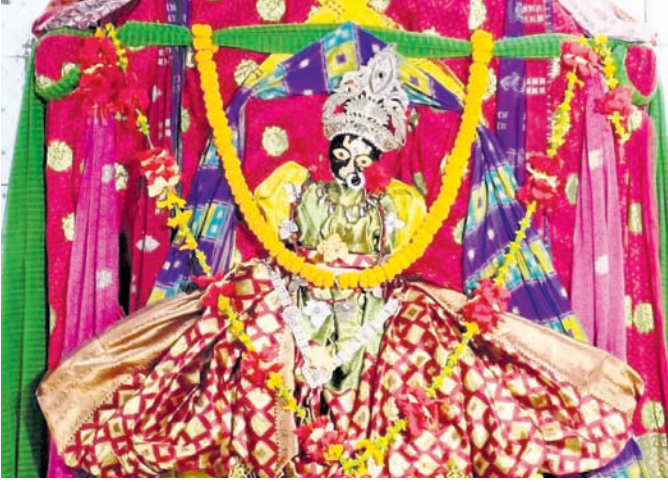
Vice-Principal Ashish Kumar Beuria proposed the vote of thanks, while Administrative Officer Nirmal Chandra Mallick and Kabuli Martha supported the smooth conduct of the event.

Heritage enthusiasts explore Jagatsinghpur treasures

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Dec 8: The 11th edition of Jagatsinghpur Heritage Walks (JHW) witnessed more than 30 heritage enthusiasts from across the state exploring the history, architecture and cultural significance of several lesser-known heritage sites located in Nugaon block of the district. The walk not only highlighted Odisha's rich tradition of temple architecture but also brought attention to centuries-old shrines lying on the banks of Devi River in the shadow of the iconic Maa Sarala Temple.

The walk commenced early Sunday at Kuttamchandi Temple under the guidance of Srikantha Singh, convener of JHW in Devidol village under Nauगाon block. Believed to have been built in the 16th or 17th Century after Gajapati rule,



the temple is built with a stone-made 'Peedha' style Vimana Jagamohan, and a rectangular flat-roofed Naata Mandapa, also in 'Peedha' style.

About 15km from Jagatsinghpur town towards Nauगाon,

Devidol village is located on the banks of the Devi River where the Shakti shrine of Maa Kuttamchandi is located. Eight-handed "Mahishasuramardini Durga", believed to be from 8th Century as per the

idol's iconography, is the presiding deity of the temple.

The present temple of the goddess is made of a rock with a height of about 25 ft. Many ancient statues can be seen inside and outside the temple. A small statue of Mother Bimala can also be seen near the goddess' statue. Basant Kumar Padhi, a retired teacher and a sevayat, explained the folklore and legends about the goddess to all the heritage enthusiasts.

However, the only stone scripture which could have given insights about the temple inscription lies under plaster and artificial coat.

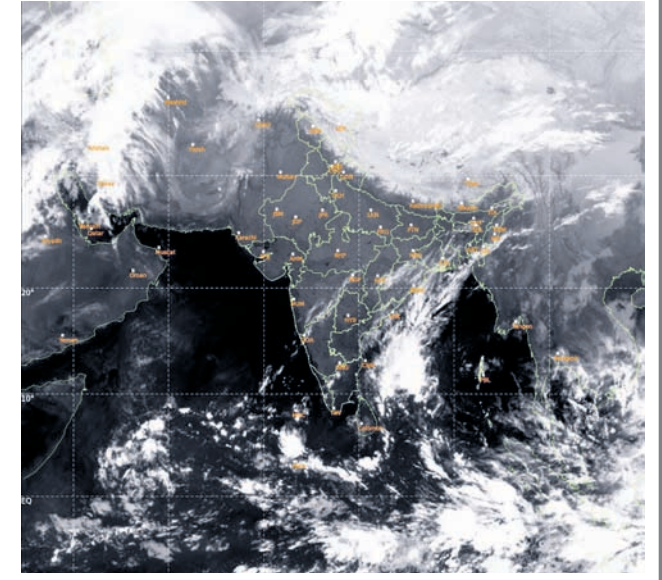
The group also visited the nearby Tumbeswar Mahadev Temple, Ishaneswar Temple, Nrusingha Temple located on the banks of Devi River. At Ishaneswar Temple, the group saw magnificent 12th Century Kartikeswar idol lying ne-

glected.

Rivers have played a major role in temple construction in Odisha, insofar as Brahamani, Mahanadi and Baitarani are concerned. Similarly, Devi River has its own temple trail in dire need of being documented.

Through this edition, JHW continues its mission to document and popularise the region's hidden architectural treasures, fostering greater community pride and boosting heritage tourism beyond Sarala Temple. Organisers expressed hope that these unexplored gems will soon find their rightful place on Jagatsinghpur map as well as Odisha's tourism map.

Prominent among those who attended the walk are: Utkal Mohanty, Debi Prasad Padhi, Heritage Walks enthusiast Biswaranjan Dehury and photographer Hrudananda Behera.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.1°	26.2°	Fog/Mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later
Min Temp	12.1°	12.4°	
Humidity	74%	81%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

GROUP CLASH
IN MALKANGIRI

PNN & AGENCIES

Malkangiri/Korukonda, Dec 8: The administration Monday suspended internet services in Malkangiri district and clamped prohibitory orders in two villages following a clash between two groups over the killing of a tribal woman, whose headless body was recovered from a river.

Both sides wrote to the district administration demanding the arrest of the killer, while the police said security has been tightened in the area and the situation is now under control.

The Opposition raised the issue in the Assembly, accusing the BJP government of failing to prevent the clash Sunday, though tension prevailed in the area following the recovery of the torso of 51-year-old Lake Padiami, a widow, from a river-bank near Rakhelguda village December 4.

The clash took place Sunday afternoon when tribals of Rakhalguda village allegedly attacked MV-26 village, a Bengali settlers' area, under Korukonda Sadar police station area. On Monday, residents of Rakhelguda and members of the tribal community reportedly entered MV-26 village, vandalizing more than 100 houses and setting fire to over 50 of them, police said.

Prohibitory order has been clamped in two villages, while internet services have been suspended for 24 hours in the entire Malkangiri from 6pm Monday, officials said. Thousands of people led by Gouranga Karmakar, the president of Malkangiri Bengali Samaj, demonstrated outside the District Collector's office demanding action against those who attacked MV-26 village.

"We demand a high-level enquiry into the murder case at Rakhalguda, and arrest and punishment of the culprit as soon as possible," the Bengali Samaj said and sought action against those who attacked MV-26 village. Most



DGP YB KHURANIA REVIEWS SITUATION

PROHIBITORY ORDER IMPOSED IN 2 VILLAGES

OPPN RAISES ISSUE IN ASSEMBLY SESSION



of the residents of MV-26 village have fled during the attack, the organisation said in a petition to the administration.

In a separate petition, the District Adivasi Samaj Mahasangh alleged that a large number of infiltrators had entered the district between 1978 and 1980. They encroached upon government land and exploited local tribals.

It demanded that the police immediately arrest the murderer accused and recover the missing head of the woman.

The tribals under the banner of District Adivasi Samaj Mahasangh, Malkangiri, in a petition demanded action against illegal infiltrators and those who killed the woman.

According to official data, the Government of India in 1964 had settled migrated Bengali families in 215 villages in Malkangiri district and 65 villages

in Umerkote and Raighar in Nabarangpur district. The Bengalis came from East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Additional Superintendent of Police Raj Kishore Das said that the situation was under control after the deployment of additional forces of Odisha Police and BSF. The personnel of Odisha Fire Service were also deployed along with Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force.

DIG (South Western Range) Kanwar Vishal Singh, Malkangiri Collector Somesh Kumar Upadhyay and SP Vinodh Patil H visited the affected areas and held a peace committee meeting involving both groups. DGP YB Khurania reached Malkangiri along with senior police officers to review the situation. A huge police force has been deployed in the area, an officer said.

Police said that two persons have been detained in connection



with the attack on MV-26 village. The district administration also ordered closure of all liquor shops across Malkangiri till mid night of Tuesday, officials said.

Meanwhile, the issue was raised during the Zero Hour in the ongoing winter session of the Assembly, where both BJD and Congress members blamed the state's BJP government for failing to prevent the clash, the tension over which had been prevalent for some days.

BJD member PK Deb alleged that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi misled the House two days ago by claiming that the law and order situation was fine across the state.

"If law and order is all right, what is happening in Malkangiri? The tribals are angry over the killing of a woman of their community. This incident may encourage Maoists, who have a presence in Malkangiri. The

state government's inaction may indirectly help Left-Wing Extremism," Deb alleged.

Congress MLA Mangu Khilla said that it was being alleged that the woman had been raped before being beheaded.

"The woman went missing on December 1, and the family lodged a missing person report on December 3. Her body was found on December 4 on a riverbank. What were the police doing all along? The police know that there was a land dispute. Still, the police did not act," claimed Khilla, who is the local MLA.

Alleging that even elderly women are not safe in Malkangiri, he cited some other cases of rapes of young women in the district. BJP MLA Ashok Mohanty told reporters that the government is alert and adequate deployment has been made in the affected area.

LOVE TRIANGLE GOES AWRY

Teen stabbed on college premises

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada/Kuliana, Dec 8: In A Plus II student sustained critical injuries Monday afternoon after he was stabbed by another student apparently in a violent fallout of love triangle on the premises of Baba Balia College (BB College) at Baiganbadia under Kuliana police limits in Mayurbhanj district, police said.

The victim was identified as Prahllad Bindhani, 17, a native of Tilakgadgia village under Kuliana police limits and a Commerce student of the college. The accused, an Arts student of the same college, is resident of Sadar police limits in Baripada.

The incident occurred following a dispute between the two over a triangular love affair. During the confrontation, Prahllad was stabbed in the abdomen. The injury was so severe that part of his internal organs protruded, officials said.

College authorities rushed the student to a nearby hospital and later shifted him

to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Baripada. As his condition remained critical, he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

Police detained the accused student and interrogated him in this connection. Officers also seized the knife used in the attack. A case (208/25) has been registered at Kuliana police station, officials said.

According to preliminary investigation, a long-standing rivalry between the two students involving a girl studying in the same college led to the altercation around 12:30pm Monday. Following a heated exchange, the accused allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed Prahllad.

Baripada Sadar SDPO Prabhat Kumar Malik and investigating officer SI Prakash Kumar Gosain visited the scene and questioned the accused. Police said the juvenile will be sent to a correctional home. Further investigations are underway.



NIT-R develops eco-friendly wastewater treatment system

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Dec 8: Researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela have developed an innovative, nature-based wastewater treatment system aimed at revitalising India's traditional 'dhoobi ghats' while protecting urban water bodies from severe pollution.

The research team, led by Prof. Kasturi Dutta, Associate Professor in the Department of Biotechnology and Medical Engineering, along with Divyani Kumari (PhD) and Karthika Shanmugam (M.Tech), has created a Constructed Wetland-Microbial Fuel Cell (CW-MFC) System designed specifically to treat highly contaminated laundry wastewater.

Dhoobi ghats continue to play a vital socio-economic role in many Indian cities. However, the availability of freshwater has sharply declined due to water scarcity, drying borewells, and increasing urban consumption. At the same time, untreated laundry wastewater—laden with detergents, dyes, and mi-

Developed by women scientists, the invented system can treat unlimited wastewater, making it reusable for densely populated dhoobi ghats

The treated wastewater can be reused by washermen, thus easing their dependence on freshwater sources

crofibres—flows into rivers, lakes, and wetlands, further degrading urban ecosystems.

To address this growing challenge, the NIT Rourkela team engineered a low-cost, chemical-free, and energy-independent treatment solution that integrates wetland plants, layered natural filters, and electricity-producing micro-organisms. The system uses nature-inspired purification mechanisms to remove pollutants while simultaneously generating bioelectricity.

As a pilot initiative, the system was deployed at NIT Rourkela's own dhoobi ghat, which generates about 1,400 litres of detergent-rich wastewater daily. The treatment unit suc-

cessfully reduced surfactants and chemical oxygen demand (COD) to within permissible limits (1 ppm) as prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

The system comprises two cylindrical constructed wetland units coupled with a microbial fuel cell. Each unit contains layers of gravel, sand, and soil, with graphite chunks placed strategically as anodes and cathodes. The units are planted with Canna spp., a locally available wetland plant known for its resilience and pollutant uptake ability. Wastewater is collected in an overhead tank and processed through the system, yielding colourless, odourless water suitable for reuse in washing.

