

Actor Nushrratt highlights the continuing disparity in box-office success between male and female-centric films

LEISURE | P2



Trump's Gold Card

Trump announces launch of a million-dollar 'Gold Card'. offering pathway for immigrants to US citizenship

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Silver skyrockets

Silver prices jump ₹2,400 to a fresh all-time high of ₹1,94,400 per kilogram in the national capital Thursday

BUSINESS | P11



Golden waves

n a proud moment for India, Abdul Quadir Indori wins two gold medals at the Asian Youth Para Games

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 251 I www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

My govt gave appointments to 37,916 people: CM EC extends SIR time

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said his government has appointed 37,916 people after assuming office last year and is committed to fulfilling its promise of filling 65,000 government posts within the first two years.

Majhi made the remarks while handing over appointment letters to 591 newly-recruited officers and employees in three departments — Water Resources (252), H&UD (142) and Works (197) – at Nijukti Mela here.

Majhi said, "Our government has promised to fill all the 1.5 lakh vacant posts in five years and to fill 65,000 government posts in two years." "A total of 37,916 appointments have already been made in 13 phases. Another 30,000 appointments would be completed in the next six months, while 15,000 additional posts would be filled 'very soon'," he said.

He advised the new recruits to remain free of corruption and committed to implementing public welfare schemes effectively. "Stay above corruption and



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi hands over an appointment letter to a new recruit during Nijukti Mela in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, as Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan and H&UD Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra look on

work with dedication for the development of society and the state." he said. Maihi said the state's goal of becoming a 'Viksit Odisha' by 2036 would not be possible without the contribution of government employees. The CM also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various irriga-

Maihi dedicated 'Mukhyamantri Adibandh Yojana 3.0' to the people. Under the scheme, Rs 2,738 crore has been allocated for the construction of 3,000 new check dams and renovation of 2.000 existing ones over the next five years, which will provide irrigation to about 48,000 hectares.

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Election Commission (EC) Thursday extended the timeline for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in five states and one Union Territory (UT) following requests from the chief electoral officers.

In a statement, the EC issued the revised schedule for SIR in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Uttar Pradesh, The enumeration period for these five states and one UT was to end Thursday, and the draft electoral rolls were to be published December 16.

The decision came against the backdrop of suggestions that several electors had not been able to fill out or submit their enumeration forms.

Several Opposition parties have been alleging that stringent deadlines have taken a toll on the mental health of several BLOs, leading them to commit or attempt suicide. The EC has, however, not acknowledged any of the BLO suicides due to work pressure.

The enumeration period for Tamil Nadu and Gujarat has



14, and the draft electoral rolls will be published December 19, the statement said.

For Madhya Pradesh, Ch hattisgarh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the enumera tion period has been extended till December 18, and the draft electoral rolls will be published December 23. The enumeration period for UP has been extended till December 26, and the draft electoral rolls will be published December 31.

According to the statement, the enumeration period for Goa. Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and West Bengal will end Thursday, and the draft electoral rolls will be published December 16. The schedule for Kerala was revised earlier. The enumeration period for the state will end December 18, and the draft electoral roll will be pub-

NEW LOW FOR RUPEE

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Dec 11: The rupee plunged 38 paise to close at an all-time low of 90.32 against the US dollar Thursday amid uncertainty over the India-US

Forex traders said the rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias as the delay in the trade deal between India and the US may continue to dent investor confidence. Moreover, prevailing risk-averse market sentiment and sustained foreign fund outflows weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 89.95 against the US dollar, then lost ground and fell to a record intra-day low of 90.48, registering a 54-paise decline from its previous close.

At the end of Thursday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 90.32 against the American currency, down 38 paise over its last close. P11

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Don't know about the voters, but the

EC is mighty satisfied with our

response to the vote-chori allegations

Now, Mexico slaps up to 50% tariffs on India

In a blow to Indian exporters, especially automakers. Mexico has approved tariffs of up to 50 per cent starting next vear on imports of hundreds of items from India, China and a few other countries with which it does not have free trade agreements. The move, which Mexico claims is aimed at protecting local jobs and manufacturing, comes at a time when Indian industries are already reeling under a steep 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the US. India exported goods worth \$5.3 billion to Mexico in the last financial year, with cars accounting for nearly \$1 billion. Analysts believe the sudden protectionist turn of Mexico is closely related to pressure from the US ahead of next year's US-Mexico-Canada Agreement review. The North American country's government is understood to be signalling alignment with Washington's tougher stance on Chinese goods, hoping this might help ease the sweeping US tariffs that have hit Mexico's own exports.

