HERE. NOW



Chopra Jonas talks about her bigger mission as a global celebrity

LEISURE | P2



Border fighting

Thailand and Cambodia exchange artillery fire and accusations as Trump moves to intervene and restore ceasefire

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Indices in red

Dragged by a last-hour selloff, Sensex and Nifty decline for the third straight day Wednesday

BUSINESS | P11



Pressure on Gill

Yet to stamp his authority in the shortest format, Shubman Gill would be eying major gains in the second T20 today

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 250 I www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | DECEMBER 11. 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

UNESCO tag for Deepavali

NEW DELHI: India's Deepavali – the festival of lights – was Wednesday inscribed on UNES-CO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, sparking celebrations to mark the earning of the coveted tag. The decision was taken during a key meeting of UNESCO being hosted at the Red Fort in Delhi. Chants of 'Jai Hind', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' rent the air as UNESCO announced that the celebrated festival has been added to the prestigious list after a discussion by its committee.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You're right, sir. We must cancel some of their flights.. but which ones?



FROZEN FALL: People witness frozen waterfalls as severe cold grips Niti Valley in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand

Are you helpless: Delhi HC to Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: The Delhi High Court Wednesday questioned the Union government for not taking timely action to check the crisis caused by IndiGo flight cancellations and asked why the situation was allowed to precipitate, with lakhs of passengers stranded and other airlines charging hefty fares.

"The question is why, at all, this crisis arose and what have

you been doing?" a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhvava and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said and directed the government and the airline to take **INDIGO CRISIS**

steps to adequately compensate the affected persons.

The court asked the authorities if they were "helpless" or they could have taken action against IndiGo after it failed to implement Flight Duty Time

Limitation rules, including pilot rest rules, by November 1 -- which they blamed for the crisis. The HC said that besides the trouble and harassment caused to the stranded passengers, the question is of the losses caused to the country's economy.

Raising the issue of surge pricing, the bench also asked how other airlines could take advantage of the crisis situation and charge hefty sums for tickets from the passengers.

New Mahanadi panel headed by KV Singh Deo

With the Mahanadi water dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh remaining sub-judice before the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal since 2018 without any resolution, the Odisha government has formed an eight-member all-party high-level committee to pursue an amicable settlement. Headed by Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, the panel includes ministers Suresh Pujari, Prithiviraj Harichandan, Sampad Chandra Swain, government Chief Whip Saroj Kumar Pradhan, BJP MLA Jayanarayan Mishra, BJD MLA Niranjan Pujari and Congress MLA Sofia Firdous. Constituted under the direction of CM Mohan Charan Majhi, the committee will examine all aspects of the dispute and guide technical and administrative efforts. The state maintains that political dialogue alongside legal measures is essential to securing Odisha's rightful share of Mahanadi waters

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The state government Wednesday constituted an all-party high-level committee for amicable resolution of the Mahanadi water dispute with neighbouring Chhattisgarh, an official said.

The eight-member committee will be headed by Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, and will have one member each from the BJD and Congress.

"Considering the complexity and sensitivity of the Mahanadi water issue, the state government has constituted a high-level committee under the

chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. The committee has been constituted under the directions of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi," an official release issued by the CMO said.

The other members of the committee are Suresh Pujari (Revenue and Disaster Management Minister), Prithiviraj Harichandan (Law and Works Minister), Sampad Chandra Swain (Industries Minister), Saroj Kumar Pradhan (Government Chief Whip), Jayanarayan Mishra (BJP MLA), Niranjan Pujari (BJD MLA) and Sofia Firdous (Congress MLA)



der consideration of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribu nal since 2018, after the Odisha government alleged that the natural water flow in the downstream of the river was blocked due to construction of several barrages by Chhattisgarh, which is located in the upper catchment area of the inter-state river.

"In view of the ongoing discussions and proceedings before the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal by the Water Resources department of the state government, and considering the complexity and sensitivity of the Mahanadi water issue, the state government has constituted a high-level committee," the CMO statement said.

DSPL - 415



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତୀ



ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚର୍ଣ ମାଝୀଙ୍କ

କର୍କମଳରେ

ନୂତନ ଭାବେ ଚତ୍ସନୀତ ୩ ଟି ବିଭାଗର ୫୯୧ ଜଣ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀଙ୍କୁ

ନିଯୁକ୍ତିପତ୍ର ପ୍ରଦାନ ତଥା

୪୨୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର୍ ନୂତନ ଜଳସେଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ଉଦ୍ଘାଟନ ଓ ୨୦୭୩ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର୍ ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ

989 ଜଣ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀ ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦ ବିଭାଗ

୧୯୭ ଜଣ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀ ପୂର୍ତ୍ତ ବିଭାଗ

689 ଜଣ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀ ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ନଗର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ବିଭାଗ

୧୧ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୫ । ଦିବା ୧୧ : ୩୦ ଘଟିକା । ଓଡ଼ିଶା କୃଷି ଶିକ୍ଷା ସଦନ, ଓ.ଯୁ.ଏଟି. , ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦ ବିଭାଗ

ପୂର୍ଭ ବିଭାଗ

| ଗୃହନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ନଗର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ବିଭାଗ

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

OIPR-32001/13/0023/2526

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚର୍ଣ ମାଝୀ

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



stars globally.

ing global presence,

she admits she still

feels like a novice

in her English-lan-

guage career. Yet for

Priyanka, the bigger

mission lies in rep-

pushing boundaries

and pushing culture

is very important to

India goes with me,'

At the heart of her

producing career is

her company, Pur-

ple Pebble Pictures a

banner she founded

to give voice to stor-

ies and filmmakers

from India's diaspora

and beyond. She ex-

"But

resentation.

she said.

leisure



PAMELA WANTS TO CHANGE HER NAME

Baywatch star Pamela Anderson has revealed she often thinks about taking on her late grandfather's surname to embrace her family's heritage. The 58-year-old star has revealed she often wants to reclaim the moniker previously held by her late Finnish grandfather Herman Hyytiäinen, which was changed when the family arrived in Canada.

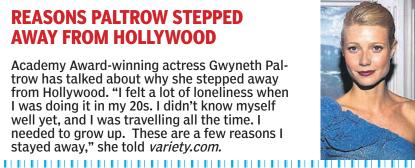
REASONS PALTROW STEPPED AWAY FROM HOLLYWOOD

Academy Award-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow has talked about why she stepped away from Hollywood. "I felt a lot of loneliness when I was doing it in my 20s. I didn't know myself well yet, and I was travelling all the time. I needed to grow up. These are a few reasons I stayed away," she told variety.com.

him at a glitzy

Farah,

event.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

👼 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, you may want to mix business with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesha.

TAURUS Light bulbs will flash relentlessly today, as you ideate in the fervour of a creative mood. Your business acumen will help you negotiate problems with ease. The Leo charms will ring out loud in your laughter as you me. Wherever I go, deal with bosses and colleagues at the workplace, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

You will let your personal likes and dislikes cloud your iudgement todav. Don't let that happen, or you may lose a worthy friend. You are likely to have a chance meeting with your soul mate or maybe even your ex-sweetheart. A romantic evening is on the anvil. But it remains to be seen whether it will be your past, present or future lover.

CANCER

Today may not be a productive day for you. Though there may not be any major loss, you may feel a little lost and would like to be left alone. If you have kids, you may suffer from the empty nest syndrome with your kids not at home.

You may wear the trendiest

suit, drive the swankiest car and dine at the costliest restaurant, but if luck is not on your side, you can forget becoming a business tycoon. Fortunately, that is not the case with you today. With a favourable alignment of the cosmos, you are set for a day where your business proposals will be the hardest thing to overlook.

Family matters. And matters

VIRGO

of family matter more. Your negotiation skills are supreme and you shall bring harmonious ends to disputes today. Life has taught you to be balanced and level-headed, and you strongly believe that there is progression in opposition.

It's a full platter today, and you have to manage it all somehow. The day promises to be full of activities, especially those that involve writing letters and reviving old contacts. for a better job.

SCORPIO

In all probability, you are set to shine out as a man of care and kindness. Ganesha advises you to shut the doors on worries and open the windows to let merrymaking and happiness sweep you off your feet today. The social bug will bite you hard, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Providence smiles upon you today, predicts Ganesha. Catching a film with your beloved today is a very good idea. Chances are vou may have a nice outing along with your friends or family. In either case, the load in your wallet is likely to lessen, steadily if not dramatically.

CAPRICORN

Not many can match you when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle, and as Ganesha says, health won't be an issue today either. On the work front, you are likely to complete pending projects successfully and your boss, who may be furious because of the delay caused, will reluctantly admit that you did justice to the work and that it was worth the wait.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will wish there were two of you! You are del-uged with pending work, and even doubling up efforts will not seem enough. You may even cancel your movie date, deciding to deal with your sweetheart's tantrums later. It's your boss you are worried about, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Bright prospects will greet whatever new ventures you decide to focus on today, says Ganesha. It is a good time to implement your plans. Apart from short-term monetary gains, you may also find yourself pursuing activities which bring you intangible rewards, like goodwill for example.



plained, "With my Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra Jonas, also production house, I known as PeeCee try to make sure stories and filmmakers among her fans, today one of the most from our diaspora recognisable Indian who want to tell our stories get a plat-Despite her growform.

> Priyanka emphasised her commitment to empowering under-represented creatives especially women and young talent to showcase their work internationally. "Whether it's supporting women, or filmmakers from India who want an international platform... Whatever I can do to help get their stories and work out there, I try to do in my own small wav."

She remains humble despite her stellar global achievements. As she put it, she doesn't yet see herself as "super established," but is proud of what Purple Pebble

global canvas

Pictures has achieved With her dual identity as both actor and producer, Priyanka Chopra Jonas continues to build bridges between worlds charting a path that honours her roots while embracing a

he spoke about the turning after

SRK bares life's turning point "My changing moment, Mumbai: Superstar because we are talking Shah Rukh Khan reabout that, was the passcently attended an ing away of my parents event in Dubai, where at a very young age. I thought they had become

point in stars in the sky. Mujhe his early life. The laga woh tara ban chuke 60-year-old looked hain and they will not be confessed

back at his life when able to see me," Shah Rukh he joined his friend Farah Khan at the launch of a commercial tower in Dubai named

The actor continued, "So. I worked harder to become a bigger person. God has been very kind. I just put a bronze statue of myself from Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge in London. I won a National Award and now I have a building in Dubai which is my name. The idea was to become so big on Earth that my parents can see me from heaven. For me, that is the life changing moment."

Following this, Farah said, "This (referring to the tower) is as close to the sky as one can get.'

Shah Rukh responded by saying, "I hope they can see me from there." His father Taj Mohammed died of cancer when the actor was 14. Shah Rukh

lost his mother. Lateef Fatima Khan, when

he was 24.

Ankita's take on self-love Mumbai: Television ac-Taking to Instagram,

tress Ankita Lokhande has shared a powerful message on self-love. She urged women to choose themselves without seeking external validation or permission. Emphasizing

dence, boundaries, and inner strength, the Pavitra Rishta actress celebrated the idea

that true self-love comes from prioritising one's own worth every gle day.

her photos and captioned them, "When a woman chooses herself...she blossoms. No validation. No permission. No dependence. Just fullness, self-respect, and fearless love. Self-love is not makeup. It's a voice. It's a boundary. It's choosing YOU - every single day.' On the professional front,

Ankita shared a series of

Ankita rose to fame with her portrayal of Archana in Ekta Kapoor's popular daily soap Pavitra Rishta. Later, she forayed into mainstream cinema and appeared in movies like Manikarnika:

Queen Jhansi, biographical drama Swatantrva Veer Savarkar and Baaghi 3.

Nia shows her rebellious side

Mumbai: Popular television actress Nia Sharma, who is an avid social media, showcased her

rebellious side. Sharing a video on Instagram, the Naagin actress confidently show-

cased her bold side, proving she isn't afraid to go against rules. In the clip, Nia can be seen showing off her dance moves while striking poses for the camera.

For the caption, she wrote, "When you're told not to do something.. But you're going to do it anyway. Nia looked sexy in a stylish

see-through white outfit. She also added Ravelle's trending song "Mona Lisa" as background score for the video. Notably, the Ek Hazaaron

Mein Meri Behna Hai actress often makes headlines for her striking posts.

From sharing glimpses of her glamorous photoshoots to giving a peek into her work and personal life, she frequently keeps her followers engaged with updates er-romance series.

DOST

from all aspects of her life. A few days ago, Nia shared

a glamorous and sassy video in which she was seen doing her makeup. Alongside it, she wrote, When the Baddie B##** in

me wakes up'!." On the professional front, Nia was most recently seen

in Laughter Chefs Fun Unlimited, hosted by Bharti Singh. She also starred

CROSSWORD

in Suhagan Chudail where she portrayed Nishigandha, a witch. in the fantasy-thrill-

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

HDEAR A D D E R K E N Y A N

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

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



Copyright @2025 PuzzleJunction.com 19 Simple protein 21 Type of tide

4 Cigar butt 9 Former Venezuelan statesman

26

Across

1 Inhabit

10 Fresh from the shower

11 Kind of phone 12 Casablanca locale

13 Antique auto

15 Girder material

27 Naval unit Down

26 Self-images

24 Ogre

25 Worsen

1 Choir attire

2 Figure out 3 Let the cat out of

the bag

22 Circus site 23 Away from

6 Confection

emanation

8 Kind of tissue

in the Arctic

14 Temperature

16 Firebird

17 Confuse

20 Fashion

18 Like helium

7 Oven

5 Thick dark syrup port

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Move Orissa HC for spl bench to hear mining cases: SC

New Delhi, Dec 10: The Supreme Court Wednesday granted liberty to the Odisha government to move an application before the Orissa High Court's Chief Justice requesting to assign cases, where proceedings for recovery of dues from defaulting mining lessees are stayed, to a dedicated bench for final disposal.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih was informed that several petitions are pending before the HC in which orders passed in the recovery

proceedings have been challenged and stay has been obtained.

"Since public revenue to a substantial extent is involved, we grant liberty to the state of Odisha to move an application before the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court by December 19, 2025, with a request to assign all such petitions to a dedicated bench for final disposal within March 31, 2026," the SC said.

It said if the pleas are not decided by March 31, at least the prayers made by the state for vacation/ alteration/modification of such interim orders may be considered by the dedicated bench.

The SC, which was hearing an application relating to recovery of dues, posted it in the week commencing April 6, 2026 for reporting development.

On October 29, the SC had expressed displeasure at the mode and manner in which Odisha government was proceeding for recovery of dues from the defaulting lessees which had violated mining norms.

During Wednesday's hearing, advocate Pranav

Sachdeva, appearing for the applicant, referred to cases where the HC has granted interim stay on recovery proceedings.

The counsel appearing for the state said there are 19 certificate cases which are pending.

One of the advocates appearing in the matter said the due was to be deposited by December 31, 2017.

"We will grant liberty to the state of Odisha to move the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court to assign these cases to a dedicated bench

> posal of the main matter or vacation of stay," the SC said. It said in where cases

for an early dis-

either there is no stay from HC or from any other court, the state shall proceed in accordance with law for recovery of the dues.

The SC asked the state to file a status report by April 2. The SC had earlier passed several orders in the matter concerning illegal mining.

In its affidavit filed earlier in the SC, the state had apprised the bench about the status of the recovery process initiated by it together with the outcome of proceedings which were initiated and status of those cases where recovery orders were set aside by HC.

"Periodical follow up is done in respect of the action contemplated to be taken against the defaulting lessees and earnest effort is being made to recover the amount demanded as compensation," the affidavit had said.

While hearing the matter in November last year, the SC had noted that as per a February 7, 2024 affidavit filed by the state, the amount recovered was stated to be Rs 2,745.77 crore, excluding interest.

Early closure of House session sparks criticism

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The Winter Session of the Assembly was adjourned sine die Tuesday, 18 days ahead of its scheduled conclusion December 31. This early adjournment reflects a troubling trend in the functioning of the state legislature, with truncated sessions becoming increasingly common under both the current BJP and former BJD governments. While the reasons vary, such early closures often highlight the delicate political dynamics between the ruling party and the Opposition, as well as strategic decisions in managing legislative affairs.

The practice of early adjournment has become a pattern in Odisha, with the mandated 60 sitting days per calendar year increasingly treated as an exception rather than the norm.

In 2025 alone, the Assembly witnessed two early adjournments under the BJP government, which took office in June 2024. The Monsoon Session, which began September 18, was adjourned sine die just a week later September 25, a day before its scheduled

Session was cut short after only 11 working days, far ahead of its planned end date of December 31.

Under the previous BJD government, sessions were also frequently truncated, often for political reasons. In 2023, the Winter Session was adjourned just four days after it began, following disruptions over controversial Cabinet decisions related to the transfer and sale of tribal land to non-tribals. In 2022, the session ended 25 days early after the passage of the Appropriation Bill for the Supplementary Budget of 2022–23. Critics claimed that the session was shortened to focus on the Padampur bypoll, sidelining important legislative discussions. Over the last two decades, there

have been only three years – 2006, 2010 and 2012 - in which the 60day sitting mandate was fulfilled. The government justified the

early adjournment by citing a lack of sufficient legislative business. Government Chief Whip Saroj Kumar Pradhan (BJP) defended

pointed to the passage of key Bills, including the Odisha Appropria-

tion Bill (No. 2), 2025, as evidence

that the government had completed

its essential legislative work.

However, the early closure sparked criticism from Opposition parties, particularly the BJD, which accused the government of avoiding uncomfortable debates on issues such as women safety, social welfare schemes, and project implementation.

Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Das criticised the government for 'failing' to address key issues

Senior BJD MLA Pratap Ke shari Deb echoed these criticisms, saying, "The government adjourned the session sine die because it had no answers to pressing issues such as women safety, economic challenges, and the rising cost of living.

BJP MLA Babu Singh, however, defended the adjournment, emphasising the financial burden of keeping the Assembly in session when there was no substantive business left. "Running the Assembly incurs significant costs, and continuing without meaningful discussions would be illogical," Singh said.

Critics, however, argued that the early adjournment, which is legally within the government's rights, is less about a lack of busi ness and more a political strategy to limit the Opposition's ability to scrutinise government actions.

As political tensions between the ruling party and the Oppo sition continue to simmer, it remains to be seen whether early adjournments will continue to be a recurring feature of Odisha's legislative landscape.



Assembly would discuss matters

affecting their daily lives. In-

stead, the government focused on

past incidents, avoiding contem-

porary concerns. A government's

role is not just to pass Bills but

to engage with pressing issues,'

Das said, condemning the early

adjournment as a blow to democ-

racy and an abandonment of the

BJD MLA Aswini Kumar Patra

expressed similar concerns, argu-

ing that several critical issues were

left unaddressed. Acknowledging

people's needs.

that adjournments had also ocduring the session. "People of the the session's early adjournment, curred under BJD, Patra said, "It state, particularly those protestis important to continue the session stating that there was no signifiing at Lower PMG, had hoped the cant business left for discussion. He to discuss issues that directly affect Ministry of Culture Government of India The addition of Deepavali to the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List will contribute to the festival's global popularity even further. ~ Narendra Modi **Prime Minister** A PROUD AND JOYOUS MOMENT FOR EVERY INDIAN! Deepavali the celebration of light over darkness has been officially inscribed as **UNESCO** Intangible **Cultural Heritage Of Humanity** during the ongoing 20th Session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at Red Fort in Delhi. » More than a festival, Deepavali is an emotion « A timeless union of faith, devotion & cultural diversity Globally recognised for its deep message of prosperity, unity & new beginnings It is India's 16th entry on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list, strengthening the country's cultural footprint globally Grand Processions Cultural Showcase Uluminated Ghate CBC 09101/13/0029/2526

Now, BDA parks to remain open all day on weekends



EVEN ON WEEKDAYS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Public parks in the City, operated by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), will remain open throughout the day on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays), beginning December 13, officials said Wednesday.