Highlighting the impact, Prof. Dutta said, "Our system employs natural materials like gravel, sand, soil, plants, and microbes to purify wastewater. It is inspired by nature and engineered for clean water." She also acknowledged support from the Higher Education Funding Agency under its corporate social responsibility initiative.

Man dies after consuming 'spurious' liquor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhuban, Dec 8: A 35-year-old man from Kanakhai village under Balibo panchayat in Bhuban police limits of Dhenkanal district died after allegedly consuming spurious (fake) liquor, according to a complaint filed with police.

The deceased, identified as Ramakant Dehuri, reportedly fell ill and collapsed while cutting paddy in a field Sun-

day. When he did not respond, co-workers alerted his family, who rushed him to Bhuban hospital. Doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Villagers blocked the Anantapur-Balibo-Neelakanthapur main road with his body, demanding compensation for the family and the removal of a local foreign liquor shop.

Police said Ramakant had purchased liquor from the shop

near the village on his way to the field with other labourers. After consuming it during work, he complained of uneasiness before collapsing.

Family members alleged that he died after consuming spurious liquor and lodged a complaint at Bhuban police station. Police registered an unnatural death case and handed over the body to the family after a post-mortem.

Following the post-mortem, family members, along with the village sarpanch, panchayat leaders and residents, staged a road blockade demanding compensation and the closure of the foreign liquor outlet.

They relented after Bhuban police and Tehsildar Anil Kumar Mohanty reached the spot and persuaded the protesters to withdraw the blockade.

Cannabis stashed in cricket bats, school bags seized; 2 held

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Dec 8: With enforcement agencies stepping up vigil, drug peddlers have resorted to inventive ploys to escape detection. Two persons were arrested Monday while trying to smuggle cannabis in cricket bats in Berhampur.

The Berhampur Government Railway Police (GRP), in coordination with Railway Protection Force (RPF), nabbed two drug peddlers, who were natives of Sagarpara under Murshidabad district in West Bengal and had train tickets for Kerala.

The two were detained after they were found carrying suspiciously heavy bundles of backpacks and plastic cricket bats. On thorough verification and following all legal

procedures in presence of Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses, 17.5 kg of cannabis, locally called Ganja, concealed inside 23 backpacks and 10 cricket bats was recovered and seized.

Both have been arrested under relevant sections of the NDPS Act. Samples have been drawn for chemical examination, and further investigation is underway to identify the source, network, and intended receivers of the contraband, police said. In the past, cases of seizure of cannabis from ambulances, contraband stashed inside green coconut-laden trucks, smuggling of ganja in empty oil tankers were reported to escape detection. Cannabis stashed in courier garment packets was also seized in Bhubaneswar in past months.

यूनियन बैंक

Union Bank of India

भारत सरकार का उपकार

A Government of India Undertaking

Regional Office : Sambalpur

1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur- 768004, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice of 30 days for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis** for recovery of outstanding dues to the **Union Bank of India** from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) mentioned below. The Reserve Price and the Earnest money deposit is stated in the column respectively.

Date & Time of Auction: 15.01.2026 between 12.00 Noon. to 5.00 P.M. (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)

Sl. No.	DUNGURIPALI BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Property to be Auctioned	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/ EMD / Bid increment
1.	Borrower: M/s. Sharma Fertilizer & Gunny, Prop.: Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, S/o.: Lal Chand Sharma, At/PO.: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha-767021 / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Ashok Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Parkhit Sahu, At/PO.: Bharsuja, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha-767061, 2) Mr. Atulya Satapathy, S/o.: Brundaban Satapathy, At/PO.: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha-767021	All that part of the property consisting of Vacant Residential Plot of an Area: Ac.0.05 Dec, bearing Khata No.: 458/869, Plot No.: 927/4028 and 930/2656/4029, Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Salebhata, P.S.: Loisingha, Tahasil: Agalpur, Dist.: Bolangir, State: Odisha, PIN-767021, in the name of Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma , Bounded by North: Road, South: Land of Buddhadev Tripathy, East: Road, West: Land of Balgopal Mishra	₹17,45,424/- as on 08.12.2025 + interest, costs and charges thereon	₹17,46,000/- / ₹1,74,600/- / ₹17,460/-

Date and Time of Inspection of Property for Intending Purchasers : upto 14.01.2026 during Banking Hours

Details of encumbrances if any : NIL

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction

For registration and login and bidding rules visit **https://baanknet.com and https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

This May also be treated as notice under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

For any query please contact: **Mob.: 9861018140**

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 08.12.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

Indian Bank

Zonal office: Sambalpur

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to our "E-Auction Sale Notice" published in the "Orissa Post" on 08.12.2025, The Branch Name Should be read as **Chatuanka Branch** instead of Sambalpur Branch. All other facts remain unchanged.

Date: 08.12.2025 Authorised Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is hereby given that Mr. Premananda Ojha, 2. Mr. Gouranga Ojha, 3. Mr. Nabaghana Ojha prospective mortgagor have represented to the bank that original title deeds of their property sale deed No.1503, Dated-24.4.1982 in the name of late Basudev Ojha, S/o Late Ananda Ojha of Mahisara, P.S.-Jenapur, Dist.-Jajpur are lost and has approached to Central Bank of India, Purunabaulamala to tender such property as security. If anyone has any objection or any claim over such property he/she may inform the bank within 7 days from the date of paper publication in writing along with proof of his/her objection/claim in response to the publication.

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA PURUNABOULAMALA (BRANCH CODE-02961) AT-PURUNABOULAMALA, P.O.-GARAHMADHUPUR P.S.-JENAPUR, DIST.-JAJPUR, ODISHA-755023

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS (STBA)

No. C/SBP/STBA/NSG-5 & 6 Catg/Strn/03/25 Date : 04.12.2025

Applications are invited for engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs) to work in all shifts throughout the day for a tenure of three (03) years at one (01) NSG-5 and two (02) NSG-6 category stations on a commission basis in the Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway. Selected agents will be responsible for issuing unreserved tickets through the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS). Interested persons fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format to **Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Sambalpur Division, East Coast Railway, DRM Office Complex, 2nd Floor, PO: Modipara, Dist: Sambalpur, Pin-758002 (Odisha)**.

01 (One) no. NSG-5 category station : (1) Bagbaha (BGBR)
02 (Two) no. NSG-6 category station : (1) Sason (SSN) & (2) Arang Mahanadi (ANMD).

Commission Payable : The applicants fulfilling the eligibility conditions whoever has opted for the least commission on the slab - 3 (i.e. On the 4% commission slab for NSG-5 & 6 category station) will be selected as STBA. The commission payable shall be as follows:

Slabs	Monthly Sales Turnover	Monthly Commission % payable on sales turnover
Slab-1	₹ 1-20,000	25% (Minimum of Rs. 2500)
Slab-2	₹ 20,001-1,00,000	15%
Slab-3	> ₹ 1,00,000	4% or the rate quoted whichever is lower for NSG-5 & 6 category station

(1) Applicant has to quote the percentage of commission from (i.e. on the 0% to 4% commission slab for NSG-5 & 6) in the 3rd commission slab. (2) No negative bids will be considered. (3) Applicants can quote commission in fraction up to two decimal points only.

The details and the prescribed format for filling application may be obtained from website of East Coast Railway i.e. **www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in** up to **1800 hrs of 23.12.2025** and from the office of the **Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Coast Railway, Sambalpur** on any working day from **1000 hrs to 1800 hrs up to 23.12.2025**. The last date for submission / dropping of duly filled application in the box is **1100 hrs of dated 24.12.2025**. Any application received after the above period or incomplete in any manner will not be entertained/considered and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

PR-879/Q/25-26 **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Sambalpur**



Mandela of Mideast

He has already earned the sobriquet of Nelson Mandela of the Arab world. Like the crusader against apartheid, he has also been inside Israeli jails for long years - over two decades till date. There was hope amidst international pressure for his release when a host of Palestinian prisoners were released as assumed in the terms of the recent Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal. But, Marwan Barghouti has not been freed. Middle East watchers say Israel is not much afraid of murderers as of Marwan, who has become the rallying point of different factions of Palestinians for the creation of a Palestinian state. Even US President Donald Trump, the architect of the cease-fire, promised he would talk to the Israeli authorities for Marwan’s release, but he is yet to do so. In this backdrop, disturbing reports are emanating from Israel about alleged torture of Marwan inside the prison. The Palestinian Prisoners’ Society (PPS) has even warned of a “dangerous plan” to assassinate Marwan inside Israeli jails, amid allegations of severe assaults and growing international calls for his release.

Marwan, a member of Fatah’s Central Committee and a leading figure in Palestinian politics, was arrested by Israel in 2002 and convicted of murder and attempted murder. He is serving five life sentences and remains widely popular among Palestinians. The PPS has urged the UN and other international organisations to intervene urgently, dispatch a “UN committee” to visit Marwan, examine his conditions in solitary confinement and exert “real” pressure to secure his release and save his life before it is too late.

In a post on Facebook, Qassam Barghouti, the son of the imprisoned leader, cited a former prisoner who told him that Israeli forces crushed his father’s body, broke his teeth, ribs and fingers and cut part of his ear inside prison. The Palestinian Presidency condemned what it called “ongoing assaults and dangerous retaliatory measures” targeting Marwan. It called on the international community, human rights organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to act immediately and urgently to pressure Israel to halt violations. Marwan is frequently viewed by analysts as a unifying figure capable of rallying Palestinians around a “two-state solution,” particularly amid shifts following Israel’s war in the Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government continues to oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

It is a fact that attacks by Israeli soldiers have slowed, though not stopped since the cease-fire came into force. However, Israeli military operations continue to displace hundreds of families in Gaza. Aid has increased but Israel is reportedly still blocking vital supplies. Palestinians, though supportive of killers and terrorists as before, now desperately require security, humanitarian relief and reconstruction. But more than that they need and expect a political solution of Palestinian nationhood which has already won unprecedented international support.

After more than two decades in Israeli jails for murder, the charismatic 66-year-old is by far the most popular Palestinian leader, widely regarded as the only figure capable of uniting factions riven by ideology and enmity. He has criticised abuses by the Palestinian Authority and also won respect within Hamas ranks. The belief that Marwan can galvanise Palestinian politics and play a leading part in the formation of a Palestinian state and establishment of lasting peace is spurring the new international campaign for his release.

He has taught himself Hebrew and engaged in conversation with Israeli officials. His convictions - in a trial criticised as flawed by legal experts - are for ordering attacks that killed civilians during the second intifada. Gulf states pushed for him to be among the prisoners released in the ceasefire deal, but Israel vetoed it.

With international pressure mounting, some say Israel needs to come to terms with the idea of nationhood for Palestinians. That may not be the only way to establish durable peace in the Arab world. India’s partition and creation of Pakistan is a great example of neighbours being constantly at a state of war.

WISDOM CORNER

Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.

HELEN KELLER

It is paradoxical, yet true, to say, that the more we know, the more ignorant we become in the absolute sense, for it is only through enlightenment that we become conscious of our limitations. Precisely one of the most gratifying results of intellectual evolution is the continuous opening up of new and greater prospects.

NIKOLA TESLA

Boredom, anger, sadness, or fear are not 'yours,' not personal. They are conditions of the human mind. They come and go. Nothing that comes and goes is you.

ECKHART TOLLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1961: Tanganyika gains independence. The Republic of Tanganyika was administered by the British from 1916 until 1961. Part of German East Africa, the territory was officially handed over to the British by League of Nations mandate in 1922. The Republic was short-lived. In April 1964, it joined the People's Republic of Zanzibar and Pemba to form the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which became the United Republic of Tanzania in 1965.

1965: A Charlie Brown Christmas made its debut on television. The popular animated musical special about Christmas was based on Charles M. Schulz's comic strip called Peanuts. The special was critically acclaimed as a telling commentary on the loss of the spirit of Christmas among Americans. It is now screened every year at Christmas time around the world.

1979: WHO declares the eradication of smallpox. The World Health Organization officially certified that after a number of concentrated vaccination campaigns around the world smallpox had been eradicated. Only two infectious diseases have been completely eradicated in history; the other is Rinderpest, which is an infectious disease of cattle that was eradicated in 2011.