AGENCIES

Washington, Dec 11: Mexico's Congress has approved a Bill that seeks to impose tariffs of up to 50 per cent on imports from India, China, Brazil and several other countries with which the North American nation doesn't have free trade agreements.

The Bill, which is set to



take effect January 1, 2026, was passed by Mexico's Senate Wednesday after the lower house approved it. The development comes months after US President Donald Trump imposed a steep 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods entering American markets, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, in August.

The Bill, submitted to Congress by President Claudia Sheinbaum in September, proposes modifications to 1,463 tariff categories (or products) covering more than a dozen sectors, including auto parts, light vehicles, plastic, toys, textiles, furniture, footwear, clothing, aluminium and glass, according to Mexico News Daily.

The proposed tariffs range from 5 per cent to 50 per cent.

"Among the other countries that will be affected by the proposed higher tariffs are India, China, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa and

the UAE," the daily said, adding that China will be the most affected country. It said the government believes that the proposed tariffs would generate additional revenue of USD 3.8 billion per year.

Emmanuel Reyes, a senator from the ruling Morena party, defended the measure, "These adjustments will boost Mexican products in global supply chains and protect jobs in key sectors," said Reyes, who is chairman of the Senate Economy Committee.

The proposal to increase tariffs on China and other countries with which Mexico doesn't have free trade agreements represents 'an alignment with US trade policv'. Horacio Saavedra, a Mexican diplomat, was quoted as saying by news outlet La Silla Rota.

"The [tariffs] measure responds to the shared concern of Mexico and the US about practices that have affected national industries, especially textiles, clothing and certain manufacturing sectors," Saavedra said.

India exported goods worth \$5.3 billion to Mexico in the last financial year, with cars accounting for nearly \$1 billion.

In the trade basket from Indian side, the key items of export are automobiles and auto parts, pharmaceuticals and chemical products. From Mexican side, the crucial item is crude oil. Other products of export to India are gold, chemical compounds and

Goa fire: Luthra bros detained in Thailand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji/New Delhi, Dec 11: Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub in North Goa where a blaze claimed 25 lives. have been detained by the authorities in Thailand, officials said Thursday, as a Delhi court rejected their transit anticipatory hail pleas citing the duo's conduct and the gravity of the offences.

The brothers, prime accused in the case related to the tragedy that unfolded at Arpora village around midnight December 6, would be brought back to India at the earliest to face legal action, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant assured in Panaii.

A court in Goa, meanwhile, remanded Ajay Gupta, who claimed to be a silent partner and investor in the nightclub, in police custody for seven days.

A Delhi court rejected the transit anticipatory bail pleas of Gaurav and Saurabh. The duo had sought four weeks of transit anticipatory bail so that they were not immediately arrested on their return, but Additional Sessions Judge Vandana dismissed the pleas.

'They left, they concealed. and they are now seeking leniency," the Goa government's lawyer told the court, pointing out that they had fled immediately after the fire incident and were evading the legal process.

One of the lawyers of the Luthras submitted during the hearing that they were willing



to return immediately and face the investigation.

But the court noted that the offence was serious in nature as 25 people lost their lives in the fire. Given the 'conduct' of the applicants and nature of the allegations, the court was not inclined to grant them relief, the judge said.

She pointed out that documents showed that the accused booked tickets to Phuket at 1.17am December 7 (over an hour after the fire broke out), and the flight departed at 5.20am. "This fact was 'concealed', and their counsel instead stated that they had left for Thailand before the fire broke out," the judge said.

The licence agreement, trade licence and lease deed of the club had expired, said the court. It also trashed the medical grounds cited by Gaurav, noting that his own lawyer stated that his condition was not such that he cannot travel to another country. The medical documents were old, and do not reflect any serious medical conditions, the judge said.

truck falls into gorge PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

18 killed, 3 missing as

lished December 23.

Tinsukia/Itanagar, Dec 11: At least 18 people from Assam's Tinsukia district were killed and three others are missing as the truck carrying them fell into a deep gorge in a remote and difficult terrain in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh officials said Thursday.

The accident took place on Hayuliang-Chaglagam Road in Anjaw district in the eastern part of the hill state December 8 when the truck was carrying 22 labourers, Defence PRO Lt Col Mahender Rawat said, citing the lone survivor's version.