"Responding to repeated requests from morning walkers, fitness enthusiasts, and visitors, the BDA has decided to keep all its parks open throughout the day on weekendswithout the usual afternoon closure. The new schedule will come into force from this weekend

(December 13)," they said. As per the revised timings, all BDA-managed parks will remain open from 5am to 8:30pm Saturdays and Sundays, ensuring uninterrupted access for those who prefer to spend their weekends outdoors, they said.

The development authority also clarified that Indira Gandhi (IG) Park will follow the timing of 5am to 8:30pm on all days of the week, making it accessible throughout the

day even on weekdays. This change is aimed at

promoting recreational activities, improving public convenience, and encouraging citizens to make use of the City's green spaces for leisure, fitness, and gatherings, they said.

"For the remaining parks, weekday timings will continue as earlier open from 5am to 11:30am and again from $3:30 \mathrm{pm}$ to 8:30pm. Updated timing boards will soon be displayed at the entrance of

every park," they said. BDA vice-chairman Chanchal Rana said the decision was taken to enhance the recreational experience for City residents.

"Keeping the parks open without an afternoon break on weekends will give people more flexibility to enjoy their time. We urge all visitors to maintain cleanliness and follow

park rules," he stated. The development authority currently manages 50 prominent parks, including IG Park, Biju Patnaik Park, APJ Abdul Kalam Park, Madhusudan Das Park, Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Park, and Buddha Park, across Bhubaneswar. On an average, nearly 35,000 people visit these parks every day, the

officials informed.

to boost power network

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: With an aim to ensure quality and reliable power supply for upcoming industries as well as consumers across the state, a long-term loan agreement between Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (OPTCL) and NABARD was signed here Wednesday for development of

Under this agreement, NA-BARD has extended a loan of ₹1,685.27 crore to OPTCL at an interest rate of 7.75 per cent per annum. Of the total loan amount, ₹900 crore will be utilised for new transmission projects, while the remaining amount will be used for swapping existing high-cost loans. This initiative marks the first-ever project financing by NABARD to any state PSU in Odisha, making it a landmark development in the state's

power sector. The ceremony was graced by Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and OPTCL CMD Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma who appreciated the collaborative efforts.

The agreement was formally exchanged between OPTCL Di-

Dy CM reviews progress of rice, millet factory

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo attended a meeting on the development of specialty rice and a millet factory at Baramunda here Wednesday.

The project focuses on ICAR rice with ultra-low Glycemic Index (GI) varieties, aiming to produce rice with a lower GI than the normal. The total project cost is estimated at ₹91,22,91,287 for setting up first of a kind millet factory across India, which will process rice with a protein content of 10 to 12 per cent in low GI rice.

"Production of low GI rice and millet in a large scale will be more beneficial for diabetic people and rice lovers. Similarly, production of millet in a large scale will be beneficial for health, and economy, as its demand rises day by day," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

The meeting was attended by Agriculture Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Director Subham Saxena and Mission Shakti Director Monica Priyadarshini. Padhee said that the initiative aims to make more Lakhpati Didi's (beneficiaries) as SHGs will be directly connected with this and promote nutritional low GI content rice varieties nationwide.

Key features of specialty rice and millet factory includes purification and release of low GI varieties, marketing strategy involving aggregation, cluster production and profiling. A market study will be done by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and financial monitoring through CFMS. The other attendees included representatives from ICAR, IRRI, OAIC, OUAT, IMAGE and senior officers from department of Agriculture.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Kanas, dated - 12.06.2025, I, Prakash Kumar Jena, Address AT-KHUNTIABANAPUR, P.O.- OLHAN, P.S.-GADISAGODA, KANAS BLOCK, PURI, ODISHA, PIN - 752019 declare that I have changed the name of my son from ABHINNA JENA to ABHIN KUMAR JENA. Henceforth, he shall be known as ABHIN KUMAR JENA for all purposes. Prakash Kumar Jena



MABARD has **44** Of this, ₹900 crore extended a will be used for new ₹1,685.27-crore transmission projects, loan to OPTCL at while the rest will 7.75% interest go toward swapping high-cost loans per annum

≪ This is NABARD's first-ever project financing to a state PSU in Odisha, marking a milestone for the power sector

cial partnership, NABARD has rector (Finance) SK Sahoo and NABARD Odisha Regional Office General Manager VK Nag. Other functional directors and senior officials from OPTCL and NABARD were also pres-

ent on the occasion. "Today in Bhubaneswar, I witnessed the signing of a landmark MoU between OPTCL and NABARD – the first-ever project financing by NABARD to any State PSU in Odisha. Through this strategic finanthe Deputy CM said.

INT'L HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human chain to raise awareness on rights



Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: A massive human chain was formed in the Capital city Wednesday to mark the 77th International Human Rights Day and raise awareness on the importance of human rights in everyday life.

The event was jointly organised by the Institute of Human Rights Education (IHRE) and the Civil Society Forum on Human Rights (CSFHR), with active support from the Bharat Scouts and Guides. School students, intellectuals and human rights activists participated enthusiastically, forming a long chain along the road in front

of the Exhibition Ground. Distinguished linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak and Madhusudan Mishra attended as chief guests and administered

them to uphold constitutional values and commit to protecting human rights.

Prominent human rights activists, including Baghambara Pattanayak, Pradeepta Nayak, Debendra Sutar, Chandranath Dani, Gavatri Mishra, Ranjit Sutar, and Mihir Pattanavak. Joint Secretary of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, also ad-

dressed the gathering. **Action Aid, CCWD hold meet**

Action Aid Association, in collaboration with the Center for Child and Women Development (CCWD), held a mass awareness meeting at Nilamadhab Awas community centre in Bhubaneswar's Ward No-13 to mark Human Rights Day and the culmination of the 16-day activism against gender-based

extended a long-term loan... at a reduced interest rate of 7.75 per cent per annum," Singh Deo said in a post on X. This collaboration will ac-

celerate the development of critical transmission infrastructure, ensuring reliable and quality power supply for industries and consumers alike, and strengthening Odisha's economic growth story,

OPTCL-NABARD ink pact H&UD Min reviews key urban projects

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: A high-level review meeting, focused on accelerating project implementations under Hous-(H&UD) department and ensuring visible improvements in urban infrastructure ahead of the upcoming monsoon season was held under the chairmanship of H&UD Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra at Kharavela Bhavan here Wednesday.

The meeting focused on 'Gangua Nala Improvement Project', comprehensive improvement of Nicco Park and its surrounding areas, along with ways to strengthen storm



water management and addressing the long-standing urban drainage concerns. Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, H&UD Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana

and other senior officers of concerned departments attended the meeting.

Minister Mahapatra directed officials to adopt an integrated approach so that the revitalisation of Nicco Park precincts,

ties, and restoration of Gangua Nala ecosystem progress simultaneously. Padhee emphasised coordinated inter-agency action for effective drainage solutions going works, bottlenecks, and proposed timelines.

Meanwhile, the Minister Mahapatra also visited Town Planning (TP) Schemes No. I. II and III at Bijapur, Paikara pur and Sahajpur, and inspect ed the site of the upcoming New City project. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding TP Schemes in the peripheral areas of the Capital as part of its broader vision for developing Greater Bhubaneswar

16-day 'Sahasa Utsava' on GBV prevention concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The state-level workshop on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, titled 'Sahasa Utsava: Ama Swara, Ama Shakti'. concluded Wednesday. The 16-day programme was organised by the Women and Child Development (W&CD) department in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Attending the closing ceremony as chief guest, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida reiterated the Odisha government's commitment to ensuring respect, safety and rehabilitation for survivors. She noted that significant progress has been achieved in women's lives through various state initiatives aimed at social and economic empowerment.

Parida encouraged survivors to move beyond the violence they have faced and embrace a new life, saying their journey could inspire society and motivate members of Shakti Sadan.

Women and Child Development department Principal Secretary Shubha Sarma highlighted the department's

commitment to making Shak ti Sadan a hub of safety, health, and economic rehabilitation. The 'Sahasa Utsava' work-

shop, designed as an experiential, self-reliance-focused programme, used theatre, music expressive arts, interactive shelter models, and leadership podcasts to show that survivors are not helpless, but agents of change.

During the event, Parida viewed exhibitions of income-generating activities and artistic work by Shakti Sadan residents. She also unveiled a Survivor Story Booklet highlighting experiences of transformation and resilience. UN-FPA Project Officer Noor Malik attended the programme.

Residents of Shakti Sadan from across Odisha, along with representatives from shelters in 30 districts, showcased their experiences through art, exhibitions, handicrafts, podcasts, and expressive activities.

BMC, OMFED sign deal to supply feed to gaushalas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED Wednesday signed a Memoran dum of Understanding (MoU) to provide nutritious cattle feed to cows sheltered in gaushalas under BMC's jurisdiction.

Under the agreement, OMFEL will supply balanced and pro tein-rich feed to around 2,000 cat in Khurda and Puri districts In the first phase, feed will be provided to nearly 1,500 cattle in four BMC-managed gaushalas in these districts. Officials said that OMFED will supply 18 per cent crude protein concentrate cattle feed every month. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das clarified that the arrangement is not a commercial contract but a welfare initiative "The MoU has been signed solely to ensure the supply of high-quality, nutritious and balanced cat tle feed to the animals sheltered in the gaushalas," she said.

BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana stated that it is the corporation's responsibility to ensure that scientifically prepared and nutritious feed is supplied to the cattle

College principal held for sexual harassment

Bhubaneswar: A 57-year-old college principal was arrested Wednesday on the charge of sexually harassing a female lecturer in Khurda district, a police officer said. The principal of the college at Bolagarh was arrested for criminal intimidation, sexual harassment and stalking, on the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim's father. While talking to media persons, the victim's father alleged that his daughter started receiving indecent text and voice messages from the principal from November 22. "Yesterday, my daughter told me that she will leave the job at the college as the principal is harassing her. So, I lodged an FIR at the police station," he said. The principal was sent to judicial custody after a local court rejected his bail

plea, a police officer said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 10: Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) will organise the 4th National Lok Adalat and Enforcement Settlement Camp December 13, across its operational regions. The initiative aims to offer consumers a simple and accessible platform to settle cases related to unauthorised electricity usage, malpractice, and electricity theft, ensuring timely resolution of pending enforcement matters

The Lok Adalat will be held simultaneously across all TP-SODL Divisions, Sub-Divisions, Section Offices, and designated



Court premises covering the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Boudh, Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Nabarangapur. The camps will remain open from 9am to 5pm, enabling consumers to avail full-day guidance and support.

The initiative is part of

TPSODL's ongoing efforts to strengthen compliance, promote responsible electricity usage, and streamline the settlement of enforcement-related cases. By providing a structured, consumer-friend ly mechanism for dispute resolution, the Lok Adalat is expected to help consumers regularise their electric ity usage and prevent future complications. Special teams consisting of enforcement of ficers, legal experts and consumer-support personnel will be deployed at each location to assist with necessary documentation, clarify procedures and facilitate smooth case settlement.

Goa fire puts spotlight on safety in hotels, clubs

Fresh guidelines and a state-wide review of fire safety compliance have been launched for all hotels, restaurants and malls, with action planned against any establishment found violating norms

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar. Dec 10: The recent nightclub fire in Goa, which claimed 25 lives and shocked the nation, has triggered serious concern over fire safety standards in clubs, hotels and restaurants across Odisha. This raises a critical question: Are the Smart City's hospitality establishments adhering to safety norms to prevent such tragedies?

explore Orissa POST spoke with hotel and pub owners as well as the Fire Service DG, who shared their views on the current fire safety protocols.

Managing Director of One Peg Down (OPD) club and restaurant, Sai Prakash, said, "We have been following all fire safety measures since the club opened. Sprinklers and fire extinguishers are installed on every floor and along the emergency exit route. We also ensured the use of non-combustible materials during construction to minimise the risk of fire accidents."



Prakash further noted that the Goa incident may have been aggravated by the interior materials used in the club, which likely fuelled the flames and caused the fire to spread rapidly before many victims could escape.

CEO of Lyfe Hotels, Bhubaneswar, and Secretary General of the Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO), Dhiman Mazumdar, said that hotels are strictly adhering to fire safety standards prescribed by the state fire department.

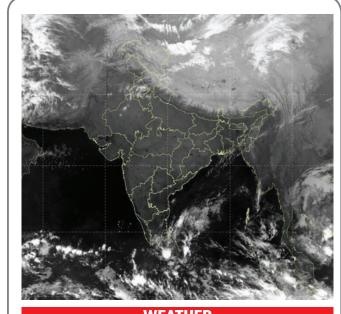
"All hoteliers are paying special attention to fire safetv measures. We are following every guideline issued by the state government and the fire department. In fact, the government holds periodic review meetings with hoteliers to assess fire safety protocols and offer necessary guidance,"

he added.

State Fire Services DG Sudhanshu Sarangi said, "All major hotels, restaurants and clubs under our juris diction are complying with fire safety protocols. We are now identifying other establishments that may not be following the norms. It will take 10 to 15 days to receive a report on unsafe hotels and clubs. Smaller places like stalls are not required to meet the same criteria as big hotels, but we are checking them as well. A hotel. pub or restaurant receives certification to operate only after meeting the fire department's safety standards.'

According to the state fire and emergency services department, fresh guidelines have been issued and a review process has been initiated for all hotels, restaurants and malls across Odisha to assess their fire safety compliance. Action will be taken against any establishment found violating the norms. The exercise was launched immediately after the Goa fire incident.

MARKET WATCH VARIATION DOLLAR 90.12 \$\(\phi\) 0.09 SENSEX 84391.27 \$\(\phi\) 275.01 GOLD ₹129.614 ***** ₹493 EURO 105.03 ▲ 0.10 NIFTY 25758.00 ▼ 81.65 SILVER ₹188,330 **▲** ₹266



WEATHER						
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST			
Max Temp	27.8°	26.2°	Fog or Mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later			
Min Temp	13.0°	12.6°				
Humidity	82%	81%				
Rainfall	Nil	Nil				

Tehsildar faces legal action; vehicle sealed

According to case records,

land was acquired in 2012 for

construction of Similia flyover

near Baji Chowk in Dhenkanal

town. Twelve decimals of land

on Plot No-1941 and Khata No-

3132, owned by late Satyabadi

Behera, had been acquired for

the project. The family was

entitled to ₹7,51,316 in com-

pensation. However, a dispute

among the legal heirs stalled

the distribution, prompting the

family to file a case (LA Case

No-123/2013) before the court of

Dhenkanal Senior Civil Judge.

abadi Behera finally received

₹6,74,624 in compensation Feb-

ruary 15, 2024, after repeated

visits to government offices.

The court had also ordered

payment of ₹60,916 towards in-

terest to the affected landown-

er for the inordinate delay in

was further delayed, the court

directed officials to pay a total

When the interest payment

making payment.

The family of the late Saty-



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Dec 10: Dhenkanal Sadar tehsildar faced legal action Wednesday for allegedly defying a court order, resulting in officials sealing the official (government) vehicle used by him.

Acting on the court's order, officials arrived at Sadar tehsil office around noon and sealed the official 'Bolero' vehicle the tahsildar had been using. When they proceeded to seal the furniture and computer in his chamber, the tehsildar sought more time.

He later appeared in court and complied with an earlier directive that required him to pay interest to a land loser for undue delay in disbursing compensation. The tehsildar handed over a cheque of ₹12,01,908 towards the interest amount, after which he was granted relief and the sealed vehicle was released.

of ₹12,15,708. However, the tehsildar failed to comply with the order, prompting the filing of a case (15/2025) against him. A notice was issued directing him to appear in court. He appeared, but did not release the interest amount.

Citing contempt of court, officials were ordered to seize the tehsildar's government assets following which a team reached Dhenkanal Sadar tehsil office and sealed his official vehicle (OD-06-L-2211), along with furniture

The tehsildar then appeared before the court and deposited ₹12,01,908 through a cheque towards the interest amount. The sealed vehicle was then released as per court orders. The court scheduled the next hearing for February 12 regarding the remaining dues.

Advocate Banabihari Panda, representing the complainants, was present during the sealing of the vehicle. The sons of the deceased, including Pramod Kumar Behera, were also present. Pramod said the family was relieved to finally receive what was due to them, even though it came after a

Sadar tehsildar Swadhin Kumar Behera said the compensation for land acquisition had already been paid earlier. except for a pending amount that was delayed due to government procedures. "I do not want to blame anyone. As directed, interest of more than ₹12 lakh has now been paid,'

Tribal woman's severed head found Govt extends suspension The woman's mortal remains

FILE PHOTO

of internet services for another 24 hours

PNN & AGENCIES

Malkangiri, Dec 10: The State government Wednesday extended the suspension of internet services for another 24 hours in violence-hit Malkangiri district, while the missing severed head of a tribal woman was recovered from a river bank, police said.

The severed head of 51-yearold Lake Padiami of Rakhelguda village was recovered about 15 km from where her body was found December 4. The head was found on the Namkonda

Newly married Ganjam

woman dies by suicide

Chhatrapur, Dec 10: A

20-year-old newly married

woman from Nauli village

under Chamakhandi police

limits has committed suicide

Tuesday. Tulsi Sethi, wife of

Mohan Sethi, hung herself from

the ceiling fan of at her in-laws

Tulsi took the extreme step

when all other family members

were away. On being informed,

Chamakhandi police SI Laxmi-

priya Mallick and other offi-

cials seized the body and sent it

to MKCG Medical College and

Hospital, Berhampur for autop-

sv. "A case of unnatural death

(12/2025) has been registered

and an investigation is under-

way," said the SI. According to

her relatives, Tulsi, a native of

Khallikote, got married to Mo-

han six months ago after they

house with a scarf.

DWARKA PRASAD PATNAIK, OP

ghat of Poteru river close to a Kanya Ashram, the police said. The prohibitory

clamped in the two villages - Rakhelguda and MV 26 - continued to remain in force, while the government further extended the internet service suspension period by another 24 hours based on the recommendation of the Malkangiri District Col lector. The earlier ban was in force till 12 noon Wednesday, an official said.

were buried at her village Tuesday amid tight security and in the presence of senior officers. "After recovery of the severed head, the police was examining it and undertaking related investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the woman's murder," an officer said.

The woman remained untraced since December 1, and her family members lodged a missing persons case December 3. Her body was found December 4, while the head was recovered Wednesday, police said.

Violence erupted Sunday afternoon after the recovery of the woman's headless body. A large number of tribals from Rakhelguda village allegedly

attacked MV-26 village, a settle ment of Bengalis in the district Around 200 houses were dam aged, some of them set on fire as the tribals went on a rampage

at MV-26 village. Meanwhile, the police have arrested Subha Ranjan Mandal, 42, on charge of killing the trib-

al woman, whose killing led to

violence in the tribal dominat

ed district. Malkangiri District Collector Somesh Kumar Upadhyay told mediapersons, "The administration has opened a free kitchen at MV-26 village, provided food, blankets and other essentials to the people. Around 300 people who had fled from the village have returned and are

staying in a temporary shelter.