1990: Lech Wałęsa elected president of Poland. On this day in 1990, Lech Wałęsa—who had led Solidarity, Poland's first independent trade union, and had received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1983—won Poland's first direct presidential election by a landslide.

TAINTED CAPITALISM

FOCUS INDIGO CRISIS



This is a structural imbalance. When one company becomes too big to regulate, the public becomes hostage

When IndiGo cancelled thousands of flights this December—stranding lakhs of passengers, destroying travel plans, and exposing India’s vulnerability to a quasi-monopoly airline—it was tempting to blame it all on one company’s “rogue behaviour.” But scratching the surface reveals a deeper malaise: a chronic weakening of India’s regulatory institutions, and a form of tainted capitalism where dominant private players face little real accountability. The crisis was not an aberration; it was inevitable.

Indian regulators are meant to be quasi-judicial bodies—independent, evidence-driven, and powerful enough to discipline the biggest corporations. In principle, they play a role analogous to courts: interpreting rules, enforcing compliance, and protecting public interest. In practice, most regulators resemble departments inside ministries, staffed by junior officers who simply cannot stand up to billion-dollar incumbents.

Contrast this with the US, where even a junior federal judge could issue adverse rulings against the sitting President, against his whimsical tariffs. In India, the median regulatory staffer is neither empowered nor insulated. They are expected to regulate conglomerates whose annual profits exceed the regulator’s entire budget—and whose influence networks reach deep within the government. The result is predictable: regulatory hesitation, delayed enforcement, and a culture of looking away until a crisis becomes impossible to ignore.

Long before the present airline fiasco, take the case of telecom, inching toward duopoly, which also offers a clear example. Over the past two decades, spectrum auctions were repeatedly followed by post-hoc rule changes—in pricing, revenue sharing, adjusted gross revenue (AGR), and merger norms. Policy shifts came not through transparent processes but through continuous firefighting and lobbying. Companies bet on get-

ting rules changed later, because history suggested they would. Regulation was characterised by volatility, not predictability.

The NITI Aayog-CRISIL report on airport PPPs (Public Private Partnerships) shows the same tension. India needs nearly \$50 billion in airport investment over the next decade. Yet foreign participation is declining, not because the sector is unattractive, but because investors fear arbitrary regulation, delayed clearances, unpredictable tariffs, and lengthy disputes. AERA, our regulator of airports, is theoretically an independent, quasi-judicial authority. But tariff-setting—its core mandate—has become a high-stakes litigation maze. Concession agreements contain ambiguities, while operators, often part of large conglomerates, deploy legal and political influence. As the NITI report notes, even basic issues like expansion triggers, equity lock-in, and termination payments remain unresolved or inconsistently applied. When regulators are weak, the operator becomes the real policymaker.

The December meltdown of IndiGo was not “bad luck” or a “perfect storm.” The roots go back to 2019, when the pilot union challenged exploitative rostering and fatigue norms in court. That legal battle eventually led to DGCA’s stricter Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL)—a long-delayed reform aligned with global safety norms. The irony is sharp:

a labour union had to step in where the regulator failed. And the corrective action came five years too late triggered a staffing crisis that IndiGo did not resolve proactively. It is a separate arguable matter whether setting working hours is within the mandate of the regulator.

In aviation, safety decisions are paramount. Yet IndiGo behaved as if compliance was optional, dragging its feet on inventorying crew shortages and adjusting schedules. DGCA learned of these lapses internally, but its junior staff either did not escalate or felt unable to push back. After all, how does a 28-year-old deputy director “warn” India’s largest airline, which carries nearly two-thirds of all domestic passengers?

This is a structural imbalance. When one company becomes too big to regulate, the public becomes hostage. The IndiGo crisis also reveals something uncomfortable about India’s political economy: labour cannot negotiate except through courts. Pilots—highly skilled professionals—could not achieve basic fatigue protections through bargaining. They needed a judicial intervention.

If this is the fate of pilots, imagine the condition of informal workers, gig workers, or teachers in private colleges. In India’s celebrated growth story, capital has become organised, concentrated, and politically entrenched; labour has become fragmented, precarious, and voiceless. A society

where only capital can speak is not merely unequal—it is unstable.

The IndiGo episode is not an aviation story. It is an economic governance story. A system with a strong rule of law would have the following: (a) compelled airlines to disclose staffing adequacy months earlier; (b) penalised schedule overextension; (c) ensured transparent tariff and slot allocation; (d) protected whistleblowers inside DGCA; (e) institutionalised class-action remedies for passengers.

Instead, passengers bore the costs, airlines deflected the blame, and regulators scrambled to respond after the damage was done. India does not suffer from a lack of regulations. Strengthening the regulatory spine will need the following reforms. (1) Institutionalised autonomy with fixed tenures, independent budgets, non-transferable leadership. (2) Professionalised cadres with domain specialists, not just bureaucrats. (3) Legal empowerment that leads to swift penalties, binding directives, and statutory protection for staff acting in good faith. (4) Transparency and accountability by publishing all concessions and enforcing open consultations. All approvals should be digitised. (5) Preventing dominance in sectors like airlines, telecom, and digital markets. IndiGo’s meltdown, telecom’s flip-flop policy history, the fragility of airport PPPs, the helplessness of education regulators—all point to one truth: India’s regulatory state is not yet strong enough to discipline the giants it has created, nor can they rein in monopolies.

Until regulators regain independence, authority, and credibility, India will continue to oscillate between private excess and public helplessness. Rogue companies will be blamed, but the deeper fault will lie in a system where rules are flexible for the powerful and rigid for everyone else. Strengthening the rule of law is not anti-business. It is the only way to build a capitalism that is fair, stable, and genuinely democratic.

The writer is a noted economist.
©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

The critical-minerals race



Johanna Sydow & Nsama Chikwanka

ONLY ROBUST LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, BACKED BY EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT, CAN CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR STABLE AND RIGHTS-RESPECTING DEVELOPMENT

The environmental and human toll of mineral extraction is becoming clearer – and more alarming – by the day. Roughly 60% of Ghana’s waterways are now heavily polluted due to gold mining along riverbanks. In Peru, many communities have lost access to safe drinking water after environmental protections were weakened and regulatory controls were suspended to facilitate new mining projects, contaminating even the Rimac River, which supplies water to the capital, Lima.

These environmental crises are exacerbated by deepening inequality and social divides in many mining-dependent countries. The Global Atlas of Environmental Justice has documented more than 900 mining-related conflicts around the world, about 85% of which involve the use or pollution of rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

Against this backdrop, major economies are rapidly reshaping resource geopolitics. The US, while attempting to stabilise the fossil-fuel-based global economy, is also scrambling to secure the minerals it needs for electric vehi-

cles, renewable energy, weapons systems, digital infrastructure, and construction, often through coercion and aggressive negotiating tactics. In its quest to reduce dependence on China, which dominates the processing of rare-earth elements, environmental and humanitarian considerations are increasingly brushed aside.

Saudi Arabia is likewise positioning itself as a rising power in the minerals sector as part of its efforts to diversify away from oil, forging new partnerships – including with the US – and hosting a high-profile mining conference. At the same time, the Kingdom is actively undermining progress in other multilateral fora, including this year’s COP30 and the pre-negotiations of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA7). In Europe, industry groups are lobbying for further deregulation, with fossil-fuel companies like ExxonMobil, TotalEnergies, and Siemens using misleading tactics to undermine newly established mechanisms designed to protect the rights of communities in resource-producing regions. We should be worried that the companies and countries which

helped drive global warming, environmental degradation, and human-rights abuses now seek to dominate the mineral sector. Allowing them to do so will put all of humanity, not just vulnerable populations, at risk.

Governments must not remain passive. They must reclaim responsibility for steering the primary driver of mining expansion: demand. Reducing material consumption, especially in developed countries, remains the most effective way to protect vital ecosystems and prevent the long-term harms that extraction inevitably causes. Yet despite overwhelming evidence that ramping up resource extraction threatens water supplies and public safety, governments around the world are weakening environmental protections in a bid to lure foreign investment, thereby endangering the very ecosystems that sustain all life on Earth.

When people cannot trust political leaders to protect their rights, they are highly likely to resist, with the resulting social conflict causing investment to falter. The backlash against Rio Tinto’s Jadar lithium-mining project in

Serbia is a prime example. Many Serbians believed their government was putting corporate interests first by pushing ahead with the project despite its failure to meet even basic sustainability standards. The public outcry halted development and left the company facing steep losses.

Only robust legal frameworks, backed by effective enforcement, can create the conditions for stable and rights-respecting development. That means safeguarding Indigenous rights; ensuring the free, prior, and informed consent of all affected communities; protecting water resources; undertaking spatial planning, establishing no-go zones; and conducting independent, participatory, and transparent social and environmental impact assessments. All countries, especially mineral producers that have historically been excluded from the negotiating table, should seize this moment. UNEA7 provides a window for achieving resource justice.

Johanna Sydow is from the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Nsama Chikwanka is from Publish What You Pay Zambia.
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Killer negligence

Sir, The terrible fire at a nightclub in Goa’s Arpora that claimed 25 lives — with many victims trapped inside the kitchen — has once again exposed India’s chronic and criminal disregard for basic fire safety norms. That four tourists died during Goa’s peak season underscores the gravity of the tragedy. Reports indicate the club lacked valid permissions, violated multiple fire safety regulations and was operating with a dangerously narrow entrance that forced fire brigades to halt nearly 400 metres away. The use of temporary structures made of palm leaves turned the premises into a lethal tinderbox. Arrest warrants have been issued against the owners, and senior staff are in custody, yet the pattern is painfully familiar: a blaze, preventable deaths, token arrests, inquiries — and no systemic reform. Meanwhile, Goa’s broader decline as a tourist destination is becoming increasingly visible. Unregulated construction, ecological degradation and rising gang violence have eroded its appeal. The Arpora fire now highlights the alarming absence of regulatory oversight in the tourism sector. Goa urgently needs a structural reboot, not fleeting political assurances. More importantly, India requires a nationwide overhaul of fire safety standards before another preventable catastrophe claims more innocent lives.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Root out the vice

Sir, Corruption has crushed nations’ development because it tends to stall smooth administration. American author John Steinbeck had famously said “it is not just power that corrupts, but the fear of losing the power that corrodes the corrupt.” Moreover, it is not as if power corrupts people, but it is more like people corrupting those in power. Fight against corruption has to be a part of culture because people that elect corrupt politicians are not victims but are accomplices in the crime. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has stressed on “your NO counts” and “Be the change” implying that an individual’s indifference is the most fertile ground for corruption. International Anti-corruption Day on 9 December offers platform for coming together of people to root out the vice that has crippled the psyche of nations.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

GOA NIGHTCLUB BLAZE

Delhi family's dream trip ends in tragedy

Relatives scramble to shelter kids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 8: Vinod Kumar, along with his wife and her three sisters, left Delhi less than a week ago for their long-awaited vacation in Goa, as his mother watched them step out with bags and bade them a cheery farewell.

She sat by the same door waiting Monday, unaware that her younger son, elder daughter-in-law and two close relatives would never return after losing their lives in a fire.

The massive blaze in the early hours of Sunday tore through a Goa nightclub in Arpora, killing 25 people.

Four of the five Delhi residents, all members of Kumar's family, were among those who died. The fifth, Bhavna Joshi, survived with injuries, police said.

The deceased were identified as Vinod Kumar (43), Kamla Joshi (42), Anita Joshi (41) and Saroj Joshi (39).

The injured, Bhavna, is Vinod's wife and a sister to the three deceased women.

Kamla was married to Vinod's elder brother, Naveen.

Their relatives said the four sisters had been planning the trip for months -- hoping for a few days of rest now that their children were older and no



THE MASSIVE BLAZE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF SUNDAY TORE THROUGH A GOAN NIGHTCLUB IN ARPORA, KILLING 25 PEOPLE

longer wholly dependent on them.

Vinod had accompanied them so that they would feel safe and supported during the journey.

The five left their Karawal Nagar homes with excitement, expecting a brief break from routine.

Mahipal Singh Bhandari, a long-time neighbour of the family, said the loss was impossible to grasp.

"I have been staying next to this family for almost 40 years. It is extremely heartbreaking that four members of the same family lost their lives because of someone else's irresponsibility," he said.