Arunachal Pradesh Disaster Management Secretary Dani Sa lu said an NDRF team reached an area about 10 km from Hayuliang Thursday evening and would begin operations to retrieve the bodies Friday if weather permits

The site, around 12 km from Chaglagam, lies in difficult ter rain with limited connectivity and the accident had not been reported by any local agency, contractor or civil representa tive until the survivor's arriv al, Rawat said, adding 18 bodies have been sighted.

The accident appears to have occurred December 8, around 40 km from Havuliang towards Chaglagam. However, the dis trict administration received no information about it either December 9 or during the day December 10, Salu said, adding."On December 10 evening one of the survivors managed to climb out of the gorge and reach a nearby BRTF labour camp. Then all were alerted.

NIA chargesheets 11 Reds for loot of 4K kg explosives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against 11 accused, all Maoists. in a case relating to the loot of around 4,000 kg explosives by armed cadres of the CPI (Maoist) during transportation to a stone quarry in Sundargarh in May, an official said Thursday.

NIA said all the accused have been charged under various Sections of UA (P) Act, BNSS, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act. The chargesheet has been filed in a special court.

"During the investigation, NIA found the 11 accused to have been actively involved in criminal conspiracy, planning and execution of the loot of around 200 explosive packets, each containing 20 kg of explosives. The explosives were being transported from Itma Explosive Station to the Banko stone quarry May 27, 2025,' The vehicle, along with its

driver, had been forcibly seized by 10-15 armed Maoists and was taken to a stronghold of the CPI(Maoist) in the nearby Saranda jungle in neighbouring Jharkhand.

The NIA took over the case from the local police in June

New York, Dec 11: TIME

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

magazine named the 'The Architects of AI' as its 'Person of the Year' for 2025 Thursday, highlighting the US tech titans whose work on cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming humanity.

Nvidia's Jensen Huang, OpenAI's Sam Altman and xAI's Elon Musk are among the innovators who have "grabbed the wheel of history, developing technology and making decisions that are reshaping the information landscape, the climate, and our livelihoods," TIME wrote.

One of two covers of the magazine is a homage to the famous 1932 photograph of ironworkers casually eating lunch on a steel beam above New York City.

In the TIME illustration, sitting astride the city are Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, AMD chief Lisa Su, Musk, Huang, Altman as well as Google's AI boss Demis Hassabis, Anthropic's Dario Amodei and Stanford professor Fei-Fei Li.

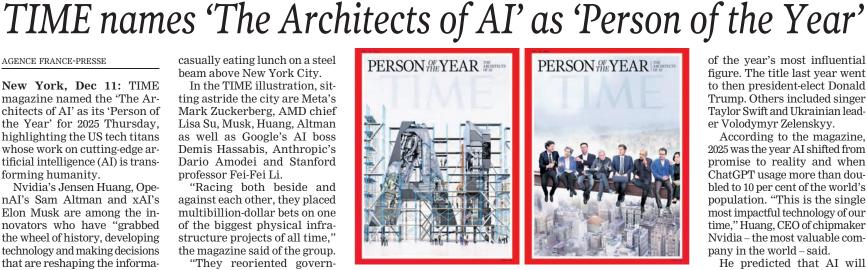
"Racing both beside and against each other, they placed multibillion-dollar bets on one of the biggest physical infrastructure projects of all time," the magazine said of the group.

"They reoriented government policy, altered geopolitical rivalries, and brought robots into homes. AI emerged as arguably the most consequential tool in great-power competi-



tion since the advent of nuclear weapons," it said. Alongside popular AI mod-

els like ChatGPT and Claude. TIME credited investors like



SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, who has plunged billions of dollars into the technology.

TIME's 'Person of the Year' se lection is an acknowledgement

of the year's most influential figure. The title last year went to then president-elect Donald Trump. Others included singer Taylor Swift and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

According to the magazine, 2025 was the year AI shifted from promise to reality and when ChatGPT usage more than doubled to 10 per cent of the world's population. "This is the single most impactful technology of our time," Huang, CEO of chipmaker Nvidia - the most valuable company in the world - said. He predicted that AI will

eventually grow the global economy from \$100 trillion to \$500 trillion.