Gajapati sees massive rise in illegal cannabis farming



POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Dec 10: Forested and tribal-dominated Gajapati district has increasingly become a safe haven for illegal cannabis cultivation, with authorities reporting seizures worth ₹314 crore in the past year.

According to officials, dense forest areas and remote hilly terrains have enabled organised rackets to expand cannabis plantations by exploiting impoverished tribal residents, who are allegedly paid meagre wages to cultivate the crop on

Data from the district Excise department show that cannabis worth ₹104.06 crore was seized during 2023-24, with 526 people arrested in multiple cases. In 2024–25, seizures surged drastically to ₹314.96

forest and government land.

crore, and 718 people were arrested.

For the current year (2025-26) so far, cannabis valued at ₹7.02 crore has already been confiscated. Last year, author ities also seized 'bhang' worth ₹12.95 lakh and destroyed 18.07 lakh plants spread across 904 acres, according to official fig ures. District authorities said massive destruction drives continue this year as well with more than 20 tonnes of bhang already destroyed.

Smugglers reportedly trans port cannabis from Gajapati to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Mumbai and Bihar through organised networks.

District Excise Superin tendent Pradeep Sahu said despite awareness efforts, be havioural change among resi dents has been slow. "We are trying to sensitise people, but the impact at the community level is still limited," he said.

12 antique idols in CBI custody brought to Gopaljee Temple

Sonepur, Dec 10: Twelve rare ancient 'Ashtadhatu' idols stolen from Gopaljee Temple in Subarnapur 42 years ago and kept in CBI storehouse have been handed over to the district administration Wednes-

After a brief ritual inside the Bhubaneswar court premises in the evening, officials began transporting the idols in special van under thick security cordon to Subarnapur around 9pm. The news of the return of the idols has sparked joy in Subarnapur, where residents are eagerly waiting for the homecoming of the rare idols. Sources said Khurda Ad-

ditional District Judge-III Himansu Sekhar Mallick ordered that the seized idols be returned to Gopaljee Temple. Following the order, Subarnapur Endowment department initiated steps to bring them back Monday. SDJM Binod Bihari Sahu

granted permission to formally hand over the idols to the endowment department Wednesday. Subarnapur Collector Nruparai Sahu had reached Bhubaneswar Tuesday afternoon to oversee the process.

Similarly, Sonepur Sub-Collector and Endowment Officer

Soumvarupa Rath had been stationed in Bhubaneswar for the past 10 days coordinating efforts to retrieve the idols. Gopaljee temple Mahant Bansidhar Das, along with several

lawvers and devotees, were also present during the handover.

In 1982, 12 valuable idols including those of Radha, Gopaljee, Garuda and nine other subsidiary deities — were stolen from the shrine. The same year, the CBI arrested the thieves at Delhi airport. The idols were seized near Chandni Chowk and were later identi fied as belongings to Gopaljee Temple. Since then, they have remained in CBI storehouse in Bhubaneswar.

Although media reports over the years highlighted the issue. administrative steps to bring the idols back were lacking. The temple committee made several attempts, and the matter eventually reached the court that had directed for reinstatement of the idols at Gopaljee Temple. However, the transfer process witnessed several delays.

Youth kills dad over money for mobile

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Dec 10: A man was allegedly killed by his son in Rayagada district Tuesday night after refusing to give him money to buy a mobile phone, police said.

The incident was reported from Laliba village under Kailaspur panchayat in Chandili police limits. The deceased has been identified as Bhima Dakraka, 57, a farmer. According to police sources, Uday Dakraka had asked his father for ₹10,000 to purchase a mobile phone. Bhima, who depended on agriculture for his livelihood, told his son he was unable to provide such an amount. Enraged by the refusal, Uday allegedly attacked his father with an axe, striking him on the head and other parts of his body. Bhima died on the spot, police said. Bhima's wife, Champa Da-

kraka, lodged a complaint Wednesday, at Chandili police station. Following this, police registered a murder case (335/25) and launched an investigation, Chandili IIC Uttam Sahu con firmed. A police team, along with a scientific squad, visited the crime scene for examination. Uday Dakraka has been arrested, and the weapon used in the crime has been seized, officials said. The body has been recovered and sent to the Rayagada DHH for post-mortem.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. CAOCRSPBBS-30-2025

Elderly man killed in tusker attack

Jharsuguda: An elderly man was trampled to death by a wild elephant Tuesday afternoon in Jharsuguda district, officials said Wednesday. The victim was identified as Hira Buda, 60, of Pitamal village under the Bagdihi forest range. He had been warned repeatedly not to enter the nearby forest after dusk because elephants had been frequenting the area, according to local residents. Despite the warning, Hira reportedly went into the Pitamal forest ruesday afternoon carrying an axe. When he did not return home at night, family members searched for him and later found that he had been trampled by a tusker. Bagdihi range officer Vandana Pasayat said Hira had been advised multiple times to avoid the forest due to the presence of elephants but he did not follow the instructions.

Man issuing threats to Pihu's mom held



of Pihu, the young girl from Jajpur district whose disappearance in 2020 drew widespread attention, received death threats from unknown callers. Biniharpur police late Tuesday night arrested the accused from Balasore district. The accused has been identified as Rakesh Mallik, 25, Police also seized his mobile phone and started an investigation. Ac cording to police, the incident concerns the mother of Pihu, who went missing August 9, 2020 from Madhusudanpur village under Binjharpur police limits The girl, then a minor, was playing near the village road when she disappeared Since then, her mother, Monalisa Nayak, has been appealing to the gov ernment and authorities for her daugh-

caller allegedly used obscene language

threats, she lodged a written complaint

at Binjharpur police station. Acting on

the complaint, police registered a case

(577/25) and began an investigation,

which led to the arrest of the accused.

Biniharpur: A few days after the mother ter's whereabouts. Recently, Monalisa received abusive and threatening calls from two to three phone numbers. The

High Court reprieve for Kendrapara cop attackers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi. Dec 10: Orissa High Court has directed police not to arrest the accused in a case involving an attack on Kendrapara Sadar police personnel in Keonjhar district and the forcible release of an accused from police custody. According to court records, the accused had

filed five anticipatory bail petitions related to the incident under Nandipada police limits. After hearing two of the petitions filed by Nilakantha Mahakud and Manas Behera, the High Court ordered that the petitioners not be arrested until the next hearing date. The court has also sought records of other criminal cases pending against them. The next hearing is scheduled for December 22. The case numbers are ABLAPL-13937/2025 and 13641/2025, involving a total of 11 accused.

The alleged attack took place late November 13, when a Kendrapara Sadar police team was returning with fraud accused Jogendra Behera of Elkania village under Salania panchayat. Behera had been detained in a case involving a large-scale financial fraud.

On the Sahapur-Jalasharpur road, about 20 assailants allegedly blocked the police vehicle. attacked the officers and freed Behera from custody. Four police personnel, including a woman constable, were injured.

Following a complaint filed by Kendrapara Sadar police inspector BB Sahania, Nandipada police registered case (362/2025), corresponding to GR case (589/2025). Police have already arrested three suspects in connection with the attack.

AXIS BANK Ltd., Loan Centre (Legal Deptt.) AXIS BANK Ltd., Loan Centre (Legal Deptt.)
Plot No. 03, Radha Malati, 3rd Floor, Near Axis Bank Bapuji
Nagar Branch, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751009

Nagar Branch, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751009

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Axis Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules. 2002 issued a demand notice, calling upon the borrower/s/guarantor/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice along with contractual rate of interest plus penal interest, charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice The borrower/s/guarantor/s, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s/guarantor/s, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herein after. The borrower/s/quarantor/s, in particular and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Bank Ltd., for an amount mentioned in the notice along with interes

All that piece and parcel of Land and

Building measuring about Total Area

Ac.0.2690 dec., situated under Mouza

Ramachandrapur, Tahasil: Kanisi Tahasil No. 108, Thana: Berhampur

Thana No. 100, Khata No.: 633/659, Plo

No.: 66/1832/1960 (Area: Ac.0.0510

dec.) and Plot No.: 66 (Area: Ac.0.2180

dec.), Dist.: Ganjam (as per RoR)

Kissam: Gharabari and the said property

stands registered in the name of Mrs

Sujata Sahu, W/o- Manoj Kumar Sahu

All that piece and portion of land and building

ituated under Dist.: Nabarangpur, Mouza

Mahubhata, Tahasil: Raighar, Tahasil

No...., Thana: Raighar, Thana No. 93, Khata

No.: 64/618, Plot No.: 1/355, admeasuring

an Area: Ac.0.04dec. (as per ROR), Kissam

Gharabari and the said property stands

registered in the name of Namita Mandal

on Agri land vide Khata No.: 397/327, Plot No.: 436, Area Ac.0.800dec., Mouza: Alabhata, Tahasil: Kotpad & Dist

All that piece and portion of homestead land and building

situated at Dist.: Koraput, Mouza: Damayanti Nagar Tahasil: Kotpad, Tahsil No. 72/408, Thana: Kotpad, Thana

lo. 63/151, Khata No.: 1231/519, Plot No.: 1034

admeasuring an Area: Ac.0.0230 dec., Kissam: Gharabari

and the said property stands registered in the name of Mr. Ramakrushna Mohanty, S/o- Purna Chandra

oraput, in the name of Rajkishore Mohanty.

Name & Address of the **Borrowers/ Guarantors** Description of Immovable Property

Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date of demand notice. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of

O: Samarajhola, Berhampur, Near Kali Temple, Dist.: together with the building constructed upon the land. The property is in the name of Mr. Sukudev Gouda, S/o- Bira Gouda

1. Mr. Sukudev Gouda (Primary Applicant), S/o- Bira Gouda, At: Mohanty Street, Khata No.: 398/1568, Plot No.: 1581, situated under Mouza: Samarajhola, Tahasil: Hinjilicut, Tahasil No. 27, PS: Hinjili, PS No. 51 & Dist.: Ganjam

1. M/s. Global Agrotech (Partnership Firm/ Borrower), Plot No.: Collateral Security: 66/1832/1960, Khata No.: 633/659, At: Ramachandrapur, PO: Dura, PS: Gopalpur, Berhampur, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN-760010. 2. Mr. Hara Prasad Sahu (Partner / Co-Borrower), S/o-Radhagovinda Sahu, At: Harsha Bihar, 4th Lane, Sriram Nagar Berhampur Sadar, Berhampur City, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha,

3. Mrs. Sujata Sahu (Partner / Co-Borrower), D/o- Dandapani Nayak, At. 117, 4th Lane, Sanjeevani Bihar, Berhampur Sadar, Near riram Nagar, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN-760002 4. Mr. Shashi Bhusan Sahu (Partner / Co-Borrower). S/o-

Baikuntha Bhusan Sahu, At: Sanjeevani Bihar, Near Sriram Nagar, Berhampur Sadar, Berhampur City, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha,

I. Mrs. Banani Hawladar (Primary Applicant), S/o- Suraj Collateral Security: Mandal, At/PO: Raighar, Debagaon, Nabarangpur, Dist Nabarangpur, Odisha, PIN-764074. 2. Mr. Suraj Mondal (Co-Applicant), S/o- Suren Mondal

At/PO: Patrakoti, Raighar, Nabarangpur, Dist.: Nabarangpur Odisha, PIN-764074. 3. Mrs. Namita Mandal (Co-Applicant), W/o- Surer

Mandal, At/PO: Raighar, Debagaon, Nabarangpur, Dist. Nabarangpur, Odisha, PIN-764074. Mr. Rajkishore Mohanty (Primary Collateral Security:
Charge creation / intimation to Sub-Registrar for charge
Charge creation / intimation to Sub-Registrar for charge Applicant), S/o- Ramakrushna Mohanty, At:

Karan Street, Kotpad, PO: Kotpad, Dist.: Koraput,

Odisha, PIN-764058. 2) Mrs. Swapnaprabha Mohanty (Co Applicant), D/o- Ramakrushna Mohanty, At: Karan Street, Kotpad, PO: Kotpad, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha, PIN-764058.

(3) Mr. Ramakrushna Mohanty (Co-Applicant), S/o- Purna Chandra Mohanty @ Purna Mohanty, At: Karan Street, Kotpad, PO: Kotpad, Dist. Koraput, Odisha, PIN-764058.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 11.12.2025

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

ount Due as of Notice Date

A) ₹46.23.644/- due under Loan A/c.

and ₹8,137/- due under loan A/c. No.

B) 14.08.2025

C) 08.12.2025

A) ₹95,68,885/- (Rupees Ninety-Five

Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Eight

Hundred Eighty Five Only) due unde Loan A/c. No. *********2034

being the amount due as on date of

NPA i.e 03.04.2025

B) 30.06.2025

C) 08.12.2025

A) ₹12,56,731.65 (Rupees Twelve Lakhs

and Sixty Five Paisa Only) due under Loan A

Rupees Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred

Fifty Three and Eighty Paisa Only) under Loan A/c No.: ***********2626

being the amount due on 01.08.2024

C) 09.12.2025

A) ₹27,39,287.00 (Rupees Twenty

Seven Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand

wo Hundred Eighty Seven Only) due

under Loan A/c No. *********2377

nd ₹37,456.95 (Rupees Thirty-Sever

Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six and

Ninety Five Paisa Only) under Loan A

due as on 04.11.2024 (this amount

includes interest till the 01.05.2024

B) 29.11.2024

C) 09.12.2025

***********2384 being the amoun

nis amount includes interest till the 01.11.2023

[′]*********2600 & ₹32,853.80

*8755 as on date of NPA

B) Date of Demand Notice

C) Date of Possession

ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) 1X36.0 M COMPOSITE GIRDER + 4X24.0 M COMPOSITE GIRDER FOR RAILWAY PORTION PROPOSED ROAD OVER BRIDGE IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING-336 AT 636/3-5 KM IN BETWEEN JHADUPUDI RAILWAY STATION HAILWAY STATION MAIN LINE UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

ROAD DIVISION Advertised Value : ₹ 56,14,68,250.07 EMD : ₹ 29,57,400/-, Period of Completion: 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 23.12.2025 Tender Closing Date and Time :

At 1500 Hrs. of 06.01.2026. lanual offers are not allowed against this ender, and any such manual offer eceived shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender

documents and corrigendum is available n website **www.ireps.gov.in** Chief Administrative Officer (Con) PR-183/CI/25-26 RSP/Bhubaneswa

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. ST-OT-LHS-KUR-524, Dt : 03.12.2025

NAMEOFWORK: SIGNAL & TELECOM WORK FOR PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO. 357 (BARUVA: MANDASA ROAD), JD-1 (DAITARI-TOMKA), CT-29 (RAJATHAGARI-YARD), CT-65 (HINDOL ROAD-MERAMANDALI), JB-12 (GHANTIKHAL NIDHIPUR-NARAJ MARTHAPUR), CT 42 (DHENKANAL-SADASHIBAPUR) CP-8 (MATTAGAJPUR-KANDARPUR) AND LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY AT TRESPASSING LOCATIONS BETWEEN KEREJANGA-JARAPADA KANDARAPUR-RAGHUNATHPUR

JAKHAPURA-JENAPUR, UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Tender Value : ₹ 4,18,28,827.94, EMD :

Bidding Start Date: 12.12.2025

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1100 Hrs. of 26.12.2025. No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted or firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be onsidered invalid and shall be rejected ummarily without any consideration. Complete information including e ender documents of the above e-tender vailable in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days

before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender. Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer

Khurda Road PR-884/Q/25-26

Authorised Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.





What you are not able to do today, you will achieve tomorrow. Persevere and you shall conquer.

THE MOTHER



Michael Burleigh

THING EUROPE

NEEDS IS TO

TAKE ADVICE

REGIME THAT

SENDS ARMED

THUGS INTO

THE STREETS

SUSPECTED

TO SNATCH UP

IMMIGRANTS,

AND TREATS

MATTERS OF

OPPORTUNITIES

ENRICHMENT

WAR AND

PEACE AS

FOR

SELF-

FROM A US

THE LAST

Treason of Populists

ntil a few days ago, it had never crossed my mind that people across Europe – including Londoners like me – were living in a strife-afflicted hell hole, "suffocated" by regulations, stripped of political liberties, and bound for "civilizational erasure." So, it was with some surprise that I read this assessment in the new US National Security Strategy – a document that echoes pseudo-intellectual propaganda more than resembling any serious foreign-policy analysis.

As US President Donald Trump's administration informed Europe of its misery and decline, he also announced its salvation: "cultivating resistance" by "patriotic" political parties capable of confronting the sovereignty-destroying European Union and reversing migration policies that threaten to make their countries "unrecognizable." The clear implication is that the United States wants far-right Trump toadies to lead Europe: the National Rally's Jordan Bardella succeeding French President Emmanuel Macron; Alice Weidel of the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) replacingGerman Chancellor Friedrich Merz; and Reform UK's Nigel Farage instead of British Prime Minister

Of course, the last thing Europe needs is to take advice from a US regime that sends armed thugs into the streets to snatch up suspected

immigrants, and treats matters of war and peace as opportunities for self-enrichment. It certainly should not heed an administration that takes its policy cues from mendacious propagandists, even if they present themselves as "philosophers," such as the farright conspiracy theorist Renaud Camus. and "theologians," such as US Vice President JD Vance's "British sherpa" James Orr.

These pseudo-intellectuals, and the media that amplify them, are the political descendants of the "useful idiots" who helped foster sympathy for the Soviet Union in the West. Just as the journalist Walter Duranty touted the wonders of Soviet life as Stalin marched millions off to the gulag, the useful idiots advancing right-wing populism today have little understanding of the issues they discuss. Instead, they simply make things up, as Camus did with his "great replace-

The stakes, in their view, are not that high: pandering to power is generally alowrisk, high-reward activity nowadays. (The same was not true in, say, the 16th century, when Niccolò Machiavelli was strung up by his wrists for crossing the Medici family, and Thomas Cromwell wasbeheaded by theking, Henry VIII, to whom he had long been a trusted adviser.) The French novelist Julien Benda, in his eponymous book about the luminaries who welcomed authoritarian and fascist regimes, described such sycophancy as "the treason of the intellectuals."

Today's cast of "treasonous intellectuals" is distinctly undistinguished. There might be sophomoric "tech bros," like Dominic Cummings, the failed chief adviser to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and the American software guru Curtis Yarvin, whose incoherent jottings on Substack tantalize the likes of Vance and the increasingly unhinged billionaire Peter Thiel. Many. like the American political scientist and

AfD/National Rally cheerleader Henry Olsen, have abandoned any pretense of scholarly neutrality. Olsen's work has been featured on Brussels Signal – a right-wing news platform founded with the backing of American political strategist Patrick Egan – alongside commentary from disgraced media kingpin and convicted fraudster Conrad Black (who received a pardon from Trump in 2019).

The far-right activist Matt Goodwin, a former academic, has been hired as a presenter on evangelical billionaire Sir Paul Marshall's imitation Fox News cable channel, GB News, and named "honorary president" of Students4Reform, Reform UK's youth wing, Together with the far-right podcaster Tucker Carlson, Goodwin has become a key player in the foreign propaganda operations of Hungary's autocratic prime minister, Viktor Orbán.

A key pillar of those operations is the Mathias Corvinus Collegium, Hungary's largest private educational institution, which received an endowment of more than 1.3 billion (\$1.5 billion) from the government in 2021. The MCC's Brussels satellite branch is run by yet another "treasonous intellectual," Hungarian-Canadian sociologist Frank Furedi, who, as a university student, co-founded the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), a leftist sect that promotes a muddled brand of Leninist libertarianism.