Harish, a relative and a neighbour, said the tragedy had shaken the neighbourhood.

"Incidents like these must be stopped before they even begin. Even if you look at the Rajendra Nagar coaching centre issue, that too should have been prevented. Proper checks are essential. Wherever crowds gather, exits must be open, and fire-safety norms must be followed by every organisation," he said.

He further said he heard that this club had been ordered shut, and yet it reportedly kept running "illegally despite several notices".

He added that the govern-

ment must be held responsible.

"Strict action is needed, and those responsible must not be spared. Families have lost their sons, husbands, children, brothers, sisters, wives and daughters, and this is not something you can ignore. Five of them set out for a Goa vacation, four of them got lost forever," he said.

At their home in Karawal Nagar, relatives are struggling to shield the children and the elderly mother from the truth.

Vinod and Bhavna are survived by their two children, an 11-year-old son and a six-year-old daughter. They have been kept away from the stream of neighbours and relatives arriving at the house, neighbours said.

Meanwhile, the 18-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son of Kamla have barely spoken since they received the news, relatives said, adding that they were waiting for their mother to return and bring souvenirs from Goa.

In a different room, Vinod's mother waits, unaware that the goodbyes she said to four members of the family have turned out to be the final ones.

Relatives say she keeps asking if the "injured" have been shifted to a safer hospital.

"She believes they will be brought home any moment," a local resident said, adding, "No one knows how she will react when she learns the truth."

Guwahati emerges as Northeast India's commercial powerhouse

The convergence of 80 per cent office stock growth, declining retail vacancy and limited industrial availability, supported by large infrastructure investments, positions Guwahati as the definitive gateway for Northeast India's economic expansion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Guwahati, Dec 8: Guwahati has emerged as Northeast India's commercial powerhouse, with major infrastructure investments set to reshape the region's real estate landscape through 2028, according to a report.

The report titled 'Beyond the metros: Insights into India's emerging real estate stars' by leading commercial real estate and investment management company JLL pointed out that the city's strategic positioning as the gateway to eight north-eastern states, combined with world-class educational institutions and a thriving business ecosystem, is attracting unprecedented investor interest across office, retail, and logistics sectors.

"Guwahati represents one of India's most compelling real estate investment opportunities today, combining strategic location advantages with transformational infrastructure development and exceptional market fundamentals," said senior managing director, East and Emerging Markets, India, JLL, Surekha Bihani.

"The convergence of 80 per cent office stock growth, declining retail vacancy and limited

industrial availability, supported by large infrastructure investments, positions Guwahati as the definitive gateway for Northeast India's economic expansion," she said.

Investors who recognise this inflection point will gain from the city's evolution into a major commercial hub serving millions across the region, she added.

The report said the office market demonstrates a robust expansion trajectory, with total stock projected to surge 80 per cent from 2 million sqft in 2024 to 3.6 million sqft by 2027.

"Game-changing infrastructure projects are accelerating market transformation with the 93-km Guwahati Ring Road, to be completed by 2026, will decongest the urban core while unlocking development potential in Azara, Baihata, and Narengi corridors," it added.

The 6-lane Guwahati-North Guwahati Bridge will reduce

cross-river travel time from an hour to 15 minutes, boosting north bank development.

Expansion of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport to a 10-million-passenger capacity by April 2025, and the 5.44-km Dighalipukhuri Flyover—Assam's longest—will further enhance connectivity, it added.

Premier institutions such as IIT Guwahati, the Guwahati College of Architecture and Planning, and AIIMS ensure a steady supply of skilled talent, supporting the city's rise as a Business Process Management (BPM) and startup hub with expanding co-working spaces catering to food-tech, fintech and software enterprises, the report said.

It added that the city also offers quality-of-life advantages, including lower living costs than Tier-1 cities, better air quality, political stability and expanding healthcare and education networks.

FREE BOOK FAIR

Igniting reading passion in Assam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

North Lakhimpur (Assam), Dec 8: A book fair was organised in a rural area in northern Assam Sunday, where books were distributed for free among people to encourage the habit of reading, in what the organisers claimed was the first such initiative of this magnitude anywhere in the world.

The day-long book fair in Lakhimpur district's Azad area, located over 350 km from Guwahati, offered books for free to all visitors, with special preference to students.

"This was the first time that a free book fair was held anywhere in the world. We aim to inculcate the reading habit,

ered from donors across the state for the book fair.

"We provided free books to about 20,000 readers. Students were given two books each and others got one book each," he said.

Hazarika said the educational institutions had been provided with coupons, with provision for acquiring required coupons also made at the venue.

"There are many students, especially in rural areas, who do not have access to good books due to the remoteness of their locations or financial constraints. We are trying to bridge that gap in whatever little way we can," he added.

Maini Mahanta, Guwahati-based editor and columnist, who donated books for the event, said the initiative is a noble one and needs to be taken forward every year.

"It is a very good initiative, and more so because it happened in a rural area. The organisers took Zubeen's love for books among his music fans, especially the new generation. It is laudable," she told PTI.

Mahanta said she has provided books for different sections of readers, right from the primary level to motivational ones to those on social and political issues.

Assam to hand over 992 acres to AAI for Silchar greenfield airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Dec 8: The Assam government decided to hand over 3,000 bighas (nearly 992 acres) of land at Doloo Tea Estate in Cachar district to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the construction of a greenfield airport, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Addressing a press conference after a cabinet meeting Sunday, Sarma said the panel approved an increase of 500

bighas from the earlier decision to allocate 2,500 bighas (826.45 acres) for the proposed airport near Silchar.

"The cabinet approved the transfer of 3,000 bighas at Doloo Tea Estate in Silchar to the AAI for the construction of a greenfield airport," Sarma said, adding that the decision will pave the way for obtaining the Union Cabinet's nod for the project.

The state government had proposed a new airport in Sil-

char spread over 2,500 bighas as the existing facility at Kumbhigram is a defence airport and expansion of the facility to accommodate the increasing demands of air traffic is not possible.

In November 2022, the Assam government had distributed financial assistance to 1,296 families living at Doloo Tea Estate "as a goodwill gesture".

Earlier that year, a controversy had arisen over the state government's efforts to acquire

land for setting a greenfield airport with the then Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia claiming that no such proposal was received for the facility from the BJP-led state.

It was later clarified that the land was being acquired at AAI's request. Because of the confusion, land acquisition at the tea estate for the airport had led to protests by the garden workers, but the government assured that no worker would be evicted.

DELHI ISSUES DRAFT RULES ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 8: The Delhi government has notified draft Delhi Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2025, to ensure a safe working environment for workers employed in hazardous and accident-prone industrial activities, officials said Monday.

The draft rules provide for the constitution of a 10-member Delhi Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board headed by the labour commissioner, and safety committees in establishments employing 250 or more workers.

The labour department has invited suggestions and objec-

tions on the draft rules, which will be considered by the government after 45 days.

The draft rules state that every employer of a factory and building or other construction work will annually conduct, free of cost, medical examination of every worker aged 45 years and above, within 120 days from the commencement of every calendar year.

Every employer in the industry involving hazardous processes will arrange to conduct free-of-cost medical examination for every worker annually, within 30 days from the commencement of every calendar year, as mentioned in the draft rules.

'TOE-TO-THUMB' SURGERY

Delhi doctors 'restore' fingers of Sudanese soldier

Abdalla travelled to India for treatment and underwent a 'toe-to-thumb' reconstruction surgery at a hospital, regaining complete hand functions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Max Super Speciality Hospital, Dwarka, performed the intricate surgery, removing the second toe from Abdalla's left foot and transplanting it to his right hand, the hospital statement said.

"Under a microscope, surgeons reconnected minute blood vessels and nerves, so that the transplanted toe could survive, move naturally, and eventually function as a thumb," the statement added.

Commenting on the case, Dr Godara said it proved particularly challenging due to the condition

of the patient's hand when he arrived for treatment. Because of the gunshot injury, he was suffering from a condition described as "metacarpal hand", with most of the functional parts missing except the last two fingers.

"We had to reconstruct not only the thumb but also

rebuild the movement pathways so the hand could work as a unit again. Toe-to-thumb transfer is a precise microsurgical procedure -- even a fraction of a millimetre matters. The success of this surgery has allowed him to regain meaningful, everyday use of his hand," the doctor said.

New Delhi, Dec 8: After the injury, I could not even hold a glass of water or eat by myself. I had lost all confidence, said 34-year-old Abdalla Alkhader, a Sudanese soldier who had lost his thumb, index and middle finger to a gunshot during a conflict in his country.

Abdalla travelled to India for treatment and underwent a "toe-to-thumb" reconstruction surgery at a hospital here, regaining complete hand functions.

After examining his condition, doctors recommended

a free microvascular toe-to-thumb transfer, a complex procedure to restore a functional thumb using a toe, according to the hospital statement.

Doctors said the case was challenging as Abdalla had lost multiple fingers and had developed stiffness in the prolonged period since the injury. The team had to reconstruct not only the thumb, but also stimulate the movement of tendons and nerves required for proper hand function.

Dr Neeraj Godara, Consultant - Hand, Wrist and Reconstructive Microsurgeon, at

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NIMAPARA

Mail I.D : ee_nimapara@yahoo.co.in

No. : Tender-Online-Divn.NPR-10/2025-26

Date : 28.12.2025

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work
2. Total No. of Projects
3. Estimated cost of projects
4. Class of contractor
A) Estimated cost above Rs.20.00 Lakhs & up to Rs.300.00 Lakhs
B) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakhs and upto Rs.40.00 Lakhs
C) Estimated Cost up to Rs.20.00 Lakhs
5. Mode of Submission of tender
6. Period of Completion
7. Other details

Availability of Tender on-line for bidding
From To
09.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. 22.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
Building Works for the year 2025-26
01 (One) no of projects
Rs.77.87 lakh
'B' Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
'C' Class & 'B' Class(of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
'D' Class & 'C' Class(of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
Tender should be submitted online only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
As per TCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, Time & Venue of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nimapara	Tender-On-line-Divn.NPR-10/2025-26	09.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. 22.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	22.12.2025 upto 11.00 A.M.	23.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Office of the S.E. R.W. Division, Nimapara

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Nimapara

ODISHA ECOTOURISM SOCIETY

O/o PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST WILDLIFE & CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, ODISHA

Prakruti Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar

Invitation of Tender for Empanelment of Agencies for supply of Linen Items & Promotional Merchandise.

No OETS/01/2025-26 Dt.06.12.2025
No.MM-349: Odisha Ecotourism Society invites sealed bids from eligible agencies for empanelment for supply of Linen Items and Promotional Merchandise.
Bid Start Date-08.12.2025
Bid end Date- 22.12.2025 upto 1.00 P.M.
For more details visit www.wildlife.odisha.gov.in
Bid must be submitted either physically or by Speed Post/ Registry Post only in the below address.

O/o PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha
Plot No.-1459, Prakruti Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751007

OIPR-08141/11/0025/2526 Sd./- Dy. Conservator of Forests (ET)

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
LIFT IRRIGATION DIVISION, BALASORE**

No.CAD-2604: E-mail: eelidvnbls@yahoo.com

e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.05/2025-26/Dt.05.12.2025

1.Name of the Tender inviting officer: Executive Engineer, L.I.Division, Balasore representing Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd.,Bhubaneswar.
2.Name of the Work: Installation, Energisation of 155 nos. (New BKVY-155 nos.) CLIP in Sadar, Remuna, Nilagiri, Oupada, Bahanaga, Soro, Khaira & Simulla Block of Balasore District. 3. No. of Packages: 155 nos. (BKVY-2025-26) 4. Cost of Tender Amount: Varies from Rs.27.36,173/- to Rs.33.50,122/- 5. Date and time of availability of bid document in portal for online bidding from 11.12.2025 at 11.00 hrs. to dated 23.12.2025 at 17.00 hrs. 6. Last date and time of receipt of bid in the portal dated 23.12.2025 upto 17.00 hrs. 7. Last date & time to seek clarification dated 22.12.2025 upto 17.00 hrs. 8. Date of opening of Technical bid (Cover-1) dated 24.12.2025 at 11.00 hrs. 9. Date of opening of Financial bid will be informed after evaluation of Technical bid. 10. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha i.e. www.tenderodisha.gov.in.11. Subsequent Corrigendum/ addendum/ Cancellation if required shall be available in above portal.