But the magazine also pointed to AI's darker side.

eisure



LEONARDO DICAPRIO SLAMS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Leonardo DiCaprio says Artificial Intelligence could be an 'enhancement tool', but it lacks humanity, which eventually makes it distant from art. The topic of AI has been in discussions, with some totally opposing it, contrary to those who think it's a great technological advancement

PAMELA ANDERSON OPENS UP ABOUT HER 'NEUTRAL ZONE'

Pamela Anderson is opens up about her special place. The actress said that her garden is a 'neutral zone' where she and her mother 'don't argue'. The actress shared that while she has had a 'complicated relationship' with her mother Carol over the years, being out in her garden, which she has nicknamed Arkady, is somewhere they can find a common ground



₹ Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You are bursting with enthusiasm about your career and relationships. At work, you will easily persuade people to jump onto your bandwagon. But look before you leap. If things take a downturn, says Ganesha, the onus will be on you.

TAURUS

Your innate creativity and resourcefulness is likely to innovative ideas and endeavours will, this day, give unexpected returns both in terms of money and influence. You should however make sure that you do not upset or offend the powers that be, particularly the higher ups.

You have excellent communication skills. Today, you will be at your communicative best, predicts Ganesha. At work, you will be given added responsibility. You may have to investigate a tricky matter you will exhibit tremendous charm and efficiency. There is something magical

CANCER

Your life will spring surprises, some good and some not so good, says Ganesha. You will demonstrate your effectiveness and brilliance at work. In the evening, your loved ones will show you their appreciation for being there for them in the time of need.

Walk the talk, buddy! Well, what it actually means is that today, you will be just too good at communicating ideas and expressions. So if you are at work, then look forward to being assigned some investigative job that might just turn out to be quite demanding, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

A day full of sense and sensibilities in love today. Pessimism will knock more than just once throughout the day. But don't let it affect your work, warns Gane sha. At work, you will be the most wanted trouble-shooter today.

Today shall be, let's say,

different! It promises to be a resourceful day for you, says Ganesha. Chances are today you may decide to refresh your memory and knowledge by visiting a museum or a historical place later in the day. But it's not all learning for you. You don't want to be a dull Jack, do you? Ganesha frolic towards the evening, and hints that this may go a long way in improving your physical state and even work as an antidote for stressed relationships.

SCORPIO

You will bank upon instinct, and spur-of-the-moment decisions will rule all action today, feels Ganesha. You will find yourself lacking focus at work and this might cause problems in the days to come. When it comes to relationships, actions will speak louder than words.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha predicts a constructive and profitable day for all you business tycoons and entrepreneurs. Loans from financial institutions may be sanctioned sometime later in the day. You will make your sweetheart know just how special and integral he/she is in your life, and that you will always cherish this love.

CAPRICORN Your despotic boss will be mighty impressed with your unique talent, and the fact that it contributed to the company earning accolades, says Ganesha. Colleagues will also be supportive of your endeavours, and will push you to go ahead with new assignments.

AQUARIUS

You take inspiration from Hercules today! Your endurance will see you through adversities, asserts Ganesha, Despite this, your playful bantering will cheer your colleagues. You even manage to please your beloved, and that speaks volumes about you!

PISCES

savs Ganesha.

Beating deadlines, with whatever is handy, is what you will be focusing on today. No post-lunch siesta for you. The later part of the day, relaxing with your sweetheart, ought to make up for all the running around you had to do earlier,



tress Alia Bhatt and Tunisian actress Hend Sabry were honoured by Golden Globes at a glitzy gala dinner during the fifth edition of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Film Festival.

Alia has earned critical acclaim and box-office success for standout performances in films such as Highway, Raazi, Udta Punjab, Dear Zindagi and Gangubai Kathiawadi, ports variety.com.

She said, "The Golden Globes are an iconic part of the global awards universe and I am de-

lighted and look ward to continuing my

career in telling more stories of powerful and deserving women."

Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes, described Sarby as "a truly iconic performer and humanitarian whose body of work reflects the depth, power, and global impact of Arab cinema," reports variety.com.

The award for Alia, she said, celebrated "her exceptional contributions to international cinema.'

Sabry was named the recipient of the Omar Sharif Award and Bhatt received the Golden Globes Horizon Award.

Talking about Alia, who is the daughter of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and actress Soni Razadan, will next be seen in filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War, starring Ranbir Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal. The film is scheduled to

release 20th March 2026.