Far from "canceling" these figures, supposedly "woke" establishment media outlets regularly feature them, in the name of a spurious "balance." The BBC invites Baroness Claire Fox, head of the portentously named "Academy of Ideas," to weigh in on the issues of the day. Mick Hume, Editor-in-Chief of europeanconservative. com, and Brendan O'Neill, a former RCP member who calls Trump

an "anti-fascist hero," also appear in mainstream newspapers. One can find a number of commonalities among these populist ideologues, not least their almost pathological fear of migrants. As the Dutch populist Geert Wilders recently learned, however, ordinary people can grow tired of aggressive anti-migrant and Islamophobic rhetoric. The jaunty Farage, with his fake countryman

garb, should take note.

In any case, one feature seems to dominate the rest: a deep resentment of so-called liberal elites. Many populists behave as if they have spent their lives with their noses pressed against the windows of grand buildings, peering at glamorous parties to which they were not invited. For some in the United Kingdom, this has translated into a near-obsession with joining the House of Lords (as Fox has done)

The modern media landscape has afforded these figures a salience beyond their wildest dreams, as Trump's National Security Strategy shows. (Given that Trump does not read, they are probably eagerly anticipating the rise of the intellectually pretentious Vance.) But their pseudo-intellectualism will never pass as the real thing, especially when viewed alongside distinguished thinkers – such as Anne Applebaum, Giuliano Da Empoli, Timothy Garton Ash, and

Timothy Snyder - who see through them. What they see is that these "intellectuals," who pretend to be courting the working class - or, as Trump put it in 2016, the "poorly educated" - are simply serving financiers and tech billionaires keen to evade regulations and taxes. In a world where machines are doing the learning, these are the players for whom the idiots might turn out

> The writer is a senior fellow at LSE Ideas at the London School of Economics. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE.

FOCUS PUTIN'S INDIA VISIT

SUBSTANCE & SYMBOLISM

President Vladimir Putin was strategically significant for both countries. Right since the war in Ukraine started. Moscow has been facing Western pressures through sanctions and campaigns to isolate Russia. New Delhi has also been under pressure to condemn Russia on international platforms, reduce its oil purchase from that country and then faced additional US tariffs for buying oil from Russia. At a time when Russia is gaining ground in the war and expanding its control over more territories, the West is left with nothing substantial to contribute to Ukraine except assurances about the international isolation of Russia which has sabotaged Trump's peace efforts. Thus, for Russia it is not enough to gain in the war, but to demonstrate that beyond the West there is a world that matters.

BRICS, SCO and countries in the Global South have been undeterred so far by the Western position and have shared platforms with Russia. Putin's visit to New Delhi on 4-5 December 2025 was very significant from this perspective. For India, despite pressures from the West and punitive tariffs, it has been imperative to demonstrate strategic autonomy while not taking sides in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. So far there has been a strategic balancing act: not condemning Russia and talking about peace. Thus, for New Delhi, the visit was not just about oil, nuclear power, labour migration or weapons and fighter planes. These issues were significant and discussions were taken forward. Similarly, the issue of a huge trade deficit that India faces in bilateral trade had to be addressed. The opening of Russian markets to Indian goods and services and the adoption of the Programme for the Development of Strategic Areas of India - Russia Economic Cooperation till 2030 are



Given the context and background, India hosting the Russian President has conveyed a message of strategic autonomy. A message that the ties between India and Russia cannot be held hostage to external pressures and wishes

intended to address the trade disparity. This year alone, Putin visited China (SCO summit), Tajikistan (CIS summit), Kyrgyzstan (CSTO summit). All these summits were attended by many important non-Western leaders. But this is different and the West has taken note that Putin was not in India for a multilateral summit. He was here to attend the 23rd Bilateral Summit of leaders of Russia and India. The response from the Western world reveals discomfort with the continuing closeness of New Delhi and Moscow.

An op-ed was jointly published on the eve of Putin's visit by the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany to India. The tone and tenor of the article clearly did not welcome the visit and blamed Russia for escalating the Ukraine crisis. The Ministry of External Affairs expressed strong displeasure, calling the move 'very unusual' and 'an unacceptable breach of diplomatic norms' to publicly advise India on its relations with a third country. There was a rejoinder from the Russian Ambassador who said that the problem began with the 'Western-backed' ouster of the

Ukrainian President in 2014. Such negatives apart, the red carpet was rolled out for the visiting Russian leader with traditional Indian dancers on the tarmac, a close hug between the two leaders and the optics of travelling together in the car of the Indian Prime Minister. The events that followed were meant to demonstrate the bonhomie and friendship in the

The visit also enhanced expectations. The focus was on trade, investment and expansion of economic relations between the two countries. Russia has assured India about energy supplies including nuclear reactors and fuel.

But what may be the most crucial elements of India-Russia relations are infrastructure and transport corridors and market access. From this point, a focus on INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor) and the Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union. would help. These two alone would enormously expand India's trade with Russia and some of the CIS countries. In the Joint Statement it was mentioned that "The Leaders appreciated the ongoing intensification of the joint

work on a Free Trade Agreement on goods between India and the Eurasian Economic Union covering sectors of mutual interest".

According to the Statement, two sides also agreed to "deepen cooperation in building stable and efficient transport corridors, with the focus on expanding logistics links for improving connectivity and enhancing infrastructure capacity to support the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the Chennai-Vladivostok (Eastern Maritime) Corridor, and the Northern Sea Route. They welcomed the signing of the MoU on the Training of Specialists for Ships Operating in Polar Waters'

In short, it may seem like there was not much in terms of substance. However, the summit was more successful with regards to diplomatic messaging. But that alone will not be sufficient. As the progress in the peace process gets delayed and Russia acquires more territories, the EU and Washington will try to impede negotiations. Demands would be made on Russia that Moscow has already rejected. In this scenario, both Russia and its partners would be under pressure. The sanctions and tariffs would be further tightened to the detriment of not just Russia, but its partners like India. Thus. both countries need to prepare for the adversities ahead. Their only option is to diversify trade and trading partners outside the West.

Given the context and background, India hosting the Russian President has conveyed a message of strategic autonomy. A message that the ties between India and Russia cannot be held hostage to external pressures and wishes.

The writer is a retired Professor, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

AS INDIA AND

RUSSIA NEED

TO PREPARE

ADVERSITIES

AHEAD, THEIR

ONLY OPTION

TRADE AND

TRADING

WEST

PARTNERS

OUTSIDE THE

IS TO DIVERSIFY

FOR THE

Decoding progress in women's higher education system for women in learning,



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

THE BATTLE FOR **WOMEN'S HIGHER EDUCATION IS BEING WON, BUT** THE REAL WAR **IS THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY IN EARNING AND SOCIETAL LEADERSHIP**

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

ndia's journey towards gender parity in education has L reached a significant milestone, one that is both cause for celebration and a stark reminder of the long road ahead. The surging enrolment of women in higher education institutions has crossed the 50% mark, transforming the demographic landscape of university campuses. This unprecedented growth is not merely a statistical anomaly but a reflection of evolving societal aspirations, greater awareness and the targeted interventions of successive governments. Yet, as the classroom fills with bright, ambitious voung women, a troubling disconnect persists between educational attainment and genuine empowerment in the broader economic and social spheres.

The quantitative shift is remarkable. Recent reports indicate that in the 2023-24 academic vear, female enrolment in higher education surpassed that of men, rising to over 50% of the total student body. This growth rate has been particularly pronounced in certain specialised areas, with women's participation in worklinked and direct admission programmes seeing exponential increases, laying a critical foundation for an equitable future workforce. In many undergraduate, postgraduate and diploma

courses, the number of female students per 100 male students has steadily climbed, showcasing a definitive desire among young women to pursue academic specialisation and career-oriented degrees. This is a powerful testament to the shift away from archaic cultural norms that once prioritised early marriage and domesticity over intellectual

Recognising education as the most potent vehicle for social change, the government, through bodies like the University Grants Commission (UGC), has introduced a slew of schemes and advisories aimed at bolstering this trend. This demonstrates a formal commitment to transforming the educational landscape into a multidisciplinary, inclusive and learner-centric ecosystem.

However, the real scenario is one of deep-seated structural friction. Despite women steering the education sector both as students and increasingly as teachers, these educational gains have not translated proportionally into the formal workforce. The glaring gap between the rising educational qualifications of women and their significantly lower Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) is a national policy challenge. The policy imperative for creating an accessible eco-

innovation and entrepreneurship is essential to ensure their contribution to nation-building. For instance, in many urban centres, while women's enrolment in higher education is high, their worker population ratio remains dramatically lower than the national average for men, indicating a massive withdrawal from the labour market. This chasm is often driven by persistent cultural and economic constraints, including societal expectations that impose a disproportionate burden of household and care responsibilities on women, concerns about personal safety during commute and at the workplace and a lack of flexible, high-quality job opportunities that align with their needs. The reality is that an educated young woman may still find herself constrained by a social structure that values her education primarily as a pre-marital asset rather than a key to lifelong economic autonomy.

To truly realise the promise of these encouraging enrolment figures, policy must pivot from merely encouraging entry into higher education to ensuring successful and sustained transition into the professional world. The conclusion, therefore, must be suggestive: the next generation of reforms should focus on structural adaptation of the labour market and institutional culture. This includes a concerted push for gender-sensitive infrastructure and implementing stronger legal frameworks against workplace discrimination. The UGC's emphasis on promoting leadership and empowerment on campus is a welcome move, but this spirit must be extended by having institutions invite senior figures from the National Commission for Women and Parliamentary Committees to participate in these initiatives, lending them greater authority and visibility. Crucially, it requires promoting shared parental and domestic responsibilities through greater male engagement and more family-friendly work policies across all sectors. The battle for women's higher education is being won, but the real war is the fight for equality in earning and societal leadership, requires us to not just educate women but to fundamentally reshape the world they are entering. Only when the classroom's success is mirrored in the marketplace will India truly harness the full potential of its educated women.

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

Maintain momentum

are most welcome to contribute letters requested to send their contact address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

Sir, Hardik Pandya's scintillating 28-ball 59 against South Africa wasn't merely a display of power-hitting; it was a statement of intent as India builds toward the T20 World Cup. His return from injury concerns is perfectly timed, offering the team a genuine all-rounder option that modern T20 cricket demands. What impressed most was Pandya's fearless approach despite limited match practice. Coming out firing with six fours and four sixes, he demonstrated the aggressive mindset India needs in crunch situations. While South Africa's collapse to their lowest T20I total reflects their batting fragility, credit belongs to India's disciplined bowling attack. This series opener showcases India's depth and adaptability. With the World Cup approaching, such dominant performances boost confidence. However, consistency remains key—one match doesn't guarantee tournament success. India must maintain this momentum while addressing middle-order vulnerabilities exposed in recent outings.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

BDTL also needed

Sir, In the wake of the IndiGo fiasco, the abbreviation FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) has become a buzzword. FDTL rules exist to prevent pilot fatigue — one of the most critical safety concerns in aviation. While our aviation sector does need strict FDTL compliance, the by and large private transportation network that ferries thousands of passengers pan India, is badly in need of BDTL -- Bus Duty Time Limitations --- that similarly, enhances safety of bus passengers by setting time limits for bus drivers, particularly those on long distance assignments. Bus drivers are often left to the mercy of bus operators and get little to no rest as they ply long routes. Stand-by drivers who can share the workload are rare, with the result that one single driver has to drive continuously for long periods of time. BDTL, if introduced, will go a long way in ensuring that well-rested drivers are at the steering wheel. Much like air travel, travel by road is today a rather dicey or chancy affair. Political will can easily fix this

Avinash Godboley, DEWAS (MP)



TWO STATES





TEAL ESTATE LA PREFORMSJ&K unveils single-window, district cells

RERA came into force in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, while its operations began in January 2024 to regulate and promote the real estate sector, ensure transparency in projects, protect the interests of consumers and establish an adjudicating mechanism for speedy dispute redressal

PRESS TRUTS OF INDIA

Jammu, Dec 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) has proposed the establishment of a single window system for integrated approvals and registrations, and the constitution of district-level enforcement cells to strengthen monitoring across the Union Territory. RERA came into force in

Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, while its operations began in January 2024 to regulate and promote the real estate sector, ensure transparency in projects, protect the interests of consumers and establish an adjudicating mechanism for speedy dispute redressal.

"To address multifarious challenges, JKRERA Monday proposed clearer delineation of approval authorities in rural areas, the establishment of a Single Window System for integrated approvals and registrations, and the constitution of district-level enforcement cells under the Deputy Commissioners to strengthen monitoring. reporting and enforcement of RERA violations," a senior official said.

These measures, the Authority said, would ensure trans-

parent, regulated and planned development of the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Authority is battling grassroots-level issues related to approvals among various organisations, with non-compliance of the Act leading to haphazard development, often without basic facilities and statutory safeguards mandated under law, the officer said.

Officials pointed out that challenges faced by the Authority include a lack of clarity regarding layout approvals for colonies in rural areas, delays

Jalna, Dec 10: After an inten-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

said Wednesday.

due to multiple departmental clearances, and the need for improved inter-departmental coordination.

JKRERA Chairperson Satish Chandra said the Authority has jurisdiction over all residential and commercial real estate projects in the Union Territory, including plotted developments exceed ing 500 square metres or eight apartments, as prescribed under Section 3 of the Act.

He said registration of eligible real estate projects and agents with JKRERA is man-

Mumbai, influenced by social

media and a desire to "see the

Set out to 'see the world', 2 missing minors visit Nepal, Mumbai

datory, and no promoter is permitted to advertise, market or sell any project without obtaining registration.

The Act, he added, safeguards the rights of homebuyers and mandates developers to provide requisite infrastructure and facilities to curb unplanned and substandard development.

Authority officials said any aggrieved person, including allottees, promoters and agents, can file complaints under Section 31 of the Act through both online and offline modes.

"JKRERA is empowered to

conduct inquiries and recover penalties as arrears of land revenue in cases of non-compli ance," they said.

The Act provides for stringent penalties, including fines of up to 10 per cent of the project cost and imprisonment for promoters for violations such as non-registration of projects and failure to comply with the orders of the Authority or the Appellate Tribunal.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo had earlier underscored the importance of strengthening enforcement mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability and protection of homebuyers' interests in the real estate sector across the UT.

He called upon the divisional and district administrations to extend all necessary assistance for the effective implementation of the Act in both municipal and rural areas

The Jammu and Kashmir housing and urban development department has also directed all administrative secretaries, heads of departments, and managing directors of public sector undertakings and corporations to register all new and ongoing real estate projects with RERA before com mencement of any work.

partment Tuesday said.

The 'soft release' allows the tigress to adjust to the terrain, prey base and environmental conditions inside a protected enclosure before her eventual release into the open forest, the

CONSERVATION PUSH

Tadoba tigress moved to Sahyadri Reserve



Nagpur, Dec 10: A tigress has been translocated from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve to Sonarli acclimatisation enclosure at Chandoli National Park in Maharashtra's Sahvadri Tiger Reserve as part of breeding and conservation efforts, forest officials said.

The 2-year-old tigress, T7-S2, was captured Monday evening in the Kolara core range of Tadoba and examined for her health status. Veterinary checks confirmed that she was fit for transfer, a release from the forest de-

"Tigress T7-S2 is a young dispersing female from the Kolara core range. She is healthy, strong and behaviourally suited for translocation," Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve's field director Dr Prabhunath Shukla said.

release said.

The process was carried out under scientific guidance from the Wildlife Institute of India, with a scientist and a field biologist monitoring her acclimati-

Shukla said the capture was

bids in the portal

Class of contractor

OIPR-34015/11/0034/2526

documents

inviting bid

Date of opening of bid

sation and behaviour.

strategically executed within the tigress's vast home range which overlaps both the Tadoba and Kolara core ranges.

He said this operation is part of a broader project to re-establish a viable breeding population in the Sahvadri Tiger Reserve (STR). The in troduction of this genetically distinct lineage aims to prevent inbreeding and boost the long term survival of the tiger metapopulation in Maharashtra.

This is the second tigress to be sent to STR from Tadoba.

STR's Field Director Tushar Chavan said, "The soft release of the second female tigress from Tadoba under Operation TARA (Tiger Augmentation and Range Expansion) is an im portant step in Sahyadri's tiger recovery mission. The tigress is in good health, and Chandoli provides a secure habitat with a sufficient prey base.

"The coordinated conservation efforts of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Sahyadri Tiger Reserve under Opera tion TARA are strengthening Maharashtra's tiger recovery mission. The successful introduction of the second female tigress reflects the dedication and professionalism of our field teams," Principal Chief Conser vator of Forests (Wildlife), M Srinivas Reddy, said.

Jammu airport set for low-visibility ops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Dec 10: Jammu airport is now equipped for low-visibility operations after upgrading its navigation system to CAT-II (Category II) and the facility is also technically ready for night operations, pending clearance from defence and security agencies, a senior official said Wednesday.

Jammu airport director Devender Yadav said the new terminal building— with expanded parking, six aerobridges and a five-fold increase in capacity— will be completed by the end of next year. with structural work and the elevated access road already finished and the remaining construction moving on "war footing".

"We have seen in the last winter that there were a lot of problems with flight operations (due to poor visibility owing to dense fog). To address this particular issue, the airfield navigation system has been upgraded from CAT-1 to CAT-2. In CAT-2, there are more sophisticated instruments. In that, you

can perform

flight opera-

TERMINAL tions in less TO BE READY **BY NEXT**

visibility. The procedures for low-visibility flight operations have already been YEAR implemented and we had a preparatory meeting with all

the stakeholders. We are prepared for low-visibility flight operations," Yadav told reporters here. On the long-pending demand

for late night operations, Yadav said the airfield is technically ready for the night operations. "It (being ready for night op-

erations) is just one aspect but there are many other aspects as well. In Jammu, things are more complicated because of the security and defence angles. But yes, we are working on it,' the airport director said.

Asked about the ongoing work on modernisation of the airport and the expected date for its completion. Yaday said the work was slated for completion by June next year but will be completed by the end of 2026 as work was delayed due to various reasons including the launch of Operation Sindoor.

"The new airport's architecture is modern and advanced. The size of the building is five times bigger than the present terminal building. Like Delhi's T3, an elevated bridge for departure is being laid here,' he said. He said the expanded work will also ensure 10 aircraft parking stands and six aerobridges, while the parking area of the airfield will be triple compared to present airfield.

The teenagers have been resive nine-day search across multiple states and even interunited with their families. national borders, police have According to police, the girls,

classmates studying in Class traced and rescued two minor girls who had gone missing 10, left their respective home from a village in Jalna district December 1 after telling their of Maharashtra, police officials parents they were going to attend a school programme and

world," they said.

The girls, aged 14 and 15. would return late. When they did not come and residents of Manjargaon village under Badnapur tehsil, back, their worried parents had travelled to Nepal and later lodged a missing complaint at

the Badnapur police station. Their mobile phones were switched off most of the time, though they briefly became active on WhatsApp, giving police crucial leads, they said.

During their journey towards Nepal, the girls met a man named Aditya Jha from Mumbai and took his contact number. After reaching Janakpur in Nepal -- chosen by them because it is a "safe country" accessible without a passport -- they eventually

travelled back to Mumbai, where Jha and his family sheltered the duo, unaware cops had been looking for them, police said.