Sd./- Er. S.C. Munda
OIPR-32150/11/0007/2526 Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Balasore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHANDA

Tel.No.(06755) 221502, E-mail: eemidkhrda@yahoo.co.in

Letter No.5543, Dt.03.12.2025

Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No.SEMIDKHD 16/2025-26

1. The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Khordha on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single and Double Cover system in Online Mode only for civil works in Check Dam under MATY Scheme as detailed in the table below from the eligible Class of Contractors.

2. Nature of Work
3. No. of Works
4. Cost of Bid Document
5. Tender Value
6. Class of Contractor
7. Availability of Bid documents
8. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal
9. Date of Opening of Bids
10. The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of Bid can also be seen in the said website. The Authority reserves the right to defer/reject/ accept any or all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Authority shall in no way be held liable for such action nor will make any obligation to inform the Bidder the ground for the same.


Civil Works in Check Dam under MATY Scheme in different Blocks of Khordha District.
01 (One) No. Only
Rs.10,000/- through online only
Rs.50.63 Lakhs
'B' Class as applicable
10.30 A.M. of Dt.09.12.2025 to 5.30 P.M. of Dt.15.12.2025
5.30 P.M. of Dt.15.12.2025
11.30 A.M. of Dt.16.12.2025

OIPR-32042/11/0027/2526 Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Minor Irrigation Division, Khordha

of the day

quote

Vande Mataram is not to show off, nor is it a political tool. When we listen to them, they make it sound as if they created the verse



AKHILESH YADAV

SAMAJWADI PARTY LEADER


It is heartening to see the state taking forward a visionary agenda aimed at inclusive development, innovation and global engagement driving the vision of 'Telangana 2047'



MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

AICC PRESIDENT

We comprise around 2.9 per cent of India's population but contribute around five per cent of national GDP. By 2047, I want to contribute 10 per cent of India's GDP



A REVANTH REDDY

CHIEF MINISTER, TELANGANA

XPOST

OF THE DAY

India is run and ruled by 4 groups: Babus with lifelong job security without any accountability Criminal politicians who know how to use caste and religion to win popular support Corrupt corporates who know nothing of innovation and bribe the above two to loot Indians Foreign funded agents who are tasked to lobby for external interests



Nein.

@macroschema

SHORT TAKES

Cross-border arms module busted

Chandigarh:

The Punjab Police Monday claimed it has dismantled a cross-border arms smuggling module with links to a Pakistan-based handler and apprehended six persons, including a juvenile. Police recovered six firearms -- five .30 bore pistols, and one 9mm PX5 pistol -- from the accused, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said. Preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused were in direct contact with a Pakistan-based handler through social media platforms, who shared coordinates to retrieve and further supply weapon consignments.

Sabarimala tightens virtual queue system

Sabarimala (Kerala):

With the annual pilgrimage season progressing at the Lord Ayyappa Temple here, authorities have decided to further strictly enforce the High Court's mandated virtual queue and spot booking regulations at the hill shrine. The decision was announced Monday by Sannidhanam Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Arun S Nair following the fourth high-level review meeting held at the conference hall here. According to the ADM, devotees must ensure that they reach the temple only on the dates allotted through the virtual queue system, an official statement said here.

Suspected Scrub Typhus kills 9

Amaravati:

Andhra Pradesh Commissioner of Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department G Veerapandian Monday said nine people died across the state due to suspected Scrub Typhus disease. He said that Scrub Typhus diagnostic tests are being conducted at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the state and samples are being sent for deeper genome sequencing tests in Guntur and Tirupati.



The Master Distorian has repeated his insult of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore today in Parliament. The Master Distorian of a PM must render an apology. He has insulted our founding fathers and most of all Tagore himself

JAIRAM RAMESH | AICC GENERAL SECRETARY, COMMUNICATIONS

‘Exercise discretion while travelling through China’



New Delhi also expects the Chinese authorities to provide assurance that Indian citizens transiting through Chinese airports will not be ‘selectively targeted and harassed’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 8:

India Monday advised its nationals to be careful while travelling to or transiting through China, more than two weeks after a woman from Arunachal Pradesh was allegedly harassed at the Shanghai airport. New Delhi also said that it expects the Chinese authorities to provide assurance that Indian citizens transiting through Chinese airports will not be “selectively targeted and harassed”. India also hoped that regulations governing international air travel would be respected by the Chinese authorities.

The Indian national, Pema Wang Thongdok, had alleged that Chinese immigration officials at the Shanghai airport detained her for 18 hours November 21 during a transit halt after refusing to recognise her Indian passport as her birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh

New Delhi had lodged a strong protest with China following the incident

not be selectively targeted, arbitrarily detained or harassed and that regulations governing international air travel would be respected by the Chinese side,” he said. Jaiswal said the Ministry of External Affairs would “advise Indian nationals to exercise due discretion while travelling to or transiting through China”. After India last month protested the alleged harassment of Thongdok, the Chinese foreign ministry rejected the allegations saying the actions were in accordance with the regulations. In a series of social media posts, Thongdok had said Chinese immigration officials at Shanghai airport detained her for 18 hours on the ground that her passport was “invalid” as her birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh. “They called my Indian passport invalid as my birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh which they claimed is Chinese territory,” she said. In its reaction, India said Arunachal Pradesh has been an integral and inalienable part of India. A strong demarche (a formal diplomatic protest) was made with the Chinese side, in Beijing and in Delhi, on the same day the incident took place.

TOP MAOIST DEU MAJJI, 11 NAXALITES SURRENDER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajnandgaon, Dec 8:

Maoist Central Committee (MCC) member Ramdher alias Deu Majji, his wife, and 10 other Naxalites surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district Monday, officials said. The surrendered cadres, including six women, carried a collective bounty of ₹2.95 crore. They handed over 10 weapons, including three AK-47 rifles, three INSAS rifles, two .303 rifles, a Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) and a carbine gun, a police official said. Majji, who goes by the aliases Horupu and Amarjeet, was working as a Central Committee Member of the MMC Zone, Gadchiroli (Maharashtra). He carried a reward of ₹1.05 crore on his head. His wife Anita, alias Lalita, alias Jaini, is a Divisional Committee (DVCM) member. The surrendered Naxalites include four members of the Divisional Committee, four Party Members, and two Area Committee Members (ACM). Among them, the four

DVCMs carried a reward of ₹33 lakh each, two ACMs carried a bounty of ₹14 lakh each, and four Party Members a reward of ₹6 lakh each, officials said. All the surrendered Naxalites were associated with the Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh (MMC) Zone, they said. Addressing a press conference, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai stated that the two years of the Chhattisgarh government's tenure have proven to be a turning point in the history of the state. He said Chhattisgarh is rapidly progressing toward the goal set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to eradicate Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026. He stated that Naxalism has broken and is now breathing its last. “Security forces have achieved unprecedented success in the past two years. More than 500 Maoists have been neutralised in encounters, while over 4,000 Naxalites have surrendered or been arrested, a clear sign of the weakening of Naxalism,” Sai said.

GOA NIGHTCLUB FIRE

Owners Saurabh, Gaurav Luthra flee to Thailand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji/New Delhi, Dec 8:

Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, the owners of the Goa nightclub wanted in connection with the fire tragedy that claimed 25 lives at the facility, have fled to Thailand, prompting police to seek the help of Interpol to trace them, officials said here Monday. According to a statement issued by the Goa Police, the owners of the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora, where the blaze killed people, mostly staff and five tourists, late Saturday night, fled to Phuket at 5:30 AM December 7 in an IndiGo Airlines plane, just hours after the incident. The owners' escape was discovered after a massive manhunt was launched following the filing of an FIR, and during the probe, it was found from the immigration records that the duo took flight IndiGo flight 6E 1073 to Phuket, Thailand, at 5:30 AM Sunday, December 7, just hours after the incident took place around midnight.



The authorities have now sought the help of Interpol to trace and arrest the promoters. A senior official said that this swift exit by Luthras shows their “intent to avoid the police investigation.” The official said soon after an FIR was filed, police moved swiftly and dispatched a team to Delhi to conduct raids on the addresses of the two accused. “Since they were not available, a notice under appropriate sections of law was pasted on the gate of their house,” the official said, adding that by December 7, a Look Out Circular was issued against both the accused by the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) at the request of the

The Goa government constituted a four-member magisterial inquiry committee to ascertain the facts and circumstances that led up to the massive fire at the nightclub

Goa Police. However, during this exercise, it was found that the two had already left Delhi for Phuket in the early hours of December 7, that is, immediately after the incident which had taken place around midnight. “Goa police have taken further steps to coordinate with the Interpol Division of CBI to apprehend both Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra at the earliest,” he said. While the owners remain abroad, the police have arrested key operational staff Bharat Kohli, one of the members of the

management, from Delhi after obtaining his transit remand. So far, the club's Chief General Manager Rajiv Modak, General Manager Vivek Singh, Bar Manager Rajiv Singhanian, and Gate Manager Riyanshu Thakur have been arrested. The Goa government Monday constituted a four-member magisterial inquiry committee to ascertain the facts and circumstances that led up to the massive fire at the nightclub. According to officials, fire-works have emerged as the likely cause of the blaze at the popular party venue in Arpora village, 25 km from Panaji. Under Secretary (Home) Manthan Manoj Naik issued the order constituting the inquiry committee with North Goa District Collector Ankit Yadav as chairperson. The committee members include South Goa Superintendent of Police Tikam Singh Verma, Director of Forensic Sciences Ashutosh Apte, and Rajendra Halarnkar, deputy director, Fire and Emergency Services.

Indian mobile hospital treats over 2,200 cyclone-hit people

New Delhi ramps up relief efforts in Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Dec 8:

A mobile hospital set up by India in Sri Lanka has provided medical care to over 2,200 people affected by Cyclone Dittwah, as New Delhi ramped up its assistance to the flood-ravaged island nation with engineering support and delivery of fresh relief consignments, the Indian mission here said Sunday. Sri Lanka has been grappling with widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse triggered by the cyclone, leaving several districts isolated and severely straining the country's disaster-response capacity. At least 627 people have been killed and 190 remain missing as of Sunday noon due to catastrophic floods and landslides

caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16. Sharing a social media post by the Ministry of External Affairs on its X handle, the Indian High Commission said a field hospital set up by India in Mahiyanganaya near Kandy has provided medical care to more than 2,200 people affected by the cyclone since December 5. The hospital has also performed 67 minor procedures and three surgeries, it said. The field hospital was airlifted to Sri Lanka by an IAF C-17 aircraft along with a 78-member Indian medical team Tuesday. In another post, the mission said Indian Army engineers, working with Sri Lanka Army Engineers and the Road Development Authority, in Kilinochchi have begun removing a damaged bridge on the Paranthan-Karachchi-Mulaitivu (A35) road, a key route disrupted by the cyclone. “This joint effort marks another step toward restoring vital connectivity for affected



communities,” it said. India has additionally sent nearly 1,000 tonnes of food items and clothing contributed by the people of Tamil Nadu. Of these, about 300 tonnes reached Colombo Sunday morning aboard three Indian Naval ships. High Commissioner Santosh Jha handed over the supplies to Sri Lankan Minister for Trade,

India has additionally sent nearly 1,000 tonnes of food items and clothing contributed by the people of Tamil Nadu

Of these, about 300 tonnes reached Colombo Sunday morning aboard three Indian Naval ships

ation, India has provided about 58 tonnes of relief material, including dry rations, tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, essential cloths, water purification kits and about 4.5 tonnes of medicines and surgical equipment, the Indian mission said in a press release Sunday. Another 60 tonnes of equipment, including generators, inflatable rescue boats, Outboard Motors, and excavators, have also been brought to Sri Lanka, it said, adding that 185 tonnes of Bailey Bridge units were airlifted to restore critical connectivity along with 44 engineers. Two columns of the National Disaster Response Force, com-

prising 80 experts and K9 units with specially trained dogs, assisted with immediate rescue and relief efforts in Sri Lanka. Besides the field hospital in Mahiyanganaya, medical centres have also been set up in the badly hit Ja-Ela region and in Negombo. INS Vikrant, INS Udaygiri, and INS Sukanya provided immediate rescue and relief assistance to Sri Lanka. Apart from the two Chetak helicopters deployed from INS Vikrant, two heavy-lift, MI-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force are actively involved in evacuations and airlifting relief material, the release said. At the request of the Sri Lankan Disaster Management Centre, a virtual meeting was organised between DMC and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s National Remote Sensing Centre on Saturday. Since the onset of the disaster, ISRO has been providing maps to assist DMC in its rescue efforts, the release said.