Nushrratt on showbiz truths

Mumbai: Nushrratt Bharuccha has always spoken candidly about the realities of the glamour-driven film industry, and in a recent event she addressed the longstanding imbalance between male- and female-led films

She explained why male-oriented mov ies often perform better. The actress said "They are made less. Males constitute the majority of the population in our country Change doesn't happen instantly; it will take time. But it will definitely happen. Films about women that resonate with audiences tend to perform well. Mimi Chhori, Dream Girl, Akeli and Pink all did well. Heroism isn't gender-based. Females can also act as heroes, though it's rarely portrayed in our country.' Reflecting on her own career, Nushrratt

acknowledged the challenges faced by women in entertainment. Her breakout role in Pyaar Ka Punchnama led many to stereotype her as fit only for commercial comedies. But Chhori became her turning point, allowing her to break those assump tions and prove her versatility.

On the work front, Nushrratt Bharuccha recently made her appearance in an OTT film Chhori 2. Directed by Vishal Furia, she was seen playing Sakshi, a mother fiercely protecting her daughter. It also stars Soha Ali Khan, Gashmeen Mahajan and Hardika Sharma in lead

Ananya's quirky insecurities Madhuri celebrates TT's creative freedom Mumbai: Ananya Panday recently reflected on her growing confidence as an actor dur-

ing a recent interview. She spoke openly about how her early years in the industry were filled with self-doubt and discomfort, admitting that she once struggled to watch or even listen to her own work. "When I started out, I used to doubt everything that I did,' she shared, recalling how she would leave the room whenever someone played her trailers because she couldn't bear to hear her own voice. She described cringing at her expressions and feeling overly critical of her appearance and performances.

With time, however, Ananya says her approach has changed significantly. She credits directors Shakun Batra and Vikramaditya Motwane for helping her evolve, explaining that their trust and creative freedom allowed her to grow. "They believe in you so much and they give you so much freedom to contribute... that as an actor, you start believing in yourself," she said.

Today, she feels far more assured in front of the camera, unburdened by the constant fear of making mistakes. She shared that she is now more confident, willing to take risks, and focused on silencing unnecessary self-judgment as she steps into the next phase of her career

Mumbai: Madhuri Dixit recent-

reflected on how her earlier web projects, The Fame Game and Maja Ma, helped prepare her for the layered storytelling of Mrs. Deshpande. She believes the series has arrived at the perfect stage in her career, especially with the creative freedom that OTT platforms now offer.

According to her, digital platforms have transformed opportunities for women by allowing them to take on complex roles without the pressure of box-office expectations. "OTT has done that for female leads," she said, noting how actors can now experiment freely, unburdened by commercial constraints. She added that this phase encourages her to push herself, take on difficult roles, and explore new dimensions

Madhuri also spoke about the

shifts in the industry, emphasising the increasing presence of women across film and production departments. She recalled a time when film sets had very few women apart from actors and hairdressers, contrasting it with today's inclusive environment. "OTT has democratised filmmaking," she said, praising the platform for bringing fresh talent into the spotlight

possibilities. With Mrs. Deshpande releasing December 19 on JioHotstar, Madhuri continues to celebrate the empowering space that OTT has created, one that encourages risk-taking, diversity, and deeper storytelling for female artists

AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



I'LL BET THOSE DUMB ALIENS GOT BACK TO THEIR PLANET AND PROCRASTINATED! ILL HAVE NO RESPECT FOR DEADLINES I'LL BET THEY PUT EVERYTHING OFF AND ARE DOING A LOUSY JOB AT THE LAST SECOND!



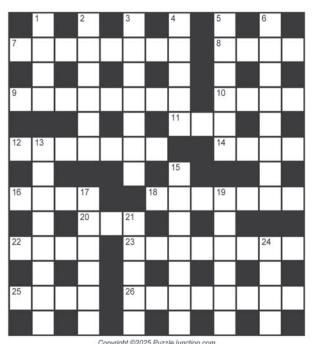
TO LEARN A LESSON!

BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 20 Call for help

22 Conclude, with

23 Blonde's secret

25 Land measure

"up"

Across			
7	Digitalis	plan	

- 8 Pawn
- 9 Military man
- 10 Outback birds 11 Canon camera
- model
- 12 Discard (4,3) 14 Chows down 16 Feudal worker
- 18 Science of matter and energy

Down

26 Vindictive

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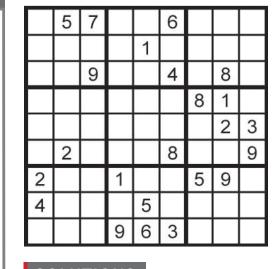
- 1 London district
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4 Sri Lanka

- 6 Kind of guitar
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- 17 Spotted
- 19 Certain musical group
- 21 Paroxysm 24 Tympan, for
- example

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

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

0 0 1 A 3 0 L I V A R S R O C L E A N CROSSWORD ESSEX STEEL

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

explode (5,2)



Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday handed over citizenship certificates to 35 eligible applicants from Nabarangpur district under the provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019.