Following technical analysis. police traced the hotspot location used by the girls through Jha's device. A Badnapur police team rushed to Mumbai and located them at Kalwa in adjoining Thane district.

'If we had reached ten minutes late, the girls would have left again," an officer said.

Cadets fund fallen mate's sister's medical dream



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Dec 10: In a display of military camaraderie of NDA, coursemates of the late Cadet Pratham Mahale have united to realise his sister's dream of completing her medical education, providing crucial support after she went into shock following the tragedy.

Pratham, who was serving as Squadron Cadet Captain of Oscar Squadron at the prestigious National Defence Academy, died two days after receiving a head injury during a boxing championship at the premier institute here October 16, 2023.

The newly commissioned officers have come together to ensure the dream that Pratham harboured of his sister completing her medical educa-"After commissioning into their

respective armed services, these coursemates once again got in touch with us. They invited us to witness the IMS Pipping and POP (Passing Out Parade) ceremony in Dehradun and even visited our house in Jalgaon," said Pratham's father, Gorakh Mahale.

When Pratham was in the NDA, his sister Rujuta was preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to pursue medical education.

"However, after the tragic incident, we all sank into shock, and that affected her preparation. It was his coursemates who came forward and encouraged her to continue. They assured us that even though Pratham is not here, they stand firmly by her," said Gorakh Mahale.

His daughter resumed her preparation, and appeared for NEET. "To

support her. Pratham's coursemates regularly sent money to my wife's account, Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 each

time," he said. When Rujuta secured admission to a medical course in Bareilly, the coursemates assured the family that they need not worry about money. "They were even ready to pay the entire fee. I tried to stop them, but they didn't listen and together contributed around Rs 30,000 for her admission,'

said Mahale. "We are overwhelmed by the gesture of these young officers who continue to show such affection for Pratham. Their emotional and financial support means a lot to us," he added. One of Pratham's coursemates. now a Flying Officer posted in Chandigarh who preferred not to be named, told PTI that there were 22 cadets in Oscar Squadron.

"During one of the boxing competitions, our squadron was short in the low-weight category. Pratham stepped up to fill the gap but unfortunately suffered a head injury and died two days later." he said.

Pratham often spoke about his parents and his sister who was preparing for medical studies, the officer recalled. "After commissioning, we decided to support his family. We contribute a small amount every month, and even visit them whenever possible to spend time with them."

"During NDA training, we created countless memories together. Though Pratham is not with us today, we will keep him alive in our hearts by standing with his family and supporting them emotionally," he said.

<u>ahatma gandhi central university</u> (A Central University established by an Act of Parliament) Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar - 845401 Website: www.mgcub.ac.in | Email: osdadmin@mgcub.ac.in

Notification For Ph.D. Admission (2025-26)

Online applications are invited for Ph.D. Programmes (Academic Year 2025-26)

through the SAMARTH Portal:

https://mgcubadm.samarth.edu.in For eligibility, programme details and guidelines,

visit: www.mgcub.ac.in

Last Date for Online Submission: 26th December 2025 (Friday) cbc 21336/12/0002/2526

ବନଖଣ ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ,ରାଉରକେଲା (କେ.ପ.) ବନଖଣ OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, ROURKELA (KL) DIVISION (Phone No.0661-2950169// E-mail: dfokl1973@gmail.com) Order No.217/ Date. 09.12.2025 No.MM-362:

o.MM-362: INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Bid Identification No.03 RKL-KL-F.E.&C.C/2025-26, Dtd.09.12.2025 Construction of Range Office-cum Residence at Bonai (KL) Range under Rourkela K.L. Division, District Name of work Sundargarh Estimated Cost (Excluding GST) Date & Time of availability of bid From 10.00 A.M. of Date 12.12.2025 to 05.00 P.M. of Date 26.12.2025 Upto 5.00 P.M. of Date 26.12.2025 documents in portal Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal Date of Opening of bid documents Class of Contractor Name and address of Officer At 11.30 A.M. of Date 29.12.2025 Inviting Bid Division, Panposh Further, details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tenderodisha.go

in. The Addendum/ Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer OIPR-08072/11/0005/2526 Rourkela K.L. Division

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଜନସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଖଣ୍ଡ, ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BALASORE**

AT-SAMALPUR, P.O-BALIA, DIST-BALASORE, PIN-756056 (e-mail: eephbls@gmail.com, Phone-9438660004) No.6635/DATE 04.12.2025

2nd CORRIGENDUM TENDER FOR THE WORK

No.C-1762: "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of DG Sets (CPCB IV+GEN Set with AMF Pannel) with Movable Trolley including shed for Soro Town"

continuation to this office Bid-Identification No.SEPHBLS-28 of 025-26 dt 12.11.2025. The following amendments have been made to Critical Dates.

		Item/ Clause	Description	Existing Critical Dates	1st time corrigendum of critical dates	2nd corrigendum of Revised/Amended Critical Dates	
	1	1 Dates in NIT, Sec- tion-1 of	Last date and time of seeking clarification	17.00 Hr. of dt.28.11.2025	17.00 Hr. of dt.05.12.2025	17.00 Hr. of dt.10.12.2025	
			Last date & time of bidding on-line	17.00 Hr. of dt.03.12.2025	17.00 Hr. of dt.10.12.2025	17.00 Hr. of dt.15.12.2025	
			Date & Time of opening Bid	12.00 Hr. of dt.04.12.2025	12.00 Hr. of dt.11.12.2025	12.00 Hr. of dt.16.12.2025	

All other terms and conditions un-altered Sd./- Superintending Engineer OIPR-13053/11/0043/2526 P.H. Division, Balasore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Office of the Superintending Engineer Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar : (06821) 241133 / E-mail : <u>eernbbng</u> <u>Ltr. No. //881//Dtd.05.12.2025</u>

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E - BNJ-R&B-19/2025-26

Name of work 2 Nos. Building Work No. of Covers Double Cover Fetimated cost Rs.61.98 to 66.66 lakhs

Period of Completion Six Calendar Months From 12.00 Noon of dated 12.12.2025 Date of time of availability of to 5.00 P.M. of dated 22.12.2025 bid document in the portal

At 11.00 A.M. of dated 23.12.2025

"B" Class Contractor 10. Name and address of Officer Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

urther details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov in. The Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

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

03 (Three) Calendar Month

26.12.2025 upto 17:00 Hours 26.12.2025 At 17.15 Hours

: 02.01.2026 At 11.00 A.M.

From 12.12.2025 at 10.00 Hours to

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER M.I.DIVISION. GANJAM NO-I. BERHAMPUR

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No.: Online Tender /07/GMID-I/2025-26 Name of Work

Civil Construction Works No. of Work 3 (Three) Varies from Rs.71.50 lakh to Rs Estimated Cost 98 60 lakh

Period of Completion Availability of Bid-document for sale and receipt through online Date & time of opening of

technical bids Date & time of opening of Financial bids Name & Adderss of the Officer inviting Tender

OIPR-32104/11/0046/2526

: Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division Ganjam-I, Berhampur Further Details can be seen from the website: https://www.tendersodisha gov.in. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of can also be seer

in the said website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer. M.I. Divn. Ganjam-I, Berhampur

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RWS&S DIVISION, BARGARH rwss_bgh@.nic.in, Ph.(O):-06646 233220, Fax:06646 234626 No.4539, Dt.03.12.2025 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

Bid Identification No. 07, Dt. of 2025-26

No.O-1693: The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh or behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites tenders from the valid licensed holder contractors of class 'C' or 'B' registered with any department of State Government or equivalent class of Central Govt. etc. to be eventually drawn up in P1 Contrac

Form for the below work as per terms and condition noted below Name of the Work: Construction of Government Quarter for Assistant Engineer, RWS&S Section-II at Sohela under RWS&S Division, Bargarh.

2.Approx. Estimated Cost: Rs.27.45 Lakh. 3.Date and time of availability of document in the portal: Dt.11.12.2025 to Dt 29.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

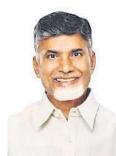
4.Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt.29.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M 5. Date & time of Opening of Tender: Dt.30.12.2025 at 11.00 AM 6. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Superintending Engineer RWS&S Division, Bargarh, District-Bargarh. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersorissa

gov.in". The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without

assigning any reason thereof Sd./- Superintending Engineer OIPR-25018/11/0007/2526

RWS&S Division, Bargarh

national



we have amended the constitution itself several times in the country, what's wrong in changing the

ED RAIDS MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN MAHA

The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Maharashtra as part of a money laundering probe against a dairy and agro company accused of defrauding investors of more than ₹100 crore, officials said



Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, we raised the issue of water scarcity and assured that Rajasthan will not face any further problems. Works worth ₹26,000 crore have been launched in the Ramjal Setu

link project. Other water-related initiatives are underway across the state BHAJAN LAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM

Today, we can solve these problems because the BJP is in govern-



REKHA GUPTA DELHI CM

difficulties

Celebrating the 36th An niversary of the Nobel Peace Prize conferred the Great 14th

Dalai Lama at Chamleng, Tawang Monastery

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Salman Khan moves Delhi HC

New Delhi: Bollywood actor Salman Khan has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of his personality rights. The plea is scheduled to be heard Thursday by Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora. Khan has moved the high court seeking to restrain various social media platforms and e-commerce websites from unauthorisedly using his name, images, persona and likeness and to protect his personality rights.

Kin attack hospital after patient's death

Pune: Angry relatives of a patient pelted stones at a private hospital and damaged its glass facade in Pune city after his death during treatment at the medical facility Wednesday, an official said. While the patient's kin alleged negligence, the hospital condemned the vandalism and asserted that it followed national and international guidelines for managing "high-risk" cases.

Chargesheet against 2 Chinese nationals

New Delhi: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against two Chinese nationals who were allegedly the masterminds of the HPZ Token Investment Fraud case in which over ₹1000 crore were siphoned off through shell companies during Covid, officials said Wednesday. The CBI has alleged that Shigoo Technology Pvt. Ltd., owned and controlled by Chinese, allegedly cheated the public during the Covid lockdown using a fake mobile application titled "HPZ Tokens", claiming that investments would be used for cryptocurrency mining and would yield very high returns.

BLO attempts suicide Jhansi (UP): A gram rozgar sewak posted as a booth level officer (BLO) in the Mauranipur development block of Jhansi district allegedly attempted suicide Wednesday by consuming pesticide, reportedly due to work-related pressure. He was first taken to the Mauranipur primary health centre and later referred to Jhansi Medical College, where his condition is stated to be stable. All special intensive revision (SIR) work assigned to the employee, Nathuram Arya, had already been completed last week.

Deepavali now on UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list

The decision was taken during a key meeting of UNESCO being hosted at the Red Fort in Delhi

New Delhi, Dec 10: India's Deepavali, the festival of lights, was Wednesday inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, sparking celebrations on earning the cov-

The decision was taken during a key meeting of UN-ESCO being hosted at the Red Fort in Delhi. Chants of 'Jai Hind', 'Vande

Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' rent the air as UNESCO announced that the festival has been added to the prestigious list after a discussion by its committee. Artistes dressed in different

traditional attire performed in front of the main stage while images of the Deepavali festival played on the big screen.

Prime Minister Narendra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Dec 10: In a sting-

Home Minister Amit Shah

Wednesday said they are wor-

ried because they can no lon-

ger win elections by corrupt

practices and claimed that the

reason for Congress' defeat in

polls was its leadership and not

Intervening in a debate on

election reforms in the Lok

Sabha, Shah alleged that the

Opposition is raising the is-

sue of Special Intensive Re-

vision (SIR) of electoral rolls

to keep "avaidh ghuspathiye

(illegal immigrants)" in the

When the Opposition MPs

walked out later, Shah said no

matter how many times the

Opposition boycotts, the NDA

will continue with its policy of

detect, delete and deport 'ghus-

The Opposition wants to

normalise and formalise the

'ghuspathiye' and add them in

The BJP leader cited three in-

stances of alleged "vote chori"

by Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira

"Post Independence, Sardar

Vallabhbhai Patel was backed

by 28 persons while Jawaharlal

Nehru by two persons and yet

Nehru became the prime min-

ister, this was vote chori," he

Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

electoral rolls, he said

EVMs or "vote chori"

voters' list.

pathiye'

ing attack at the Opposition over its criticism of the SIR,

Nehru, Indira did 'vote chori': Shah



Modi welcomed the addition of Deepavali to UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List, saying it will contribute to the festival's global popularity.

"People in India and around the world are thrilled," PM Modi said in a post on X, responding to a post from UNESCO listing Deepavali in its intangible heritage list.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat de-

the second "vote chori" was by

Indira Gandhi, when she grant-

ed herself immunity after court

He said the dispute of third

'vote chori" has just reached

civil courts on how Sonia Gand-

hi became a voter before becom-

Shah also took a dig at the

Congress and said the reason

for its poll losses was its lead-

in a presser he is dubbed as a

BJP agent, if they lose a case,

they accuse the judge, if they

lose an election, they blame

EVMs. Now when EVM blame

does not hold, they brought up

vote chori...still they lost Bhar.

Now the reason for your defeat

is your leadership and not EVM

or voters' list," the home min-

Shah also accused the Oppo-

sition of spreading falsehoods

on SIR and launched a strong

defence of the exercise, asking

whether democracy can be safe

when the prime minister and

the chief ministers are decided

The BJP leader said the Op-

position thinks that it is tar-

nishing the image of the gov-

ernment but in reality they are

tarnishing the image of India's

Opposition worried as peo-

ple of country do not vote for

them and SIR will delete names

of illegal immigrants who back

Tradition of electoral loss

began in 2014 and the Con-

gress blamed EVMs, which

were brought by Rajiv Gandhi

The EVMs were used for

first time in 2004 and then in

2009 elections and on both oc-

casions, the Congress won, but

they started complaining only

is the biggest panchayat for

discussions and the BJP-NDA

people never run away from a

He stressed that Parliament

after 2014 loss, he said.

by 'ghuspathiye'.

democracy.

them, he said.

in 1989, he said.

ister said.

"If someone asks a question

set aside her election.

ing citizen of India.

livered a statement on behalf of the country right after the inscription was announced during the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

This is the sixteenth element from India to be inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Fifteen other elements already inscribed on this UN-ESCO list include the Kumbh Mela, Durga Puja of Kolkata, Garba dance of Gujarat, yoga, the tradition of Vedic chanting and Ramlila - the traditional performance of the epic 'Ra-Shekhawat and other mem-

bers of the Indian contingent sported a traditional headgear to mark the occasion. Deepavali is one of the time-

less festivals of India, which is also now celebrated in many other parts of the world. On this occasion, people

decorate their homes with traditional lamps or 'diya', and buildings are illuminated, presenting a dazzling sight at

India had sent the Deepavali nomination dossier to UNES-CO in 2023 for the 2024-25 cycle.

The Union minister said

that with this inscription, "UNESCO honours the eternal human longing for renewal, peace and the triumph of good". External Affairs Minister

S Jaishankar, in a post on X Wednesday, said the inscription of 'Deepavali' on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list is a "recognition" of the festival's immense cultural, religious and spiritual significance and of its role in bringing people together.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, also in a post on X, termed it a "proud moment for India" and said this "signifies the importance of our ancient cultural ethos even in the modern era".

This is the first time that India is hosting a session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

ED seizes 13 bank accounts of Reliance Infra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday said it has seized more than a dozen bank accounts, holding about ₹55 crore worth deposits, of Anil Ambani Group company Reliance In frastructure as part of a hawa la-linked FEMA investigation.

It alleged in a statement that Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (R-Infra), through its spe cial purpose vehicles (SPVs), siphoned public funds from highway construction projects awarded by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and sent them to the UAE illegally.

The investigation pertains to a 2010 tender that was awarded to the company as an EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) contract to build the JR Toll Road (Jaipur-Reengus highway).

The agency said 13 bank accounts having a balance of ₹54.82 crore of R-Infra have been seized for "contravention" of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). R-Infra said in a regulatory

filing Wednesday that it has received an order from the ED "whereby it has placed lien in the Company's bank accounts for ₹77.86 crore in relation to alleged violations under FE-MA" The ED had summoned Am-

bani (66) for questioning in this case last month but he did not depose saying he could only make a "virtual appearance" It was not clear if the agency called him again. A statement issued by Amba

ni's spokesperson last month said this was "a purely domestic contract with no foreign exchange component involved whatsoever" "The JR Toll Road has been

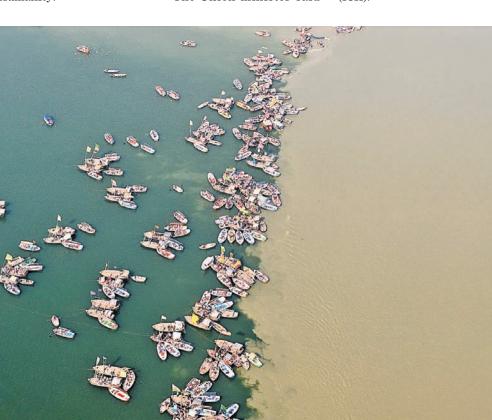
fully completed and, from 2021 onwards, has been with the

Foreigner alleges

Malone's concert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

harassment at Post



A view of boats moored at the 'Sangam', in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

India, US step up talks on trade ties

New Delhi. Dec 10: India's Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal met US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer to discuss bilateral trade and economic ties, the government said Wednesday.

"The two sides exchanged views on matters related to India-US trade and economic ties including on the ongoing negotiations for a mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement," India's trade ministry said in a post on X.

Switzer is leading a US team in New Delhi for two days of trade discussions, as India seeks relief from punitive tariffs imposed by Washington over its purchases of Russian

In August, US President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on imports from India to as much as 50%, hitting exports of textiles, chemicals and food items such as shrimp.

Exports to the US fell nearly



9% year-on-year in October to \$6.31 billion from \$6.91 billion a year ago, though they were higher than \$5.47 billion in September, Indian government data showed.

Washington is also pushing India to lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers on US goods and open its market to American farm products, including soybean and grain sorghum.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told lawmakers Tuesday that India had resisted greater imports of US farm and meat products but had been 'quite forward leaning" in the latest round of talks.

Switzer is leading a US team in New Delhi for two days of seeks relief from punitive tariffs imposed by Washington over its purchases of Russian In August, US President Don-

ald Trump doubled tariffs on imports from India to as much as 50%, hitting exports of textiles, chemicals and food items such as shrimp.

Exports to the US fell nearly 9% year-on-year in October to \$6.31 billion from \$6.91 billion a vear ago, though they were higher than \$5.47 billion in September, Indian government data showed.

Washington is also pushing India to lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers on US goods and open its market to American farm products, including soybean and grain sorghum.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told lawmakers Tuesday that India had resisted greater imports of US farm and meat products but had been "quite forward leaning" in the latest round of talks.

2024 is under compilation as

Reserve List has been declared

October 28, 2025 and result of

The Civil Services Exam-

ination (CSE) is a exam con-

ducted by the Union Public

Service Commission (UPSC)

to recruit candidates for for

All India Services like the In-

dian Administrative Service

(IAS) and Indian Police Ser-

CSE 2025 is not yet declared."

rassed and "touched without consent" at American rapper Post Malone's first Indian concert in Guwahati two days ago, one of them claimed in her social media account. Guwahati Police said the

Guwahati, Dec 10: Two for-

eigners were allegedly ha

victims have filed no complaint, but the force is trying to contact the women through their social media platforms for more details about the in-

Emma, who described herself as a backpacking travel vlogger across South East Asia, in a video post on Instagram, claimed that she and her friend were harassed and "touched without consent" in the concert held at Veterinary College Playground in Khanapara.