PARL OKAYS PAN MASALA CESS

Parliament Monday approved a Bill that seeks to impose cess on pan masala manufacturing units to augment resources for meeting expenditure on national security and public health. Rajya Sabha returned the Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025, to the Lok Sabha, which had cleared it December 5



A kingfisher perches on a tree branch with a fish in its beak, in Nadia, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Trainer aircraft hits power line

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seoni (MP), Dec 8:

A trainer aircraft belonging to a private aviation academy crashed Monday evening after hitting a 33kV high voltage power line in Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh, resulting in injuries to the pilot and flight instructor, officials said. The aircraft of Redbird Flight Training Academy, which has a base in Seoni, crashed near agriculture fields of Amagon, around 2km from the Suktara airstrip on National Highway-44 at 6:25 pm, a senior police official said. Academy representatives told police the aircraft's engine

stopped generating power and this led to the accident. Pilot Ajit Chawda and flight instructor Ajit Anthony were injured in the crash which took place around 20km from the district headquarters, the official said. Both are undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Barapathar near Seoni city, he said. According to eyewitnesses, while landing on the runway, the lower part of the aircraft collided with 33 kV power line of the Badalpar substation. The power line snapped and the trainer jet crashed to the ground, the official said, adding electricity supply was disrupted

ed in the area. On receiving information about the incident, Madhya Pradesh East Zone Electricity Distribution Company staffers, villagers and police rushed to the spot, rescued the injured persons and sent them to hospital. Seoni Superintendent of Police Sunil Mehta told PTI that a team has been sent to the crash scene. The injured pilot and the instructor are reported to be out of danger, said the police officer. The aircraft, which took off from the Sukatra airstrip, was returning to the runway when it crashed, according to Ramlal Uike, Sarpanch of Amgaon Panchayat.

of the day

quote

The U.S. side should ... handle the Taiwan question with the utmost prudence, and stop indulging and supporting 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces in seeking independence by force or resisting reunification by force

GUO JIAKUN | SPOKESPERSON FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHINA

I'm a little bit disappointed that President Zelenskyy hasn't yet read the proposal, that was as of a few hours ago. His people love it. But he hasn't-Russia's fine with it

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, USA

New York will always welcome immigrants, and I will fight each and every day to protect, support, and celebrate our immigrant brothers and sisters

ZOHRAN MAMDANI | MAYOR, NYC

SHORT TAKES

7.6 quake triggers tsunami in Japan

Tokyo: A powerful 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck late Monday off northern Japan, triggering a tsunami of up to 50 cm in Pacific coast communities and warnings of potentially higher surges, the Japanese Meteorological Agency said. Several people were injured, media reports said. The quake struck at about 11:15 pm in the Pacific Ocean about 80 km off the coast of Aomori, the northernmost prefecture of Japan's main Honshu island, the agency said. A tsunami of 50 cm was measured in Kuji port in Iwate prefecture, just south of Aomori, and tsunami levels of 40 to 50 cm struck other coastal communities in the region, the agency said. The agency issued an alert for potential tsunami surges of up to 3 metres in some areas, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihar urged residents to immediately head to higher ground or take shelter inside buildings or evacuation centers until the alert is lifted.

Australian wildfires raze 40 homes

Melbourne: A firefighter has died battling blazes that have destroyed around 40 homes in two Australian states, officials said Monday. The 59-year-old man was struck by a falling tree Sunday night while fighting a wildfire near the New South Wales town of Bulahdelah that had razed 3,500 hectares of woodlands and destroyed four homes over the weekend, Rural Fire Service Commissioner Trent Curtin said. The man could not be resuscitated. Firefighters expected to be battling that blaze for days, Curtin said. There were 52 wildfires burning across New South Wales Monday and nine remained out of control.

Nigeria: 100 abducted children released

Minna: A total of 100 of the schoolchildren abducted from a Nigerian Catholic school last month have been released, the Christian Association of Nigeria said Monday, adding that more than 100 students remain in captivity. At least 303 schoolchildren were seized at the Niger state school together with 12 of their teachers when gunmen attacked the St. Mary's Catholic School in Papiri community November 21. Fifty escaped in the hours that followed. Daniel Atori, a spokesman for the association in Niger state, told The Associated Press that the church learned the children were released during the weekend and that they will be transported to Niger state's capital of Minna to meet with officials.

Thailand launches airstrikes along Cambodian border

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Dec 8: Thailand launched airstrikes along the disputed border with Cambodia Monday as both sides accused the other of breaking a ceasefire that halted fighting earlier this year.

Longstanding border disputes erupted into five days of combat in July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. US President Donald Trump pushed the Southeast Asian neighbours to sign a truce agreement in October, but tensions have continued to simmer.

The Thai army said that more than 50,000 people have left areas near the border for shelters, while Cambodia's Information Minister Neth Pheaktra said that residents of several villages near the border have been evacuated.

The latest round of clashes has killed at least one Thai soldier and four Cambodian civilians, officials said.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said in a televised speech that military operations would be carried out as necessary to defend the country and protect public safety.

"Thailand has never wished for violence. I'd like to reiterate that Thailand has never initiated a fight or an invasion, but will never tolerate a violation of its sovereignty," he said.

The ceasefire was strained in early November after Thai troops were injured by land mines, leading Thailand to announce that it would indefinitely suspend implementation of the agreement. Both sides con-



tinue to trade accusations over responsibility, even as they are supposed to be cooperating in getting rid of the mines.

Trump said in mid-November that he'd intervened to preserve the ceasefire as tensions simmered between the two countries.

But another brief episode of fighting took place along the border Sunday, after which both sides said the other fired first. The Thai army said Cambodian fire injured two Thai soldiers, and Thai troops retaliated, resulting in an exchange of fire that lasted around 20 minutes. Cambodia said that the Thai side fired first and that its own troops did not retaliate.

On Monday, Thai army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Winthai Suvaree said the Cambodian troops fired first into Thai territory in multiple areas. He said at least one Thai soldier was killed and about eight other soldiers were wounded, and



At his (Tinubu) request, we will strengthen our partnership with the authorities and our support for the affected populations. We call on all our partners to step up their engagement

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

China positive on Putin's India visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Dec 8: China Monday reacted positively to Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India, framing the three countries as an important part of the Global South and said sound trilateral ties are conducive to regional and global peace and stability, besides their own national interests.

"China, Russia and India are emerging economies and important members of the Global South," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here, reacting for the first time to Putin's high-profile visit to New Delhi last week and his interactions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Guo said that the three countries maintaining sound relations are not only in line with their own interests but also conducive to regional and global peace, security, stability and prosperity.

Putin's visit was watched here closely, considering Beijing's close and strong ties with Moscow.

Responding to a question about Putin's comments about New Delhi and Beijing ahead of his visit, Guo said that China stands ready to work with Russia and India to continue promoting the development of bilateral relations.

In an interview ahead of his visit, Putin had said, "India and China are our closest friends - we treasure that relationship deeply."

On India-China relations -- currently on a path of normalisation after the Eastern Ladakh confrontation which resulted in a freeze in ties from 2020 until last year -- Guo said China wants to promote sustained and strong ties with New Delhi with a long-term perspective.

Women protest gender violence across Brazil



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio De Janeiro, Dec 8: Tens of thousands of women in cities across Brazil rallied against gender-based violence Sunday as a record number of female victims and a series of recent high-profile cases have shocked the country.

Women of all ages and some men took to the streets in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and other cities, calling for an end to femicide, rape and misogyny and for men to join them in their struggle. Aline de Souza Pedrotti's sister, who was an administrative worker in a school in Rio de Janeiro, was killed on November 28 by a male colleague along with another employee.

Pedrotti, who was at the demonstration on the boardwalk in Copacabana, said the person who killed her sister didn't accept having female bosses. "I'm devastated," she told The Associated Press. "But I'm fighting through the pain and I won't stop. I want changes in the legislation and new protocols to prevent this kind of crime from happening again."

In another shocking case, Taynara Souza Santos was run over by her ex-boyfriend and trapped by car, which dragged her over concrete for one kilometer. The 31-year-old's injuries were so severe her legs

were amputated. Video footage of the November 28 incident in Sao Paulo went viral.

And on November 21, in the southern city of Florianopolis, English teacher Catarina Kasten was raped and strangled to death on a trail next to a beach on her way to a swimming lesson. These recent cases were "the final straw," said Isabela Pontes, who was on Sao Paulo's Paulista Avenue. "I have suffered many forms of abuses, and today I am here to show our voice."

More than one in three women in Brazil was a victim of sexual or gender-based violence over the course of a year, according to a 2025 report by the think tank Brazilian Forum on Public Safety, the highest number since records began in 2017.

A decade ago, Brazil passed a law recognizing the crime of femicide defined as the death of a woman in the domestic sphere or as resulting from contempt for women. Last year, 1,492 women were victims of femicide, the highest number since the law was introduced in 2015, according to the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety.

"We're seeing an increase in numbers but also in the intensity and cruelty of violence," said Juliana Martins, an expert in gender-based violence and institutional relations manager at the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety.

Myanmar military airstrike on tea shop kills 18 civilians



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Dec 8: An air strike last week by Myanmar's military on a tea shop in the country's upper-central region of Sagaing killed at least 18 civilians and wounded 20 others, a local villager and Myanmar's independent online media said Monday.

The incident is the latest in a series of frequent and deadly aerial attacks targeting armed pro-democracy forces as the country approaches elections scheduled for later this month. The strikes often cause civilian casualties. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021, triggering widespread popular opposition.

After peaceful demonstrations were put down with lethal force, many opponents of military rule took up arms, and large parts of the country are now embroiled in conflict.

The new attack occurred on Dec. 5, shortly after 8 p.m. in Mayakan village in Tabayin township, a resident said. The village, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) northwest of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, is better known by its old name of Depayin. The villager, who rushed to the site of the attack to help the victims, told The Associated Press that a five-year-old child and two schoolteachers were among those killed in the attack in the tea shop where dozens of people gathered to watch the Myanmar vs Philippines football tournament on a television.

Tea shops in Myanmar are essentially the equivalent of the West's neighbourhood coffee shops, where people linger over cups of sweet tea, gather to talk, eat, and stay connected to community life.



WINTER WONDERLAND: Britt Richardson, of Canada, speeds down the course as she races in the women's World Cup giant slalom in Mont Tremblant, Que. PTI PHOTO

A year after Assad's fall, Syrians struggle to heal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Homs, Dec 8: A year ago, Mohammad Marwan found himself stumbling, barefoot and dazed, out of Syria's notorious Saydnaya prison on the outskirts of Damascus as rebel forces pushing toward the capital threw open its doors to release the prisoners.

Arrested in 2018 for fleeing compulsory military service, the father of three had cycled through four other lockups before landing in Saydnaya, a sprawling complex just north of Damascus that became synonymous with some of the worst atrocities committed under the rule of now ousted President Bashar Assad.

He recalled guards waiting to welcome new prisoners with a gauntlet of beatings and electric shocks. "They said, You have no rights here, and we're not

calling an ambulance unless we have a dead body," Marwan said. His Dec. 8, 2024 homecoming to a house full of relatives and friends in his village in Homs province was joyful.

But in the year since then, he has struggled to overcome the physical and psychological effects of his six-year imprisonment. He suffered from chest pain and difficulty breathing that turned out to be the result of tuberculosis. He was beset by crippling anxiety and difficulty sleeping. He's now undergoing treatment for tuberculosis and attending therapy sessions at a center in Homs focused on rehabilitating former prisoners, and Marwan said his physical and mental situations have gradually improved.

"We were in something like a state of death" in Saydnaya, he said. "Now we've come back to life."



Marwan's country is also struggling to heal a year after the Assad dynasty's repressive 50-year reign came to an end following 14 years of civil war that left an estimated half a million people dead, millions more displaced, and the country battered and divided.

Assad's downfall came as a shock, even to the insurgents who unseated him. In late November 2024, groups in the country's northwest -- led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an Islamist rebel group whose then-leader, Ahmad al-Sharaa, is now the country's interim

president -- launched an offensive on the city of Aleppo, aiming to take it back from Assad's forces.