Speaking at the ceremony held at Krushi Bhavan auditorium, the CM described the CAA as "a sacred and compassionate law, akin to the purifying Ganga, offering hope and relief to minorities persecuted in neighbouring countries.

Welcoming the new citizens, he said, "You are now a part of our collective future. Your safety, dignity, and progress are our responsibility. I warmly welcome you as citizens of India.'

He added that granting citizenship under the CAA reaffirms "India's timeless values refuge." Majhi lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "Bhagirath" behind the enactment of the Act and said Union Home Minister Amit Shah played a decisive role in bringing it into effect.

The Government of India initiated the process of granting citizenship under the CAA through the Union Ministry of Home Affairs after the rules were notified March 11, 2024.

Under these rules, individuals from minority communities in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who entered India on or before December citizenship.

Clarifying the Act's rationale, CM Majhi said that while many countries offer refuge to persecuted minorities, only India can provide a homeland for persecuted Hindus, "If not in India. where else can such a law exist?" he asked.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said many persecuted minorities in Bangladesh and Pakistan are descendants of those who once fought for India's freedom. He assured the new citizens that they would receive all rights and benefits of Indian citizenship, including land for the landless and caste certificates where applicable.

Law and Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said that living as a refugee in one's own homeland after Independence is painful, and today's citizenship certificates have finally set these families free.

Among the recipients, Bapin Mirdha, who came from Bangladesh in 1998, said, "This citizenship certificate has given us a new identity and fulfils a long-cherished dream. Today, we feel proud to be Indian citizens."

CM hands over 35 CAA certificates Wildlife key to ecological balance: Tathagata



Angul, Dec 11: Wildlife plays an essential and independent role in maintaining ecological balance, said *Dharitri* and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy Thursday.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a programme on "Community Contribution to Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Rural Environmental Protection," organised in Rautala village under Badahinsara panchayat in Banarpal block of Angul district. The event was jointly supported by Dharitri, Saathi Parivar and local vil-

Satpathy said no creature - not even the tiniest insect should be harmed without reason. Comparing nature to a mother, he said parents give birth to children and raise them with care, yet today's

generation often fails to look after them. "Parents never wish harm upon their children. Likewise, nature nurtures us, providing everything we need to grow," he said. He added that nature never

harms humans; instead, it is humans who damage nature and end up harming themselves. At the event, Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy joined Tathagata as a guest. Siddhartha Pradhan, pres-

ident of the Sathi Parivar, highlighted the environmental initiatives being taken by the Editor and CE of Dharitri organisation

The Dharitri Youth Conclave has completed five years, he said, adding that young people are being encouraged to take up environmental projects and can receive up to ₹1 lakh

Avoid plastic, protect planet: Adyasha



Angul: Protecting the environment begins at home, and avoiding the use of plastic inside households is essential now, said Dharitri and OrissaPOST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, while addressing an awareness programme organised by 'Sathi Parivar' at Brajamohan High School, Jarada under Banarpal block in Angul district Thursday.

Adyasha highlighted the urgency of creating a community free from single-use plastic and explained to students how excessive plastic consumption affects human life and health. She also warned them about the alarming rise of microplastics in atmosphere and the severe consequences this could pose in near future.

tor Tathagata Satpathy attended the programme as the chief guest and advised the students to shape their lives by understanding the past, present and future. He emphasised that acquiring academic education alone does not make someone a good human being; broader knowledge and continuous learning are essential.

The programme was presided over by school headmaster Binod Kumar Sahu, while 'Sathi Parivar' adviser Sushant Tripathy conducted the proceedings. Among others present were 'Sathi Parivar' president Siddhartha Pradhan and assistant teacher Tarenisen Sahu, who spoke on environmental protection and preventing air pollution, urging students to remain aware from an early age.

CAG's new office in City from April 15

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: If everything goes well, a new office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India – Eastern Region will start functioning from the City here April 15, 2026.