Malone had his debut Indian concert in Guwahati Monday as part of the Assam government's 'Policy for Concert Tourism'. More than 20,000 tickets were sold for the pro-

"Do you think concerts are a safe place for women in India? Last night at the Post Malone concert in Guwahati, things turned serious very quickly As two women in the crowd, both me and @amina_finds were touched without consent within minutes of entering the packed area," Emma said in her post on Tuesday.

After just 10 minutes, they had to force their way out and move to the back near the ven dors because they no longer "felt safe", she added.

"Sadly, because of what happened, we were no longer able to enjoy the concert. This isn't normal crowd pushing. It's part of a wider issue of violence against women and the way harassment is minimised in public spaces," said the woman, who seems to be from Bangkok as per her social media account.

Women's share in civil services rises to 35%

New Delhi, Dec 10: The proportion of women qualifying for the Civil Services Examination (CSE) has increased from 24 per cent in 2019 to 35 per cent in 2023, the government told Lok Sabha Wednesday.

Engineering graduates consistently accounted for more than 50 per cent of successful candidates, data presented by Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh showed.

Responding to a question, the minister presented fiveyear data showing a steady rise in the number of female candidates in the final merit



list — from 220 out of 922 candidates in 2019 to 397 out of 1,132

At the same time, engineering stream candidates con-

tinued to dominate the merit list, with 554 engineers recommended in 2023, far outnumbering those from humanities (368), science (137), and medical

reports an increase in the number of bachelor's degree holders selected. rising from 672 in 2019 to 848 in 2023

science (73). The data shows year from 2019 to 2023

ed an increase in the number of bachelor's degree holders selected, rising from 672 in 2019 to 848 in 2023.

that engineering graduates formed the largest cohort every

vice (IPS), and various other government services. The government also report-

It is a three-stage process that includes a preliminary exam, a main examination (written), and a personality test (interview).

According to the answer, The government "Details with regard to CSE-

national



Muslims are not there, they are not reflected in the secular parties for example if Muslim-majority seats like Wayanad can elect non-Muslims, surely Rae Bareli, Amethi and Etawah can elect Muslims

SEX WORKERS THRONG SIR ASSISTANCE BOOTH

The West Bengal CEO's office Wednesday organised camps in three red-light areas in Kolkata to help sex workers fill up enumeration forms as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state, an official said







the basis of religion. The Waqt property law has been made by the BJP. We resisted it in the state Assembly and filed a case in the Supreme Court,

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

Manufac turing of the Hydrogen Train-set has been completed. For providing hydrogen for use

in this train-set, a hydrogen plant has been conceived at Jind. In this plant, hydrogen is being produced using electrolysis process which is key element of green hydrogen generation ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAY MINISTER





BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM





Irony is the water

is 500 TDS, AQI is 900 and the food

DGCA to deploy staff inside IndiGo HQ

The DGCA has formed an oversight team of eight senior captains, and two of them, along with two government officials, will be stationed at IndiGo's Gurgaon headquarters to monitor cancellation status, crew deployment, unplanned leave, and routes hit by staff shortages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Dec 10: Aviation watchdog DGCA will station its personnel at Indi-Go's headquarters as it steps up oversight on India's largest airline, which continues to cancel dozens of flights despite saying operations have stabilised.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has formed an oversight team of eight senior captains, and two of them, along with two government officials, will be stationed at IndiGo's Gurgaon headquarters to monitor cancellation status, crew deployment, unplanned leave, and routes hit by staff shortages.

"Both these teams will submit a daily report," the DGCA said in the two page order. DGCA also summoned IndiGo Chief Executive Pieter Elbers to appear at its office on Thursday and submit a complete report, along with comprehensive data and updates, relating to the recent operational disruptions. according to a statement.

Meanwhile, DGCA has decided to carry out immediate on-site inspections to assess IndiGo's operations across 11 domestic airports, according to an official order Wednesday.

All assigned officers will visit their respective airports in the next 2-3 days, and submit a comprehensive report to the Director of Operations for the flight safety department at the DGCA in New Delhi within 24 hours of their visit, the order said.

IndiGo has already submitted its revised flight schedule to DGCA after the government slashed its winter schedule by 10 per cent.

Since last week, IndiGo can-



celled thousands of flights nationwide after failing to plan for tighter safety regulations. The cancellations peaked on December 5 and have declined since. The airline Tuesday said its operations have stabilised and were back to normal levels.

But the cancellations continued with nearly 220 flights at three major airports, including Delhi and Mumbai, cancelled.

As part of the winter schedule for 2025-26, the airline has been operating over 2,200 flights per day

The latest order is part of a suite of actions by authorities that followed IndiGo, which controls over 65 per cent of the market share, cancelling more than 4.000 flights since December 2 that left tens of thousands of passengers stranded, upending their vacation plans, important meetings, and weddings.

Separately, the Delhi High Court Wednesday questioned the central government for not taking timely action to check the crisis, asking why the situation was allowed to precipitate.

"The question is why, at all, this crisis arose and what have you been doing?" a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar

Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said and directed

pensate the affected persons. The bench directed that by January 22, the next date of hearing, if the inquiry initiated by a committee into the disruption in flight operations over the past week is complete. its report should be submitted

the government and the airline

to take steps to adequately com-

to the court in a sealed cover. DGCA, which previously issued a show cause notice to IndiGo's CEO and chief operating officer to explain the disruptions, has set up a four-member panel to probe the lapses.

Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu has ordered a 10 per cent cut in planned flights of the airline to help match schedule with pilots available.

The personnel deployed at IndiGo's corporate office will monitor "cancellation status domestic and international, refund status, on time performance, compensation to passengers and baggage return", the DGCA order said.

The two captains deployed at IndiGo's corporate office will on a daily basis look into the airline's total fleet, average stage

length, total number of pilots, network details, crew utilisation in hours, all unplanned leaves per day (like sick leave, casual leave and emergency leave), flights per day and available crew, total number of sectors affected on account of crew shortage and standby crew per day per base (cockpit

DGCA said it has been decided to constitute an oversight team 'in view of passenger inconvenience caused due to large-scale disruptions in the operations of IndiGo Airlines at various air ports across the country".

For decades, IndiGo relied on aggressive scheduling and max night-flight utilisation -- a business model that collapsed when tighter safety regulations that increased the mandatory weekly rest period for pilots and sharply reduced permissi ble night-landings and any extended night-duty hours came

The result was catastrophic: on-time performance plunged, hundreds of flights were cancelled daily, and major airports saw chaos with stranded passengers, overloaded terminals, and long queues.

Meanwhile, DGCA has directed Pieter Elbers to appear at its office on Thursday and submit a complete report, along with comprehensive data and updates, relating to the recent operational disruptions.

As per the regulator's order. the airline has been asked to present information on the flight restoration, recruitment plan of pilots and crew, with updated position of pilot and cabin crew strength, number of flights cancelled and refunds processed, among others

GOA CLUB FIRE

MEA may revoke passports of Luthras

New Delhi, Dec 10: The Ministry of External Affairs is considering revoking the passports of Gaurav Luthra and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of the Goa nightclub where 25 people were killed in a fire December 6, following a request from the state government.

Sources said Wednesday that the ministry has received a communication from the Goa government with regard to Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra. It is examining the request

to revoke their passports under the Passports Act of India, in accordance with the rules. they said. **Brothers** Saurabh and

Gaurav Luthra, who are co-owners of 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub in North Goa left for Phuket. Thailand shortly after the fire incident. An Interpol Blue Corner Notice has been issued against them. A Delhi court Wednesday re-

fused to give any interim protection from arrest to the duo. while their partner was held in connection with the fire incident. In the court, the Luthras' lawver refuted allegations that they had fled, claiming the trip was for a business meeting, and argued that the brothers are only licensees, not the actual owners of the nightclub. Five managers and staff

members have already been arrested by Goa Police in connection with the fire that broke out at the nightclub located in Arpora, 25 km from Panaji, around midnight December 6.

Meanwhile, a Delhi court Wednesday refused to give any interim protection from arrest



to Saurabh and Gaurav Luth ra. In the court, the Luthras lawyer refuted allegations that they had fled, claiming the trip was for a business meeting and argued that the brothers are only licensees, not the actual owners of the nightclub.

In his bail plea, Saurabh requested four weeks of transit anticipatory protection arguing that returning to Goa posed an "imminent threat to his life, liberty and safety" due to angry mobs. NMeanwhile new details emerged regarding the escape of Luthras, against whom an Interpol Blue Corner notice has been issued.

Officials said that the duo booked their tickets for Phuket, Thailand, through a travel portal at 1:17 AM December 7, within an hour of learning about the devastating fire. At the time when police and administration were still battling the blaze and attempt ing to rescue staff, the two left India in the early hours of Sunday by an IndiGo flight

In a related development, the Goa Police Wednesday arrested Ajay Gupta, who claimed to be a silent partner and investor in

the 'Birch by Romeo Lane' night club in North Goa, with the help of Delhi Police Crime Branch A Look Out Circular (LOC) had been issued against him.

BJP questions Rahul's foreign trips

SHORT TAKES

New Delhi: The BJP

Wednesday raised questions on Rahul Gandhi's foreign trips and asked the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha about his "compulsion" to often embark on "secret travels' abroad. Alleging that the itinerary of Gandhi's "official or unofficial" trips is not shared when he goes abroad, BJP national spokesperson Tuhin Sinha also asked the Congress leader what he is "hiding" from the country.

PM-led panel meets to select new CIC

New Delhi: The committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to select the new Chief Information Commissioner met here on Wednesday and is learnt to have decided on the appointment of CIC and eight Information Commissioners, with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi apparently giving a dissent note. The meeting that lasted over an hour and a half was held at the office of the Prime Minister and was attended by Gandhi and Home Minster Amit Shah.

Ex-IPS officer held

Lucknow/Deoria: Former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur was arrested Wednesday in connection with an alleged fraud and forgery case related to the allotment of an industrial plot in Deoria district in 1999 and was later remanded to 14 days' judicial custody by a court, officials said. Thakur was arrested in the early hours from the Maholi border in Sitapur district after being taken into custody by police in Shahjahanpur while he was travelling by train from Lucknow to Delhi, they said.

Al admits compliance culture needs overhaul

New Delhi. Dec 10: An Air India investigation into why one of its Airbus planes conducted eight commercial flights without an airworthiness permit found "systemic failures", with the airline admitting it needed to do better on compliance, a company document showed.

An Airbus A320 flew passengers between New Delhi. Bangalore, Mumbai and Hyderabad November 24 to 25 without the mandatory Airworthiness Review Certificate, or ARC, a key permit issued annually by the regulator after a plane passes safety and compliance checks, according to the document.

Air India found engineers and pilots had failed to check the aircraft's documents and that changes were needed to bolster compliance protocols,

"Critical information was not shared with all relevant stakeholders, and opportuni-

ties for timely intervention were missed," said the internal investigation report, which was

"The incident highlights the need for urgent improvements in process discipline, communication, and compliance culture," added the report, which was dated December 6. The findings, with a cover let-

ter signed by Chief Operations Officer Captain Basil Kwauk. have been submitted to Indian aviation authorities, but have not been made public. The report is a stark admis-

sion from an airline that suffered its worst disaster when a Boeing Dreamliner crashed moments after take-off in June killing 260 people.

Air India has also received warnings from the watchdog for running planes without checking emergency equipment, not changing engine parts on time and forging records to show compliance, as well as other audit lapses.



Indian military personnel show skills during 'Vijay Diwas' celebration at Air Force Station Mohanbari, in Dibrugarh

NETANYAHU CALLS PM MODI, BRIEFS ON WEST ASIA SITUATION

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday spoke with his Israeli counterpart Beniamin Netanyahu and discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two nations. Netanyahu called Modi and shared views on the situation in West Asia. "PM Modi reaffirmed India's support for efforts towards a just and durable peace in the region, including early implementation of the Gaza Peace Plan," a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. It said both leaders expressed satisfaction at the continued momentum in India-Israel Strategic Partnership and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening these ties for mutual benefit. "The two leaders strongly condemned terrorism and reiterated their zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," the statement said. The two leaders also agreed to remain in touch, it added.

Bill to curb hate speech tabled in K'taka Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belagavi (Karnataka), Dec 10: The Karnataka government Wednesday tabled in the state Assembly a Bill to curb hate speech that proposed a jail term of up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 1 lakh amid strong Oposition from the BJP, which al leged that the move was aimed at "snatching freedom of expres sion" of political opponents.

The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill, cleared by the cabinet De cember 4, was tabled in the As sembly by State Home Minister G Parameshwara. According to the Bill, "any expression, which is made, published or circulat ed in words either spoken or written or by signs or by visi ble representations or through electronic communication or otherwise, in public view, with an intention to cause injury disharmony or feelings of enmi ty or hatred or ill-will against person alive or dead, class or group of persons or community, to meet any prejudicial interest is hate speech."

'Over 1bn women faced childhood sexual violence in 2023'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: Over a billion individuals worldwide aged 15 and above had experienced sexual violence during childhood, while around 608 million females were exposed to intimate partner violence in 2023, according to estimates published in The Lancet journal. Highest prevalence of both

intimate partner and sexual violence were found to be concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In these regions, the health impacts of violence are compounded by high rates of HIV and other chronic conditions, researchers noted.

In India, prevalence of intimate partner violence was estimated at 23 per cent among women aged 15 and above. Over 30 per cent of women and 13 per cent of men aged 15 and above are estimated to have experienced sexual violence as a child. The researchers analysed

data from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023, the "largest, most comprehensive effort to quantify health loss across places LINKED TO 145,000 DEATHS and over time". The US' University of Washington coordinates the GBD study. "Globally, in 2023,

we estimated that 608 million females aged 15 years and older had ever been exposed to IPV (intimate partner violence), and 1.01 billion individuals aged 15 years and older had experienced sexual violence during

childhood,"" the authors wrote. The study provides new evidence linking sexual violence against children and intimate disorders were among the eight partner violence to a wider

WORLDWIDE, MOSTLY FROM HOMICIDE, SUICIDE, THE RESEARCHERS ALSO **ESTIMATED NEARLY 30,000** WOMEN TO HAVE BEEN **KILLED BY THEIR PARTNERS** IN 2023

INTIMATE

VIOLENCE WAS

range of health outcomes than previously recognised, resulting in significantly higher levels of health loss and disability, they added. Anxiety and major depressive

veloped as a result of intimate partner violence, while experiencing sexual violence as a child was associated with 14 health outcomes, including mental health and substance use disor-

leading causes of disability de-

ders and chronic illnesses. Intimate partner violence was

linked to 145,000 deaths worldwide, mostly from homicide, suicide, and HIV/AIDS. The researchers also estimated nearly 30,000 women to have been killed by their partners in 2023.

Exposure to sexual violence as a child was associated with 290,000 deaths worldwide in 2023, predominantly from suicide, HIV/AIDS, and type 2 diabetes, the study found.

Self-harm and schizophrenia were found to be the leading causes of disability among men - and anxiety the leading cause among women -- due to sexual violence during childhood, especially in south Asia.

Addressing violence against women and children is not only a matter of human rights but also a crucial public health priority that can save millions of lives,

improve mental health out comes, and build resilient communities, the researchers said.

The findings also underscore an urgent need for preventive measures such as strength ening legal frameworks, promoting gender equality, and expanding support services for survivors to reduce health toll caused due to violence, the team said.

The World Health Organization, in a global report published in November, estimated that over a fifth of females in India aged 15-49 were subjected to intimate partner violence in 2023, while nearly 30 per cent have been affected during their lifetime.

Worldwide, nearly one in three, or 840 million, have suffered partner or sexual violence during their lifetime -- a figure that has barely changed since 2000, it said.

international



In combating the Belarusian hybrid attack, we must take the strictest measures and defend the areas most affected by this

INGA RUGINIENE

UN RIGHTS CRISIS

The UN human rights office faces a \$90 million shortfall in 2025, forcing 300 staff cuts, or 15%. High Commissioner Volker Turk says the Geneva-based agency is in "survival mode" as major donors, including the US and European countries, reduce contributions



Why is it we only take people from shithole countries right? Why can't Norway, Sweden?

we have some people from DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, USA

This is the day when **Australian** families are taking back power from these big tech companies and they're asserting the right of kids to be kids and for parents to have greater peace of mind

We will try to convince

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

her back to Dhaka MD TOUHID HOSSAIN



SHORT TAKES

UK sanctions Russia, China firms

London: Britain announced sanctions against Russian media and ideas outlets Tuesday as the UK's top diplomat warned Western nations must raise their game to combat information warfare from "malign foreign states". Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said the UK was imposing sanctions on the microblogging Telegram channel Rybar, the Foundation for the Support and Protection of the Rights of Compatriots Living Abroad - described by Estonian intelligence as a front for the GRU spy agency - and the Centre for Geopolitical Expertise, a think tank run by far-right Russian writer Aleksandr Dugin. Two China-based firms also were sanctioned "for their vast and indiscriminate cyber activities against the UK and its allies," Cooper said

Nigerian soldiers kill 9 protesters

Abuja: Nigerian Army soldiers opened fire and killed nine women protesting the army's handling of communal clashes in the northeastern and Amnesty International told The Associated Press Tuesday. The women were protesting Monday along a maior road in Adamawa's local government Lamurde when the soldiers shot at them after being blocked from passing, witnesses and victims' relatives told the AP in details first reported Tuesday. Ten others were injured in the shooting. witnesses said. The Nigerian Army in a statement denied killing anyone and blamed the deaths on a local militia it said opened fire in the area. Amnesty International's Nigeria office said the agency confirmed soldiers killed the nine protesters, citing accounts from witnesses and families of victims.

2 advisers of B'desh

interim govt resign Dhaka: Two student leaders turned advisers of the interim government in Bangladesh tendered their resignations Wednesday ahead of the **Election Commission's** announcement of the schedule for the polls in February. The resignation by M Mahfui Alam and Asif Mahmud Shoiib Bhuvain comes in wake of the Election Commission's (EC) decision that no adviser can contest the polls while holding a position in the interim government, "Adviser for Information and Broadcasting M Mahfui Alam and Adviser for Local Government, Rural **Development & Cooperative** and Youth & Sports Asif Mahmud Shoiib Bhuvain have tendered their resignation letters at around 5 pm to the Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus," a statement from the chief adviser's office said.

uote 📆 Hollywood-hungry Gulf states bankroll Paramount's Warner Bros bid

Abu Dhabi, Dec 10: Paramount Skydance's addition of three Gulf sovereign wealth funds to the cast of its \$108 billion hostile bid for Warner Bros Discovery marks a relatively rare alliance among the states as they build their own entertainment industries

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF,) Abu Dhabi's L'imad Holding Company, and the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) have agreed to back the deal, Paramount said Monday. Paramount also has backing

from Affinity Partners, started by Jared Kushner, which



in Qatar and the United Arab

The decision to join forces on a single bid and grab a share jewels underscores an appetite among the oil-dependent Gulf states for assets from production to content and their growGULF SOVEREIGN FUNDS RARELY JOIN FORCES ON SINGLE TAKEOVERS

GULF STATES **EXPANDING DOMESTIC ENTERTAINMENT SECTORS**

LACK OF GOVERNANCE **RIGHTS WILL BYPASS CFIUS SCRUTINY**

ing clout in global dealmaking.