They were startled when the Syrian army collapsed with little resistance, first in Aleppo, then the key cities of Hama and Homs, leaving the road to Damascus open. Meanwhile, insurgent groups in the country's south mobilized to make their own push toward the capital.

The rebels took Damascus on Dec. 8 while Assad was whisked away by Russian forces and remains in exile in Moscow. But Russia, a longtime Assad ally, did not intervene militarily to defend him and has since established ties with the country's new rulers and maintained its bases on the Syrian coast.

Since his sudden ascent to power, al-Sharaa has launched a diplomatic charm offensive, building ties with Western and

Arab countries that shunned Assad and that once considered al-Sharaa a terrorist. A crowning moment of his success in the international arena: in November, he became the first Syrian president since the country's independence in 1946 to visit Washington.

But the diplomatic successes have been offset by outbreaks of sectarian violence in which hundreds of civilians from the Alawite and Druze minorities were killed by pro-government Sunni fighters. Local Druze groups have now set up their own de facto government and military in the southern Sweida province.

There are ongoing tensions between the new government in Damascus and Kurdish-led forces controlling the country's northeast, despite an agreement inked in March that was supposed to lead to a merger of their forces.

of the day

quote

Exported Indian cars have zinc-coated steel bodies; why not pass on the same benefit to domestic car owners also? Thereby maintaining the aesthetics and the new look of the vehicle. Consumers all over the world look for very similar benefits and satisfaction levels

L PUGAZHENTHY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ILZDA

Nature is central to our growth story. By mainstreaming the principles of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures into our operations, we are identifying opportunities to build resilient ecosystems alongside renewable energy infrastructure

ASHISH KHANNA | CEO, AGEL

Silver, which rose more than 3 per cent last week, saw some early-week profit-taking but remains underpinned by tightening inventories in London and China and a structural deficit expected to persist into 2026

MANAV MODI | ANALYST (PRECIOUS METAL—RESEARCH), MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

SHORT TAKES

Subdued demand: Gold falls by ₹300

New Delhi: Gold prices fell by Rs 300 to Rs 1,32,600 per 10 grams in the national capital Monday due to subdued demand in the local markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,32,900 per 10 grams Friday. However, silver prices jumped by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,85,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), marking their second consecutive day of gains. It had settled at Rs 1,83,500 per kg in the previous market session. Globally, spot gold rose by 0.18 per cent to \$4,205.26 per ounce.

Ola Electric stock crashes 80 per cent

Mumbai: Ola Electric Mobility's shares have plunged nearly 80 per cent from their post-listing peak, slipping into a deeper slump as the stock continues to fall for the seventh straight session. Heavy selling, weak guidance and technical breakdowns have pushed the stock far below its IPO price, raising fresh concerns among investors. The stock has also dropped more than 50 per cent from its IPO price of Rs 76 per share. The company's market capitalisation has slipped below Rs 15,000 crore, compared to over Rs 65,000 crore when the stock hit its peak after listing.

Starlink fixes ₹8,600 monthly tariff in India

NEW SUBSCRIBERS WILL HAVE TO PURCHASE A HARDWARE KIT FOR RS 34,000

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 8: Elon Musk's Starlink has inched closer to its long-awaited commercial debut in India, with the company displaying complete residential pricing on its local website.

The satellite-based internet service is priced at Rs 8,600 per month, and new subscribers have to purchase a hardware kit for Rs 34,000.

The residential plan is designed to help users access service quality in their area before committing to it long-term, with unlimited data and a 30-day trial period.

Starlink emphasises features like plug-and-play installation, more than 99.9 per cent uptime, extreme weather resistance, and no data caps for its push

IndiGo crisis exposes Indian aviation

PM spoke of his ambitions for India's aviation sector at the global airlines conference in New Delhi this year, but that vision mostly depends on IndiGo and Air India's success

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 8: A wave of flight cancellations by IndiGo, India's largest airline, sparked a week of chaos and grounded tens of thousands of passengers, laying bare the risks of having a duopoly-like situation in the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

For years, IndiGo with a 65% domestic market share has helped Indians realise their dreams of flying -- an aspiration shared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who once said those "in slippers should also be seen in aircraft".

The airline became the poster child of the nation's aviation boom in recent years, with its promise of low fares and on-time performance.

But last week changed it all: IndiGo cancelled at least 2,000 flights because of a shortage of pilots after it failed to plan adequately for new rules limiting how many hours they work. That upended vacation plans, weddings and flooded social media with photos and videos of luggage piling up at terminals -- scenes never witnessed in India's aviation history.

IndiGo's woes come at a critical time for the airline and the industry. Rival Air India, which commands a 27% market share and was owned by the government until 2022, has for years faced complaints of an ageing fleet and poor service, and is battling tighter scrutiny since a June crash killed 260 people.

IndiGo has said it hopes to

Looking at the first half of FY 2025-26 growth figures for agriculture sector, the second half will be normal

RAMESH CHAND | NITI AAYOG MEMBER

IndiGo's size has grown to the point where operational setbacks pose systemic risk. If IndiGo or Air India get into trouble, there will be mayhem in Indian aviation ... the government needs to reduce jet fuel taxes and encourage more competition

HARSH VARDHAN | CHAIRMAN, STARAIR CONSULTING

- IndiGo faces biggest crisis ever in 20-year history
- Experts fear airline's large market share carries systemic risks
- Rival Air India already battling several other challenges
- Many Indian airlines have also gone bankrupt in recent years

return to normalcy in the coming days, but its troubles have drawn warnings from both politicians and aviation experts. The crisis has raised concerns about the risks of over reliance on a single carrier and whether the airline is really too big to fail. The government stepped in swiftly, relaxing rules on pilot fatigue management to ease the disruptions. IndiGo has repeatedly apologised but has not disclosed financial losses from the crisis.

Airline duopolies exist in a few countries, such as Australia and Canada. Even China, the world's second most-populous nation, has three state-owned carriers, and several

private ones.

India's aviation market is not a duopoly in the strictest sense but analysts say that 92% market share of IndiGo and Air India - including its low-cost Air India Express - means it is a duopoly-like situation and creates vulnerabilities.

Moody's warns of revenue dent

The widespread disruptions in IndiGo flights, resulting from the airline's failure to plan for aviation regulations communicated to industry more than a year in advance, could result in financial damage from loss of revenue as well as potential penalties for cancellations, Moody's Ratings said Monday. In a note, Moody's said the disruptions are "credit negative" for the airline. "Despite temporary reprieve, failure to effectively plan for new aviation regulations is credit negative. The disruptions are credit negative because IndiGo could face significant financial damage from loss of revenue because of flight cancellations, refunds and other compensation to affected customers, along with potential penalties imposed by DGCA," Moody's said. Moody's cited the airline's "significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management" as the primary cause, noting that the regulations had been communicated to the industry more than a year in advance.

BIDDING WAR

Paramount rattles Warner-Netflix deal

Paramount makes \$108.4bn hostile bid for Warner Bros Discovery after Netflix's \$82.7bn offer

REUTERS

Washington, Dec 8: Paramount Skydance Monday launched a hostile bid worth \$108.4 billion for Warner Bros Discovery throwing a wrench into the deal with Netflix in a last-ditch effort to create a media powerhouse that would challenge the dominance of the streaming giant.

The streaming giant had emerged victorious Friday from a weeks-long bidding war with Paramount and Comcast, securing a \$72 billion equity deal for Warner Bros Discovery's TV, film studios and streaming assets.

The offer, which is worth \$82.7 billion including debt and comes with a \$5.8 billion break-up fee from Netflix, is likely to face strong antitrust scrutiny.

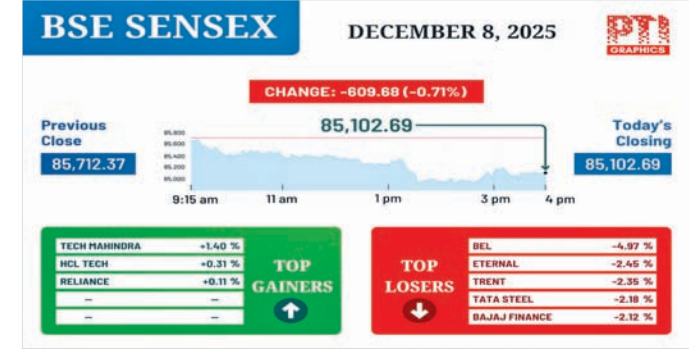
Paramount submitted multiple offers starting in September to forge an entertainment powerhouse capable of challenging Netflix and tech giants such as

NEAL MOHAN NAMED TIME'S 2025 CEO OF THE YEAR

YouTube's Indian-origin Chief Executive Officer Neal Mohan has been named as the 2025 CEO of the Year by TIME magazine. "In many ways YouTube is creating the cultural diet that the globe is beginning to subsist on. Mohan is the farmer; what he cultivates will be what we eat," TIME said in its profile of the executive



Investors lose ₹7.12L-cr as Sensex nosedives



Stock markets bleed on profit-booking, foreign fund outflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 8: Market investors became poorer by Rs 7.12 lakh crore as Sensex nosedived Monday after two consecutive days of gains, as investors rushed to take profits amid unabated selling of stocks by foreign investors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 609.68 points, or 0.71 per cent, to close at 85,102.69. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 7,12,514.68 crore to Rs 4,64,19,108.91 (\$5.15 trillion).

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined by 225.90 points, or 0.86 per cent, to settle at 25,960.55. In the intraday session, it dropped 294.2 points, or 1.12 per cent, to hit a low of 25,892.25.

"Indian benchmark indices concluded the day with significant losses, as the Sensex tumbled over 610 points to close at 85,103 and the Nifty50 shed 226 points to settle at 25,961," Sid-dhartha Khemka, Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

He added that the market-wide sell-off was driven by cautious sentiment ahead of the US Federal Reserve's rate decision, continuous FII selling, and widespread profit booking across the broader market.

From the Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Eternal, Trent, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, PowerGrid, Asian Paints, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Titan, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

However, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, and HDFC Bank were the only gainers.

PSBs write off loans worth ₹6.15L-crore in last 5.5 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 8: Public sector banks have written off loans worth Rs 6.15 lakh crore in the last five and a half years, Parliament was informed Monday.

"As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, PSBs have written-off an aggregate loan amount of Rs 6,15,647 crore, during the last five financial years and the current financial year till September 30, 2025 (provisional data)," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

There has been no capital infusion in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) by the government since FY2022-23, he said, adding, PSBs have significantly improved their financial performance, turning profitable and strengthening their capital position.

PSBs now rely on market sources and internal accruals to meet their capital requirements and they have raised Rs 1.79 lakh crore capital from market through equity and bonds since April 1, 2022 till September 30, 2025, he said.

Strong demand sustains Nov auto sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 8: Automobile retail sales sustained momentum post festive period with registrations rising 2 per cent year on year in November led by robust demand for passenger vehicles, three wheelers, commercial vehicles and tractors, dealers' body FADA said Monday.

Overall retail sales rose to 33,00,832 units last month as compared with 32,31,526 units in November 2024.

Last year Deepawali and Dhanteras fell towards the end of October and vehicle registrations happened in November which lifted volumes significantly.

"GST rate cuts coupled with OEM-dealer retail offers continued pulling customers to showrooms, enabling sustained footfalls beyond the festive period. Price reductions across categories, which ignited strong



November 2025 defied the conventional post-festive slowdown, delivering a resilient performance despite an unusually high comparative base of last year

CS VIGNESHWAR | PRESIDENT, FADA

buying in October, continued to support conversions in November as well," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President CS Vigneshwar said in a statement.

Passenger vehicle registrations rose to 3,94,152 units in November, up 20 per cent as compared with 3,29,253 units in the year-ago period.

Two wheeler retail sales saw a dip of 3 per cent year on year to 25,46,184 units in November.

Commercial vehicles registrations grew 20 per cent year on year to 94,935 units supported by select infrastructure activities, freight movement, tourism mobility, government tender cycles and GST reforms, although fleet utilisation remains uneven in select markets, it stated.

Barabati set for India-SA clash



Gill, Hardik return as Men in Blue begin official T20I WC build-up vs Proteas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Dec 8: The return of Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya will lend fresh sheen and much-needed completeness to reigning world champions India when they begin their official march towards the home T20 World Cup with the opening match of a five-game series against South Africa at Barabati Stadium here Tuesday.