According to official communication, the CAG has approved the creation of its office for Eastern Region in Bhubaneswar, marking a major step toward decentralising oversight and strengthening audit administration across eastern India. The new office will run from the office of Principal Accountant General (Audit-1) from Odia New year,



The Eastern Region Headquarters will be headed by a Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General (Dy CAG)/Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General (ADAI) (Eastern Region) and will assume all roles and responsibilities currently handled by the Eastern Region wing at the CAG's headquarters in New Delhi. "This structural shift is expected to bring decision-making closer to the ground, ensuring quicker resolution of audit issues and more effective monitoring of regional audit and administrative mat-

ters," said the statement. The new headquarters will oversee the Audit Offices of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, enabling more focused coordination and better supervision of audit activities across the four states

MALKANGIRI VIOLENCE

BJD team to assess ground situation



Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Following directions of BJD President Naveen Patnaik, the party Thursday formed a seven-member fact-finding team to assess the current situation in Malkangiri district, where large-scale violence was reported after the body of a 51-year-old tribal woman was found.

The team comprises Manas Madkami, Manohar Randhari. MLA, Ramesh Majhi, ex-Minister,

Pradeep Maihi, ex-MP, Rabi Nanda, ex-Minister, Ishwar Panigrahi, and Laxmipriya Nayak, MLA candidate, Chitrakonda. The team has been entrusted with the responsibility of visiting the affected areas. assessing the ground situation, and submitting a detailed report to the Party President.

"The Biju Janata Dal expresses its deep concern over the reported incidents of violence and urges the administration to take immediate steps to restore peace, ensure the

safety of the affected families, and bring the perpetrators to justice," the party informed in a press statement.

According to reports, the murder of a tribal widow, reportedly due to some land-related dispute and the subsequent recovery of her headless body floating in a local river after four days, triggered widespread violence by the tribals of the Rakhalguda and adjoining villages of the Malkangiri district Sunday and Monday.

The protesting villagers set more than 50 houses on fire and ransacked over 160 houses of villagers of MV-26 village.

Hundreds of Bengali-speaking families, who migrated from Bangladesh decades ago, residing at the MV-26 village, have fled their homes and taken shelter in nearby villages to escape the violence.

Keeping in view the tense situation, several platoons of the Central Armed Police Force and the Odisha Police Force have been deployed to avoid further escalation.

The district administration has convened meetings of both communities to discuss the situation and restore normalcy in the area

Cong rift deepens as Moquim questions OPCC Chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The rift in the Odisha Congress was out in the open after senior party leader Mohammed Moquim wrote to Sonia Gandhi, questioning the leadership of state unit chief Bhakta Charan Das.

Das, who was appointed the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president in February, was not immediately available for comment on the allegations.

In his letter which indicated dissidence in the party, Moquim said, Das was appointed OPCC chief earlier this year despite losing three consecutive elections and having been associated with "a political ideology historically opposed to the Congress".

The former Barabati-Cuttack MLA also flagged the public support of the OPCC president and his MLA son Sagar for a separate 'Kosal state', claiming the stance had created "deep unrest" among party workers. Moquim, who was also in the race to become the OPCC chief in February, pointed to the Congress' massive defeat in the bypoll to the Nuapada assembly seat -- part of Das' parliamentary constituency -as further evidence of the eroding confidence of the people.

"When a leader cannot secure trust in his own constituency. workers naturally lose confidence in his leadership and raise concerns about his ability to guide the party in Odisha," he wrote in the letter. The Congress had lost the seat by

nearly 83,000 votes, he noted. The former legislator said "thousands of grassroots Congress workers" were now confused, demor-

alised and directionless. In the letter, he also claimed that many sincere leaders across the country felt disillusioned due to favouritism, internal lobbying

and lack of recognition However, former OPCC president Jaydev Jena downplayed the development saying, "Anyone from the party can write a letter to the leadership on the functioning of the party. There is no rift within

Over 30 Hero Stones with ancient inscriptions found

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: A remarkable discovery of ancient Hero Stones (Bira Shilas) bearing old Odia inscriptions has been made at Malisahi village under Gadakharada Gram Panchayat of Kanasa Block in Puri district.

More than 30 Hero Stones and memorial pillars—worshipped locally as village deities—were identified during a joint archaeological survey conducted by the 'Rediscover Lost Heritage Group' and the 'Kalinga Epigraphical Research Society' in the Mandakini river valley. The exploration team included Deepak Kumar Nayak, Mihir Bahinipati, Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, Bikram Kumar Nayak and Suman Prakash Swain.