'A joint three-way alliance is very unusual, but it allows the three countries to step outside their regional media empires

and brings them straight into the media big league," said Neil Quilliam, partner at Azure Strategy in London

It also fits with their "joint aspirations to become global influencers and to shape new media narratives", he added.

PIF, the Abu Dhabi government on behalf of L'imad and the QIA, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Gulf sovereign funds have

previously invested in the same companies, but have rarely joined forces on a single

For example, Mubadala and PIF invested in India's Reliance Retail in 2020, and were joined by the QIA and Abu Dhabi In vestment Authority in 2023.

The deal size may have driv en the need for several funds said one banker from the region who is not involved, adding that it was unusual for Gulf SWFs to participate in hostile bids.

Because the investors will not have governance rights including board seats or voting rights, their involvement will not require sign off by the U.S Committee on Foreign Invest ment (CFIUS), Paramount said in a filing. Stubborn inflation has split the central bank, and Chair Powell must speak for all of them.

US Judge blocks Trump's Guard deployment in LA

California argued that conditions in Los Angeles had changed since Trump first took command of the troops and deployed them in June

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, Dec 10: The Trump administration must stop deploying the California National Guard in Los Angeles and return control of the troops to the state, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

US District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco granted a preliminary injunction sought by California officials who opposed President Donald Trump's extraordinary move to use state Guard troops without the governor's approval to further his immigration enforcement efforts. But he also put the

decision on hold until Monday.

ditions in Los Angeles had

changed since Trump first took

command of the troops and de-

called up more than 4,000 Cal-

ifornia National Guard troops

but that number had dropped

to several hundred by late Oc-

tober. Only a 100 or so troops

remain in the Los Angeles area.

tion extended the deployment

until February while also try-

ing to use California Guard

members in Portland, Oregon

as part of its effort to send the

military into Democratic-run

cities over the objections of

mayors and governors.

The Republican administra-

The administration initially

ployed them in June.

California argued that con-

US Justice Department lawyers said the administration still needed Guard members in the Los Angeles area to help protect federal personnel and property. An email to the White House seeking comment Wednesday's ruling was not immediately returned.

Trump took command of the California National Guard following protests over his stepped-up enforcement of immigration laws. The call up was the first time

in decades that a state's national guard was activated without a request from its governor and marked a significant escalation

nowever, make clear that the

in the administration's efforts

to carry out its mass deporta-

tion policy. The troops were

stationed outside a federal

detention centre in downtown

Los Angeles where protesters

gathered and later sent on the

streets to protect immigration

officers as they made arrests.

California sued, and Breyer

issued a temporary restraining

order that required the admin-

istration to return control of the

Guard members to California.

An appeals court panel, howev-

er, put that decision on hold.

only check they want is



FIGHTING RAGES ON

Donald Trump signals intent to intervene

Bangkok/Phnom Penh, Dec 10: Thailand and Cambodia traded accusations of targeting civilians in artillery and rocket attacks Wednesday, as US President Donald Trump said he would try to intervene to stop the fighting and salvage a ceasefire he brokered earlier

Clashes raged at more than a dozen locations along their 817km (508-mile) border in some of the most intense fighting since a five-day battle in July, which Trump stopped with calls to both leaders to halt their worst conflict in recent history.

The Southeast Asian neighbours have blamed each other for the clashes that started

'IT CANNOT BE AS SIMPLE AS PICKING UP THE PHONE'

Trump at a rally in Pennsylvania late Tuesday said he would try to stop the renewed



the conflicts he said he had helped stop, such as those between Pakistan and India, and Israel and Iran.

"I hate to say this one, named Cambodia-Thailand, and it started up today, and tomorrow I am going to have to make a phone call," he said.

"Who else could say, 'I'm going to make a phone call and stop a war of two very powerful countries, Thailand and Cambodia?"

Thailand's army has made clear it wants to cripple Cambodia's military capabilities and Prime Minister Anutin operations would not stop.

He declined to comment Wednesday on what the military's end-game was. Asked about Trump's remarks, he said the conflict was a matter between the two countries in-

"Other national leaders may have good intentions in wanting peace," Anutin told reporters. "It cannot be as simple as picking up the phone and calling. There must be proper appointment and agreed talking points. We still have time to prepare these issues if such discussions are to take place.

"Bologna has become a 'man-

gificio' (food factory). Check-

ered tablecloths and straw

chairs are everywhere, in an

invention of tradition for the

benefit of external consumers,'

said Alberto Grandi, a food his-

In an interview with Reuters

he shared his concern about

the risk of food gentrification,

torian and author.

British Indian nurse jailed for rape, sexual assaults at care home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Dec 10: A 47-year-old nurse from Kerala has been sentenced to seven years and nine months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to rape and sexual assault offences at a care home in Scotland.

Naiiil Paul admitted to rap ing a vulnerable colleague and sexually assaulting two other women while he was the man ager of a care home in North Lanarkshire over seven years

He was charged with the offences in 2018 and fled to Kochi just before his trial in December 2019. In October this year, Paul pleaded guilty to the of fences after his extradition from India and was sentenced at the High Court in Glasgow



'In addition to the serious and predatory nature of your offending, notwithstanding the fact you pled guilty, the version of events given by you bears little resemblance to what you have admitted to," Justice Lord Renucci is quoted in UK court reports as saying.

According to BBC Scotland, the court was told that despite the guilty pleas Paul had shown "quite a degree of victim blam ing" in a pre-sentencing report to the extent he claimed he thought he was doing one of

While his sentence was some what reduced from eight years due to the guilty plea, Paul will be supervised for a further two years after his release and will be placed on the sex offenders list

a process where traditional, affordable, and culturally rooted the women a favour. "The degree of victim-blamfoods or food practices are transformed into upscale, trendy, and ing that he has embarked upon often expensive versions. does cause me some concern. "If the goal is to save Italian Although he is assessed at me gastronomic culture, it will be dium risk [of re-offending], that the exact opposite," he said. very much underestimates his level of risk," the judge noted.

> for life. He is also banned from going near any of the victims.

UNESCO recognition fuels Italy's culinary pride

ITALY IS HUNGRY FOR VICTORY AWAITING UNESCO'S DECISION TO ADD ITALIAN CUISINE TO THE LIST OF PROTECTED HERITAGE

Rome, Dec 10: Italians hailed UNESCO's recognition of their cuisine Wednesday as a win for cultural diplomacy but critics warned it could backfire by turning popular dishes into bland tourist fare.

A sound and light show at the Colosseum in Rome Wednesday night will celebrate a successful bid that framed Italian food not just as a set of recipes but as a living heritage rooted in seasonality, community and shared rituals. "Italian cuisine is our most

formidable ambassador," Italv's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said in a video message.

The listing could deliver further economic benefits to a country already renowned for its cooking and where the agrifood supply chain accounts for about 15% of the national GDP. It could also bring some relief



rants, long the backbone of Italian dining, which are facing a harsh economic climate in a market increasingly polarised between premium and budget options.

Neapolitan pizza-making's 2017 UNESCO listing drove a 284%

jump in professional courses,

according to a study by Rome's

while agritourism in the southern Italian island of Pantelleria grew 500% over a decade after its vine cultivation was inscribed in the UNESCO list.

"I'm truly happy about this recognition," said Manuela Menegoni, who runs Trattoria

Bianca and Osteria Fernanda

in Rome with her chef husband Davide Del Duca. "I hope it will spur job cre-

ation, drive investment in innovation and deliver tax incentives across the entire food supply chain, which has long been overlooked by policymakers," she added. Industry groups estimate

UNESCO recognition could boost tourism by up to 8% in two years, adding 18 million overnight stavs.

However, researchers warn that such gains often come with overtourism pressures, as seen in Venice and the Prosecco hills in the northeast, where UNE-SCO status has drawn crowds beyond local capacity.

ITALIAN CITY CENTRES RISK LOSING CHARACTER

Italy's historic city centres are increasingly at risk of becoming what critics call gastronomic theme parks.

'This is a marketing ploy that sells a standardised vision

of Italian cuisine linked to a dozen dishes that must be offered everywhere because tourists expect them. This is to the detriment of a deeper understanding of Italian culinary history, which is being lost," he added.

business



We're in the process of bringing a full business process reengineering exercise for **India Post by which our** delivery will become much more prompt, service oriented and digital oriented

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

SERVIER INDIA GETS NOD FOR BRAIN CANCER DRUG

Drug firm Servier India Wednesday said it has received marketing approval from Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for Vorasidenib (Voranigo), for use in patients with Grade 2 IDH-mutant glioma. Servier India is a subsidiary of French pharmaceutical group Servier. The burden of the rare IDH mutated Grade 2 Gliomas is estimated to be 4,500 patients per year in India, with most being young adults, it said.







biggest fund ously working on that, and in this timeline we should hit the market... we have started the process of identifying the merchant bankers and other service providers



CS SETTY | CHAIRMAN, SBIFML

the coming years, helped by the current macroeconomic trends of the country MANISH TIWARY | CMD, NESTLE



policy actions, and rising domestic flows. Even with global geopolitical and trade tensions, India's long-term market story remains strong and intact

SHRIPAL SHAH | MD AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE,

SHORT **TAKES**

US court relief for Byju Raveendran

New Delhi: A US bankruptcy court has reversed a USD 1 billion damages ruling against Byju Raveendran, according to a statement from the founders of Think and Learn Pvt Ltd - the parent firm of ed-tech platform Byju's. The Delaware Court had, in a default ruling last month, ordered Raveendran to pay more than USD 1 billion, saying the former corporate star who set up the eponymous Indian edtech and tutoring company, had refused to cooperate with legal efforts to locate almost half the proceeds from a USD 1.2 billion US term loan made in 2021.

SpiceJet plans to add 100 more daily flights

Mumbai: Domestic carrier SpiceJet Wednesday said it is planning to introduce up to 100 additional daily flights during the current winter schedule. The airline said it is looking to ramp up its flight operations amid the growing demand across key routes this winter, and also to ensure adequate capacity in the market. The statement came a day after the government announced a 10 per cent cut in IndiGo's winter schedule in a bid to help the crisis-hit airline stabilise its operations and lead to reduced cancellations following the large-scale disruptions that started December 1. "As part of this (ramping up operations) effort, we plan to introduce up to 100 additional daily flights during the current winter schedule, subject to regulatory approvals," SpiceJet said in a

Bol raises ₹2,500cr

from Tier II bonds New Delhi: State-owned Bank of India (Bol) Wednesday said it has raised Basel III-compliant Tier II bonds of ₹2,500 crore to fund business growth. The bonds have a coupon rate of 7.28 per cent per annum, Bol said in a statement. The base issue size was ₹1,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹1,500 crore, it said. The Tier II capital is raised for augmenting the overall capital of the bank and for enhancing the long-term resources in accordance

Sensex, Nifty extend losses for third day

Mumbai. Dec 10: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the third straight day Wednesday to close at a nearly month's low, dragged by a last-hour selloff in consumer durables, private banks and IT shares.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 275.01 points, or 0.32 per cent, to settle at 84,391.27. a level not seen since November 11. During the day, it hit an intraday high of 85,020.34 and a low of 84,313.62. The 50-share NSE Nifty fell

by 81.65 points, or 0.32 per cent, to close at a month's low of 25,758. In the intraday session, it hit a high of 25,947.65 and a low of 25,734.55. Among the Sensex constit-

uents, Eternal, Trent, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Larsen & Toubro and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles were the

However, Tata Steel, Sun Pharmaceuticals, ITC, NTPC, Reliance Industries, HCL Technologies, PowerGrid, and Asian Paints were among the gainers.

"Indian markets mirrored global caution, weighed down by persistent FII outflows, INR weakness, and uncertainty surrounding US-India trade negotiations despite ongoing discussions. In the near term, market direction will be influenced by central bank cues and clarity on trade developments. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.



The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 275.01 points, or 0.32 per cent, to settle at 84,391.27. During the day, it hit an intraday high of 85,020.34 and a low of 84,313.62

The 50-share NSE Nifty fell by 81.65 points, or 0.32 per cent, to close at a month's low

In Asian markets, Shanghai's SSE Composite index, Japan's Nikkei 225, and South Korea's KOSPI settled lower while Hong Kong's Hang Seng finished in the green territory.

Nair added that global equity markets experienced continued volatility due to rising Japanese bond yields and indications of Bank of Japan monetary tightening, which are fostering risk-off sentiments in emerging markets.

"Focus now shifts to the upcoming US Fed meeting, where a 25 basis points rate cut is

widely expected. However, internal divisions and mixed economic indicators may temper expectations for further rate cuts in 2026," he said.

Broader markets also ended lower, with the BSE midcap gauge falling 1.08 per cent and the smallcap index slipping 0.58 per cent.

Among sectoral indices. Services and Consumer Dura bles declined the most by 1.18 per cent each, Capital Goods by 0.99 per cent, Focussed IT by 0.94 per cent, Information Technology by 0.90 per cent, Teck by 0.87 per cent, Industrials by 0.76 per cent, Consumer Discretionary by 0.72 per cent, and Telecommunication by 0.69 per cent.

On the other hand, Commodities, Energy, Utilities, Metal, Oil & Gas, ended in the green while FMCG settled flat.

As many as 2,332 stocks declined, while 1,857 advanced and 148 remain unchanged on

₹ falls 7 paise to close at 89.94 against \$

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 10: The rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 89.94 against US dollar Wednesday, tracking a negative trend in domestic equities and sustained foreign fund outflows.

Forex traders said investors are in a wait-and-watch mode. awaiting clarity from the US Federal Reserve before taking decisive positions.

Investors are also awaiting cues from the US-India trade talks, which could boost the rupee in the coming days.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.00, then fell to an intra-day low of 90.10 against the US dollar and finally settled for the day at 89.94, down 7 paise from its previous close.

Rupee settled up 18 paise at 89.87 against the US dollar Tuesday, "We expect the runes to trade with a negative bias on weak domestic markets and FII outflows, which continue to pres surise the rupee. Delay in trade deal between India and US may further dent the rupee," Anuj Choudhary, Research analyst Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Wednesday said talks with the US on the proposed bilateral trade agreement are progressing.

"Talks are continuously progressing with them. We are moving forward towards a bilateral trade agreement," he said.

A delegation led by Deputy US Trade Representative (USTR) Rick Switzer is in the national capital for two-day trade talks with his Indian counterpart Raiesh Agrawal.

The US' chief negotiator for the pact, Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch. will hold discussions with India's chief negotiator and Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Darpan Jain.

Labour Min inks initial pact with Microsoft



New Delhi, Dec 10: The Ministry of Labour & Employment Wednesday inked an initial pact with Microsoft to strengthen job opportunities, artificial intelligence skilling, and workforce readiness in the country.

This collaboration represents a major step in expanding employment linkages, scaling AI-led skilling, and preparing India's workforce for global opportunities, according to a ministry statement. The ministry has signed a

memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Microsoft in the presence of Union Minister for Labour & Employment Mansukh Mandaviva and Microsoft CEO Satva Nadella, in New Delhi, the statement said.

A central feature of the partnership is Microsoft's commitment to encourage 15,000-plus employers and partners from its extensive international network onto the ministry's National Career Service (NCS) platform.

This will significantly broaden formal job access, support high-growth sectors, and enable India to develop a skilled workforce not only for domestic demand but also for the world, strengthening pathways for international mobility of Indian professionals and youth.

pand AI-driven skilling initiatives through DigiSaksham, equipping millions of young people with future-ready ca pabilities in AI, cloud tech nologies, cybersecurity, and productivity tools.

On the partnership, Mandaviya noted that it reflects a shared ambition to leverage In dia's favourable demographic dividend and create a globally competitive, digitally skilled and future-ready workforce.

He emphasised that Micro soft's participation will acceler ate job access, deepen skilling, and enhance India's leadership in global labour mobility.

"India has achieved a his toric milestone in social protection, with coverage rising from 19 per cent in 2015 to an impressive 64.3 per cent in 2025, benefiting over 94 crore citizens. By embedding AI into platforms like e-Shram and the National Career Service we are fortifying social security and moving closer to our goal of social protection to 100 crore citizens by March 2026. Mandaviya added.

la appreciated India's remarkable expansion of social protection coverage, noting that India has now reached 64.3 per cent coverage, benefiting 940 million

During the discussion, Nadel

MGM Group felicitates 4 women cricketers



Bhubaneswar: Pankaj man and Managing

by seven wickets in the final held in Colombo. The four players from Odisha – Phula Soren of Balasore district and Parvati Marndi, Jamuna Rani Tudu, and Basanti Hansdah of Mayurbhani district — visited the MGM Corporate Office in Bhubane the players for their exceptional performance on the global stage, the MGM head said, "Their dedication, perseverance, and remarkable sporting spirit have brought immense pride to Odisha and the entire nation. They are true inspirations for count less young sportspersons across the state." As a mark of appreciation, MGM Group awarded each player a cash prize of ₹25,000, acknowledging their contribution to India's landmark victory and their role as emerging icons in the world of sports.

PNB hosts agriculture outreach programme

Sambalpur: The Punjab National 37 Bank (PNB) organised an agriculture outreach programme at its Kulundi Branch under Sambalpur Circle Wednesday, drawing around 400 participants, including self-help group (SHG) members, farmers and local residents. The programme was chaired by Circle Head Ajit



Kumar Meher, along with Branch Head Bhabani Shankar Neti, Snigdha Suman Beura, Swagatika Biswal, Agriculture Officer Swagat Pradhan and Mousumi Patel. Officials highlighted key Central and state government agriculture schemes focused on financial inclusion, rural development and livelihood enhancement. The team also explained various agriculture and social security products, while guiding participants on the process of availing different loan products offered by the bank.

Silver surges ₹11,500 to scale new peak of ₹1.92 lakh/kg

New Delhi, Dec 10: Silver prices saw the steepest single-day surge in nearly two months and skyrocketed by ₹11,500 to scale a fresh peak of ₹1,92,000 per kg in the national capital Wednesday, amid robust domestic demand fuelled by global cues

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal closed at ₹1,80,500 per kg Tuesday, and gained ₹11,500 Wednesday in the local retail markets.

So far this year, silver prices have added ₹1,02,300, or 114.04 per cent, from ₹89,700 per kg December 31, 2024

Earlier, such a steep single-day rise in silver price was recorded on October 10 this year when the rate went up by ₹8,500 to ₹1,71,500 per kg.

Meanwhile, the price of gold of 99.9 per cent purity climbed ₹800 on Wednesday to ₹1.32.400 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from the previous close



of ₹1,31,600 per 10 grams.

Gold traded with a modest gain Wednesday, supported by a softer US dollar and firm expectations of a Federal Reserve rate cut. A cautious market tone, coupled with lingering geopolitical uncertainties, also provided an additional tailwind for the precious metal," Saumil Gandhi. Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international market, spot gold was trading 0.16 per cent lower at USD 4,201.70 per

"Gold continues to consolidate around USD 4.200 ahead of the FOMC monetary policy decision due tonight. The central bank is expected to cut rate by 25 basis points, however, focus will be on summary of economic projections and the Fed's take on inflation and job market," Praveen Singh, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Spot silver climbed by 1.53 per cent to hit a record high of USD 61.60 per ounce. On Tuesday, the white metal rose USD 2.66, or 4.58 per cent, to touch a lifetime high of USD 60.82 per ounce.

It has gained USD 3.44, or 5.91 per cent, over the past two sessions, after closing at USD 58.161 per ounce Monday.