This series marks the start of India's formal build-up to the February showpiece, where they will play 10 T20Is -- five against South Africa followed

by another five against New Zealand -- before opening their title defence against the USA at the Wankhede February 7.

The defending champions will look to enter this phase with clarity of intent as they refine roles, streamline combinations and settle the XI that will carry the weight of expectations in front of home crowds.

India have been a formidable T20I unit post their World Cup triumph in the format last year, where they won eight matches in a row to lift the title.

Since then, they have extended their tally to 26 wins with only four losses, including a seven-match streak during their Asia Cup victory in Dubai.

They have not lost a T20I series in this period, and with only minor tweaks needed, they will be hoping to sharpen

Our 2026 T20 World Cup preparation began right after we won the T20 World Cup in 2024... Our preparation is similar. The preparation started after the T20 World Cup 2024 got over. Since then, we have been trying new things and everything is working for us

SURYAKUMAR YADAV | CAPTAIN, INDIA

the edges against the side they defeated in the T20 World Cup final.

Gill's return comes after he missed almost a month of cricket owing to a neck spasm suffered while attempting a slog sweep during the opening Test against the Proteas.

Having played non-stop cricket since the last IPL and with India facing a packed season ahead, his workload management will be closely monitored.

But for Gill, who has 837 runs from 33 T20Is at an average of 29.89, this series also doubles up as vital preparation heading in to the ICC event.

His reunion with Abhishek Sharma brings back a high-impact opening pair that marries brute force with clean, classical strokeplay.

Abhishek, fresh from a stand-out tour of Australia where he topped India's scoring charts with 163 runs in the 2-1 victory, has been in monstrous domestic touch.

In the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s, the Punjab left-hander hammered 304 runs at an average

TEAMS:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravathy.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (captain), Ottineil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Donovan Ferreria, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, George Linde, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Tristan Stubbs.

of 50.66 and a staggering strike rate of 249-plus, including a breathtaking 52-ball 148 against Bengal as Punjab posted 310/5.

India seal best-ever ISSF World Cup Final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, Dec 8: Zorawar Singh Sandhu finished seventh in the men's trap final with seven hits in first 10 targets, as India concluded their best-ever campaign at ISSF World Cup Final with six medals, including two gold, here Monday.

World Championship bronze medallist Zorawar was the only Indian representative on the concluding shotgun day at the Lusail Shooting complex.

Zorawar entered the final, which now comprises eight shooters instead of the earlier six as per new ISSF rules, with a score of 119 in qualifying, which gave him the sixth place over 125 targets.

In the 30-shot final, he could not get his act together and was among the first two, alongside Italian Giovanni Pellielo, to bow out.

China topped the standings ahead of India, with four gold and nine medals. USA with

Indian team finishes second as shooters bag six medals

Sainyam takes India to first-ever double podium finish

their double gold in men's trap and skeet on the day, came third.

Among India's high points of the campaign was a stunning gold by Simranpreet Kaur Brar in the women's 25m pistol and a return to the top of the podium of Suruchi Phogat, who won the women's 10m air pistol gold.

India also registered a first ever double podium finish in an ISSF World Cup Final, when Sainyam took the first of three silver from the campaign for India.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions and Anish Bhanwala in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol were the other silver winners. India's lone bronze was won by reigning world champion in the men's 10m air pistol, Samrat Rana.



SMAT 2025

Rahane slams 95 as Mumbai crush Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Dec 8: Senior batter Ajinkya Rahane struck a scintillating 56-ball 95 as heavy-weights Mumbai made short work of Odisha en route to a nine-wicket victory in a Group A match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here Monday.

After Odisha posted what seemed a respectable 167 for seven, riding on a collective effort from their top and middle-order batters, Rahane took charge of the situation while putting on 74 runs for the first wicket with Sarfaraz Khan, who blazed away to a 15-ball 28 to put Mumbai in command.

Rahane, the out-of-favour India batter in Tests, was not out when victory was achieved at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.

After the dismissal of Sarfaraz, the 37-year-old Rahane was associated in an unbroken second-wicket partnership of 94 runs with Angkrish Raghuvanshi, who helped himself to a breezy 38 in 26 balls, as Mumbai completed the chase of 168 with as many as four overs to spare.

During his stay in the middle, Rahane smashed nine fours and three sixes and forced Odisha skipper Biplab Samantray to use as many as seven bowlers. As far as the Mumbai bowling unit is concerned, Suryansh Shedge was the most successful on the day with figures of 3/46 in four overs.

Celta stun Madrid to leave Barca clear at top of La Liga



Nine-man Real Madrid loses at home for the 1st time this season

REUTERS

Madrid, Dec 8: Real Madrid suffered a shock 2-0 loss and finished with nine men against Celta Vigo in LaLiga Sunday after Williot Swedberg scored an audacious goal with his heel and a second in stoppage time to leave the hosts four points off leaders Barcelona.

Swedish substitute Swedberg cleverly diverted a cross from Bryan Zaragoza past Thibaut Courtois in the 53rd minute to put Celta ahead and had an easy finish three minutes into add time, going around the goalkeeper to wrap up the points.

Real's cause was not helped by the 64th minute dismissal of Fran Garcia, who picked up two

yellow cards in 60 seconds, but they laid siege to the visitors' goal for the last 20 minutes as Celta went into a defensive shell to hold onto their advantage.

Real defender Alvaro Carreras was also dismissed for two cautions, his second coming in stoppage time at the end of the game as the home side's frustrations boiled over.

It was a second clean sheet in 15 league games this season for Celta, whose keeper Ionut Radu made a first-half save from Jude Bellingham's header and stopped a second-half free-kick whipped in by Kylian Mbappe.

Real stay on 36 points from 16 games as Celta celebrated a first win at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu in 19 years, leaving the Galician club with 19 points. Celta jumped from 14th to 10th while the defeat ended Real's 100% home league record this season after six successive wins.

FIH JUNIOR WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Eves beat Wales in classification match

India will next play Uruguay Tuesday and the winner of this match will progress to the ninth place showdown. The losing team will fight for the 11th spot in the overall standings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Santiago (Chile), Dec 8: Out of quarterfinal contention, India defeated Wales 3-1 to remain in the hunt for a ninth-place finish at the FIH Junior Women's World Cup here.

Hina Bano (14'), Sunelita Toppo (24'), and Ishika (31') scored for India, while Eloise Moat (52') netted the lone goal for Wales. India had logged two wins and a loss to finish outside the top eight in the pool stage.

In Sunday's match, India began with a penalty corner in the first 30 seconds. They were playing between the lines to carve out opportunities on regular occasions, but couldn't find the opening goal early on.

Wales had the opportunity to surge ahead with a penalty stroke, but were denied by Nidhi as she made a sharp stop



to keep the scores level.

India eventually managed to break the deadlock towards the end of the first quarter, courtesy a tap-in from Hina after some neat work by Sakshi Rana.

Looking to double their advantage, India maintained the pressure with another penalty corner at the start of the second quarter.

They continued to create chances regularly, and were rewarded for their persistence after Rana's initial shot fell in the way of Sunelita, who made no mistake from close range.

With 14 circle penetrations in the first half, India held a deserving 2-0 lead at the break.

India extended their lead to 3-0 early in the second half as Ishika found the back of the net after a rebound from the Welsh

goalkeeper fell in her way.

Jyoti Singh's side controlled the tempo of the game, stretching the Welsh defense by playing between the lines and pressing high, while remaining disciplined and compact at the back. India continued to create chances, pushing Wales back in their own half to close out the third quarter.

With the lion's share of possession, India remained in pursuit of more goal-scoring opportunities to further increase their advantage in the final quarter.

Wales had an opening on the other end and Eloise Moat (52nd) made it count, pulling one back for her side. However, that only proved to be a consolation goal as India held firm to secure a well-deserved 3-1 win.

Pragg tops FIDE Circuit, secures spot in next yr's Candidates tournament

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Dec 8: India's Rameshbabu Praggananandhaa was on Monday declared winner in the FIDE Circuit 2025, thus securing his qualification as the only Indian man in next year's Candidates tournament to be played next year.

FIDE, the sport's world governing body, announced this via a social media post on Monday, informing that the young Grandmaster from Chennai is the most successful male player from India this year, bagging titles at the Tata Steel Masters, Superbet Chess Classic Romania, UzChess Cup Masters, and London Chess Classic Open.

"Praggananandhaa R. has won the FIDE Circuit 2025, securing a spot in the 2026 Candidates Tournament! Congratulations to @rpragganachess, who deservedly earned one of the eight slots in the 2026 Candidates," FIDE said in a post on X.

In the FIDE Circuit 2025, Pragg finished with a score of 115.17, with Anish Giri of the Netherlands ending second with 81.18, and Nodirbek Abdusattorov ending third with 71.61 score. Fabiano Caruana (USA) with 65.55 and Matthias Bluebaum ending fifth with 83.94.

Meanwhile, while Praggananandhaa will be India's sole male representation, three Indian women — Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, R. Vaishali — have qualified for next year's Women's Candidates.

Salah's future uncertain in Liverpool

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Liverpool, Dec 8: Liverpool forward Mohammad Salah is expected to be axed from the squad for Tuesday's Champions League match against Inter Milan, says a report. However, the final decision is still to be made with Salah training with the squad Monday.

According to Sky Sports, Salah's anticipated exclusion occurs just two days after he gave a heated interview after the 3-3 draw with Leeds in which he said he had been "thrown under the bus," had no relationship with manager Arne Slot, and that Saturday's match against Brighton might be his last at Anfield.

Salah, who has been a consistent starter and talisman for the Reds since joining the team in 2017, has started on the bench in Liverpool's previous three games. His performance has



I have done so much for this club down the years and especially last season. Now I'm sitting on the bench, and I don't know why. It seems like the club has thrown me under the bus

MOHAMMAD SALAH | FORWARD, LIVERPOOL

declined this season, though, as he has only scored five goals in 18 games, which is comparable to Liverpool's as they attempt to stabilise their performance.

Speaking to reporters Satur-

day, Salah -- who signed a new deal at the end of last season -- said: "I have done so much for this club down the years and especially last season. Now I'm sitting on the bench, and I don't

know why. It seems like the club has thrown me under the bus. That is how I am feeling. I think it is very clear that someone wanted to get at me. I got a lot of promises in the summer, and so far, I am on the bench for three games, so I can't say they keep their promise.

"I said many times before that I had a good relationship with the manager, and all of a sudden, we don't have any relationship. I don't know why, but it seems to me, how I see it, that someone doesn't want me in the club," Salah said.

The trip to Inter would be Salah's farewell Reds appearance, as the 33-year-old will be joining Egypt for the Africa Cup of Nations next week. It was even suggested that Saturday's game at Anfield against Brighton may be his final one with the team. He may join the Saudi Pro League in January, according to multiple reports.

Odisha Masters kicks off today

This is the fourth time that the international badminton tournament is being hosted in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8: The Odisha Masters 2025 -- BWF Tour Super 100 Badminton Tournament is set to be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack from December 9 to 14.

The international championship is being jointly organized by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), Badminton Association of India, Odisha State Badminton Association and the Department of Sports and Youth Services.

A total of 377 players including main draw, qualifying and reserve entries have registered this year, out of which 334 are Indian players and 43 are for-



eign shuttlers representing 17 countries. Among the key Indian players in Men's Singles are Tharun Manepalli, seeded first, followed by second seed Kiran George and fourth seed Priyanshu Rajawat.

In Women's Singles, Unna-

ti Hooda is seeded first with World Rank 28, while Rakshit Shree Santhosh Ramraj is seeded fourth (WR 43) and Anupama Upadhyia seeded fifth (WR 44).

In Men's Doubles, the pair of Sai Prateek K and Prithivi Krishnamurthy Roy is seeded fourth (WR 39). In Women's Doubles, the pair of Shruti Mishra and Priya Konjengbam is seeded fourth (WR 47), followed by sixth seeds Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh (WR 48) and seventh seeds Mansa Rawat and Gayatri Rawat (WR 107).

It is noteworthy that the 37th National Sub-Junior Badminton Championship was successfully organized earlier from December 1 to 6 at the Kalinga Stadium, where competition was held in Under-15 and Under-17 categories. More than 750 players from various states and union territories participated, and Odisha's Tanvi Patri emerged as champion in both categories.