Gandhi said silver surged to a fresh record high and extended gains after breaking above USD 60 an ounce for the first time Tuesday, with traders betting on further monetary easing by the Federal Reserve, continued supply tightness, and strong exchange-traded fund inflows to drive the rally

Sebi relaxes re-KYC process for NRIs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Wednesday eased the re-KYC process for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) by removing the re quirement for them to be physically present in India during

digital verification. The relaxation is aimed at making the re-KYC process smoother and more accessible

In its circular, Sebi has decided to modify the existing provisions to ease re-KYC access for NRIs after receiving references

from multiple stakeholders. Under this, the requirement of physical location of the client being in India during digital onboarding has been relaxed for undertaking re-KYC for exist

ing clients, the regulator said. Re-KYC (Re-Know Your Customer) is the process of updat ing or revalidating a customer's

KYC details with a financial institution or intermediary.

The digital KYC app will still need to use tools like random prompts, time-stamping, and geo-tagging to ensure the interaction is genuine.

Tower in Dubai named after SRK fetches over ₹5K-cr

Dubai, Dec 10: Danube Group has sold a one million sq ft premium commercial tower in Dubai, named after bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan, for over ₹5,000 crore on strong demand for office space.

Dubai-based Danube Properties is developing a commercial tower 'SHAHRUKHZ by Danube on Sheikh Zayed Road here at a total cost of around ₹3,500 crore. At an event held on late Tuesday at the Dubai Exhibition Centre, Danube group Founder and Chairman Rizwan Sajan announced that the tower has been completely sold out. The event, which was attended by Shah Rukh Khan, saw participation of around 7,000 people, including real estate brokers. The company has

achieved sales bookings of AED 2.1 billion (over ₹5,000 crore) from the tower, much higher than initial estimates

"To see a project of this scale in Dubai carry my name is both ble," Khan said.

an honour and a reminder of how generosity and vision can come together. Dubai has always embraced me with warmth - it's a city built on courage, imagination, and the belief that nothing is impossi-Last month in Mumbai, Dan-

ube Group in presence of the bollywood actor had launched the 55-storey commercial tower for sale. The company will complete this tower by 2029. When asked about the total

project cost, Sajan Monday

had told PTI that it would be

around ₹3,500 crore including

land, and construction among other expenses.

He said the investment would be met through internal accruals and advances from customers against sales. The commercial project is

set to become one of the most prestigious business landmarks in Dubai," said Rizwan Sajan,

bai. Considering the success of this project, Both Rizwan Sajan and Shah Rukh Khan hinted that there could be more towers named after him. Adel Sajan, Managing Direc-

who is an Indian, born in Mum-

tor of Danube Group, said this celebrity tower has been conceptualised and designed after studying more than 100 prime commercial projects across the

Out of one million sq ft area in this upcoming tower, more than 9 lakh sq ft would be office spaces.

Adel noted that there is a scarcity of Grade A office space in Dubai while the demand is strong from multi-national companies that want to set up

base here. The MD strongly feels that

the demand for both residential and commercial space in the Dubai market would remain strong in the coming years. Danube Properties, a subsidi-

ary of the Danube Group, is one of the leading private real estate developers in Dubai.

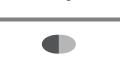
Founded in 1993, Danube group entered the real estate development business in 2014. It is also into building materials

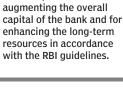
The company has so far launched 40 real estate projects, of which 18 are already delivered and the rest are at

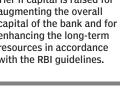
different stages of construction

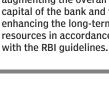
Adel Sajan said the company is expecting to achieve sales of properties worth ₹22,000 crore this calendar year, and out of that 25 per cent will be from customers of Indian nationality.



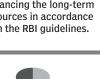




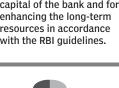


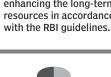




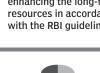




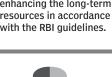


























Mullanpur (New Chandi-

garh), Dec 10: Yet to stamp

his authority in the shortest

format, Shubman Gill would be

eving major gains on home soil

when a well-rounded India look

to extend their dominance over

South Africa in the second T20

With only a travel day separat

International here Thursday.

ing the first two games of the five

match series, Gill won't mind

getting straight into the middle

in search of a substantial knock

rica in the series opener but

the middling returns from Gill

since his T20 comeback in Asia

Cup back in September, re-

Following an impressive de-

but as Test captain in the UK,

Gill was brought back into the

Even though Sanju Sam-

son and his Punjab teammate

Abhishek Sharma were doing

the job at the top of the order,

the team management

showed immense faith

in Gill's abilities as

a T20 opener. The

batter from Kerala

was displaced and

he has since then

struggled to find a

eleven.

role

the

has

down

batting

till num-

place in the playing

The Test and ODI

that Virat

captain can seam-

lessly perform the

Kohli performed

for India till the

T20 World Cup

team.

last vear but

mains a talking point.

T20 setup.

India steamrolled South Af-

India defeat Argentina 4-2 Pressure mounts on Gill; Blue squad eye dominance

Chennai, Dec 10: India produced a brave-heart performance, nullifying a two-goal deficit to beat Argentina 4-2 and clinch the bronze medal in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup here Wednesday.

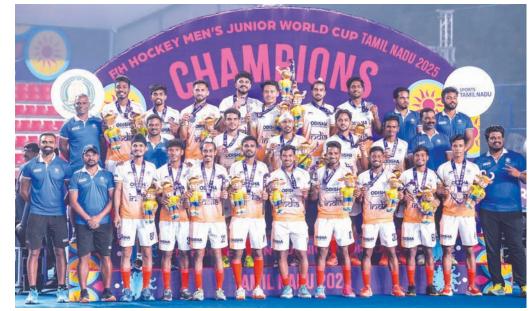
India, who won the title in 2016 in Lucknow, failed to finish on the podium on the last two occasions, ending fourth in 2021 in Bhubaneswar, and two years later in Kuala Lumpur.

India produced a valiant fightback with Ankit Pal (49th minute), Manmeet Singh (52nd) and Anmol Ekka (58th) converting penalty corners, while Sharda Nand Tiwari finding the net from the spot in the 57th minute.

Argentina were the better side on display at least in the first two quarters, scoring through Nicolas Rodriguez (3rd minute) and Santiago Fernandez (44th).

The Argentines controlled the possession of the match in the first quarter as India struggled to get a foothold

Argentina secured their first chance in the third minute in the form of a penalty stroke following a foul by Anmol Ekka



and Rodriguez made no mistake to hand his side the lead.

The Indians were guilty of giving away the ball too easily, which put paid to their chances in the first 15 minutes

India had their best shot at the goal in the 20th minute but Dilraj Singh's shot from top of the circle was finely saved by Argentina goalkeeper Joaauin Ruiz. The Indians started brightly after the change of ends and secured four backto-back penalty corners in the 31st minute but failed to execute a single one with Anmol Ekka flicking the final one over the post.

Argentina kept up the pressure on the Indian defence and secured their first penalty corner in the 37th minute but Indian goalkeeper Princedeep Singh

made a brilliant double save to keep the hosts in the hunt.

Argentina secured two more short corners in the 40th minute but failed to get past the Indian defence.

The visitors secured their fourth penalty corner in the 41st minute but Rodriguez flick was off target.

The Indians didn't lose heart and maintained the pressure in the final quarter and drew level, converting two penalty corners through deflections in the span of four minutes.

Ankit Pal reduced the margin in the 49th minute by deflecting in Anmol Ekka's flick from India's fifth penalty corner. Manmeet Singh drew parity for India four minutes later, deflecting in another Ekka's flick from India's sixth penalty corner.

With momentum on their side, India pressed hard on the Argentine defence thereafter and Tiwari scored from a penalty stroke three minutes from the final hooter.

Ekka drove the final nail on Argentina's coffin, converting a finely executed penalty corner a minute later.

Injuries test you mentally: Hardik Pandya

Cuttack: India's ace all-rounder Hardik Pandya feels a positive mindset has helped him return to the ground "stronger, bigger and better" after injury setbacks led to self-doubt. Pandva's return from a nearly two-month lavoff due left quadriceps injury propelled India to a massive 101-run win against South Africa in the opening T20I here Tuesday. The 32-year-old all-rounder blazed to an unbeater 28-ball 59 and 1/16 with the ball as he announced his return to the side after suffering the injury during the Asia Cup. "My mindset was really about coming back stronger, bigger, better. Injuries test you mentally and at the same point in time, it kind of puts a lot of doubts... and a lot of credit to the loved ones," said Pandya in a video posted on bcci.tv. Pandya says he derives a energy from the crowd, which helps him live up to the expectations. "Life has thrown a lot of lemons at me, I've always thought I'll make lemonade," he said. "Every time I walk in, I feel like all the crowd is just waiting... they've come for this moment to watch me bat," he added.

ODI rankings: Kohli rises, Rohit retains top spot

New Delhi: India great Virat Kohli continued his push to regain his place as the best ODI batter while moving up to the second spot in the latest ICC rankings released Wednesday. Kohli hasn't held the No 1 position for ODI batters since he was displaced by Pakistan's Babar Azam in April 2021, but the right-hander is closing in on the top spot once again following his superb recent efforts for India in the three-match ODI series against South Africa. The 37-year-old was adjudged Player of the Series for his 302 runs across the three matches and he was duly rewarded on the latest set of rankings as he improved two places to second overall behind teammate Rohit Sharma. Rohit amassed 146 runs across the series to hold on to his spot at the top of the rankings.

> considering of runs leaving lithis bat form tle room for an a crucial piece of the puzzle heading anchor. Gill certainly into the ICC showpiece. can't go hammer and tongs like

Abhishek Sharma

in the powerplay

and therefore needs

to figure out what

Besides Gill, cap

tain Suryakumar Ya-

day who has failed to

find consistency

over the past 12

months, is also

facing addi-

tional scrutiny.

down the line,

would be leading

India's World Cup

months

Couple

Suryakumar

works best for him.

India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill, Tilak Varma, itesh Sharma, Axar Patel, Varur Chakravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav,

defence at home and

ity, flow

Washington Sundar, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson. South Africa: Aiden Markram (captain), Quinton de Kock (wk). Tristan Stubbs, Dewald Brevis, <u>David Miller, Donnovan Ferreira</u> Marco Jansen, Keshav Mahar<u>ai</u> Lutho Sipamla, Anrich Nortje, ungi Ngidi, George Linde, Kwena Maphaka, Reeza Hendricks,

Corbin Bosch, Tony de Zorzi,

strike by Nicolas Mustaros in the 33rd minute. Thereafter, both the teams matched chances but couldn't really finish off things to take the match into shoot-out. In the shoot-out, Pablo Roman and Juan Prado found the net for Spain, while for the Germans Benedikt Geyer, Alec von Schwerin and Ben Hasbach scored.

New Delhi, Dec 10: President

Droupadi Murmu honoured the

Indian women boxers Wednes-

day for their achievements at

the 2025 World Boxing Cham-

at the 2025 World Boxing Cham-

pionships in Liverpool earned

praise from the President.

who commended the medal-

ists for elevating the nation's

presence on the international

boxing stage. The Indian squad

wrapped up their campaign

with four medals, two of them

gold, marking a landmark mo-

brought laurels to the nation at

the 2025 World Boxing Champi-

onships in Liverpool called on

President Droupadi Murmu at

Rashtrapati Bhavan. Jaismine

"Indian women boxers who

ment for the country.

India's impressive showing

pionships in Liverpool.

GERMANY BEAT SPAIN, WINS TITLE

champions Germany reclaimed their eighth FIH Junior World Cup title, beating a spirited Spain 3-2 in shoot-out after the scores were leveled 1-1 at the end of regulation time in the Germany took the lead in the 26th minute through a brilliantly crafted field goal by Justus Warweg before Spain drew level through another field

SHORT **TAKES**

New Delhi: The inaugural edition of the Shooting League of India

(SLI) will be held from February

16 to 26 next year, the National

Rifle Association of India (NRAI)

said Wednesday. The dates have

been finalised in alignment with the International Shooting Sport

Federation's (ISSF) 2026 calendar

international competitions. The

league will feature several top

across pistol, rifle and shotgun

first, and aligned to the global

Indian and international shooters

competing in a mixed-team format

disciplines. "The SLI is a milestone

for our sport, franchise-built, athlete-

calendar to maximise participation,"

NRAI President Kalikesh Narayan

team events in multiple categories

3P), and shotgun (trap and skeet).

The franchise-based teams will

be divided into two pools for the

league stage, followed by knockout

rounds. Players are drafted across

four tiers -- Elite Champions, World

Elite, National Champions, and

Junior & Youth -- ensuring a mix

of international stars, top Indian

shooters, and emerging talent.

Commonwealth Kho

Kho in March 2026

New Delhi: Over 24 countries will compete in the inaugural

next year, for which the venue is

Kho Federation of India is in talks

with several states to finalise the

venue after Commonwealth Sport

to take place in India. The event,

(CS) gave the approval for the event

which will see 16 men's and as many

women's teams competing, will be

Kho Kho World Cup held in January

participated. "We are in talks with

several states for the finalisation

Commonwealth Games in 2030, we

are hopeful that this championship

stone towards Kho Kho's inclusion

Commonwealth Games (2030) and

Upkar Singh Virk, general secretary,

in the Doha Asian Games (2030),

Brisbane Olympics (2032)," said

Kho Kho Federation of India.

of the venue. Ahead of the

would prove to be a stepping

this year in Delhi in which 23 nations

organised on the lines of the first

yet to be finalised in India. The Kho

Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship from March 9 to 14

pistol (10m, 25m), rifle (10m, 50m

Singh Deo said in a release. The

competition will feature mixed

league had previously been deferred

to avoid clashes with major

SLI from Feb 16



Prez felicitates female boxers

ODISHA MASTERS

options

doubled

proach since the

triumph in Barba

on its fearless

Hooda, Tanvi, Mannepalli, Kiran enter pre-quarterfinals

Cuttack, Dec 10: Top seeds Unnati Hooda and Tharun Mannepalli as well as other leading Indian shuttlers progressed comfortably to the pre-quarterfinals across singles categories of the Odisha Masters Super 100, here Wednesday.

In women's singles, Unnati began her campaign in commanding fashion, defeating UAE's P. Bharath 21-12, 21-18.

Sixth seed Anmol Kharb survived a stern test from Thailand's Y. Ketklieng, prevailing 21-17, 19-21, 23-21, while third seed Tanvi Sharma outlasted Japan's Aika Iwaki 21-8, 17-21, 21-18.

Fifth seed Anupama Upadhvava barely broke a sweat as she brushed aside Indonesia's Dalila Aghnia Puteri 21-14, 21-13 to enter the pre-quarterfinals.

The men's singles draw also saw emphatic performances

from the seeded players. dismantled Mannepalli Manav Choudhary 21-5, 21-8, while second seed Kiran George eased past Rajesh Srikar 21-12,

21-13. Fourth seed Priyanshu Rajawat was stretched by Saneeth Dayanand, but he held his nerves for a 21-19, 14-21, 21-13 win. Seventh seed S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian overcame Darshan Pujari 21-19, 23-21, and eighth seed Rith-

victory over Numair Shaik. Govind Krishna, Orijit Chaliha, Siddhanth Gupta, Rounak Chouhan, Varun Kapur, Arya Bhivpathaki also won their respective matches whereas AR Rohan Kumar eliminated sixth

vik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar ad-

vanced with a straight-game

seed Manraj Singh 21-6, 21-12. In other women's singles matches, Aditi Bhatt edged out Hong Kong's Liang KW 21-19, 24-22, while Aditi Rao got the better of Indonesia's Catharine Handovo 23-21, 21-9,

Isharani Baruah produced one of the standout results of the day by thrashing Thailand's second seed Pornpicha Choeikeewong 21-15, 21-8.

Aakarshi Kashyap registered a convincing 21-9, 21-10 win over Chinese Taipei's Yi En Hsieh, eighth seed Shrivanshi Valishetty defeated Aalisha Naik 21-17, 21-12, while T Hemanth and Tasnim Mir progressed after hard-fought three-game victories.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S WC HOCKEY

Nidhi's brilliance helps **India beat Uruguay**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Santiago (Chile), Dec 10: Goalkeeper Nidhi made several brilliant saves as India defeated Uruguay 3-1 in shootout after an intense 1-1 draw to stay in contention for a ninth place finish in the hockey Junior Women's World Cup here.

Manisha (19') scored for In dia while Justina Arregui (60') slammed the equaliser for Uruguay Tuesday in the 9/12 qualification match.

The first quarter saw India control the game, creating mul tiple chances early on. However, Uruguay won the first penalty corner in the fifth minute but squandered the chance.

India earned a penalty corner in the 18th minute and played an interesting variation by passing the ball to Sakshi Ra na on the near post. But her shot was blocked by the rival goalkeeper.



Moments later, India broke

IOA, CONI sign MoU to boost bilateral sports cooperation PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral cooperation in sports with a focus on training, infrastructure sharing and sports science collab-

The agreement provides a structured framework for joint promotion of sports, exchange of expertise and mutual access to each nation's elite sporting infrastructure and high-performance centres for athletes, coaches and sports science professionals.

The signing ceremony was attended by Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani and Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya.

and Minakshi won gold medals,

Nupur brought home the silver

medal, whereas Pooja Rani

bagged bronze. The President

congratulated them for their

Jaismine Lamboria (57kg)

and Minakshi Hooda (48kg)

clinched historic world titles,

becoming the first Indians to

be crowned champions under

the revamped federation. Mi-

nakshi delivered a standout

performance in the 48kg final,

defeating Paris 2024 bronze

medallist Nazym Kyzaibay with

In addition to the gold med-

als, Nupur Sheoran earned sil-

ver after a narrow 3-2 split-de-

cision loss to Poland's Agata

Kaczmarska in the 80+ kg final,

while Olympian Pooja Rani se-

cured bronze following a 4–1

semifinal defeat to England's

a commanding 4–1 verdict.

exceptional performances.

"Today marks a proud moment for the Indian Olympic movement. This partnership with CONI opens new horizons for our athletes to train, learn, and excel within one of the world's most respected sporting systems," PT Usha, IOA President, said in a release.

"The exchange of knowledge, expertise, and infrastructure will play a pivotal role in elevating India's global sporting performance. We look forward to a



long and inspiring collaboration with our Italian counterparts."

The MoU outlines structured plans for joint training

camps, coaching exchanges, collaborative sports science programmes, and development pathways for emerging

athletes, signalling a new era of cooperation between the two Olympic committees.

"This partnership arrives at a crucial moment for India's sporting ambitions. Access to worldclass facilities and joint training programmes will significantly strengthen our athletes' preparation for future Olympic cycles,' Mandaviya said.

"The Government of India welcomes this initiative and is committed to supporting meaningful international collabora-

ening that bond.

tions that uplift Indian sport.' Luciano Buonfiglio, President of CONI, said, "Italy and India share a deep passion for sport, and this MoU represents an important step in strengththe deadlock with Manisha (19') striking the ball from a distance as India took the lead. The game opened up in the

final quarter with Uruguay playing a lot more freely. With two minutes left on the clock Uruguay switched their goalkeeper for an outfield player to push ahead in numbers and it paid off.

With two seconds left on the clock, Uruguay won a penalty stroke. Justina Arregui converted the it to take the game into shootout.

India emerged victorious in the shootout as Purnima Yadav, Ishika and Kanika Siwach scored while goalkeeper Nidhi denied Uruguay thrice to ensure her team progresses in the tournament.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: (0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159