Epigraphist Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, who examined the inscriptions, reported that one of the prominent memorial stones measuring nearly five feet in height—depicts a warrior having a parasol over him, armed and



marching to battle.

Based on the style of the script, Adhikari suggested that the inscription likely dates back to the 18th century. Sharing additional insights, history researcher Deepak Kumar Nayak stated that these Hero Stones are located close to the ancient Kumudeswara Shiva Temple of Malisahi village. The villagers worship them as ancestral guardians. Traditionally, Hero Stones commemorate brave warriors who died in battle or performed exceptional deeds.

According to the Madala Panji—Desha Khanja-53, the fort of Gadakharada was established during the reign of Khorda's Bhoi dynasty ruler, Gajapati Gopinath Dev (1727-1736 CE) and by his son

Jenamani Bhramarabara Rautaray. The inscription indicates that the warriors commemorated here were revered as "Badabadia" or ancestors

Notably, there is a large ancient tank adjacent to the site. It is locally known as Bada Badia Pokhari, further supporting the ancestral association. It is likely that these heroes once served as guardians of the Gadakharada fort's frontier.

Bikash Prasad Das, founding member of the Rediscover Lost Heritage (RLH) Group, stated that the identification of such a large number of Hero Stones at a single location is an exceptional archaeological finding.

After Tipuri village in Puri district, this is the only other site in Odisha where Hero Stones have been discovered in such huge numbers. He requested the State Archaeology Department & the ASI to officially recognise and protect the site, which would greatly enhance its historical relevance.

ସଂୟତି ପରିଷଦ, ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର





ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ଓଡ଼ି

ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବର୍ଷ ପରି ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର କଳା, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ଐତିହ୍ୟ ଓ ପରମ୍ପରାର ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ଉସବ "ମଷେଇ ମହୋହବ - ୨୦୨୫" ଏବଂ "ପଲୁୀଶ୍ରୀ ମେଳା" ମହା ଉଲ୍ଲାସ ଓ ଉଦ୍ଦୀପନା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ନୃତନ ମଞ୍ଚେଇ ପଡିଆ ହିର୍ଲି ଠାରେ ଆସନ୍ତା **ଡିସେୟର ୧୨ ତାରିଖରୁ ୧୬** ତାରିଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହେବ । ସମଗ୍ର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଭିନ୍ନ ଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ନୃତ୍ୟ, ସଙ୍ଗୀତ, ବାଦ୍ୟ, ଲୋକଗୀତ ତଥା ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ନିଜସ୍ୱ ଢଙ୍ଗରେ ବଞ୍ଚେଇ ରଖିବା ଏବଂ ଏହାର ପ୍ରଚାର ପ୍ରସାର ଦିଗରେ "ମଞ୍ଚେଇ" ଏକ ବଳିଷ ମଞ୍ଚ ଯାହା କେବଳ ରାଜ୍ୟ କାହିଁକି ସାରା ଭାରତବର୍ଷରେ ଏକ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ ପରିଚୟ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛି । ମହୋୟବର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଆକର୍ଷଣ "ପଲ୍ଲୀଶ୍ରୀ ମେଳା" ରାଜ୍ୟ ତଥା ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସ୍ୱୟଂ ସହାୟକ ଗୋଷୀର ମହିଳା, କାରିଗରଙ୍କ ଆର୍ଥିକ ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧିରେ ସହାୟକ ହେବା ସହ "ମଷ୍ଟେଇ ସ୍ମରଣିକା" ପ୍ରକାଶନ ପାଠକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆଗ୍ରହ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବ ବୋଲି ଆଶା କରୁଛି ।

ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ସମୟ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀଙ୍କୁ ମଞ୍ଜେଇ-୨୦୨୫ର ଅନେକ ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜ୍ଞାପନ ସହ ଏହି ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ମହୋସ୍ତବରେ ବହୁ ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇ ସମୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକ୍ର ଉପଭୋଗ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱାଗତ କରୁଛି ।

ତଃ ମହେଶ୍ୱର ସାଇଁ

କିଲ୍ଲାପଳ ତଥା ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ, କିଲ୍ଲା ସଂଷ୍କୃତି ପରିଷଦ, ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର







ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ ଯାନ ଇ.ଭି (EV) ବ୍ୟବହାର କରି ଇନ୍ଧନ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ କମ କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ପରିବେଶକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।

ଏହାର ବ୍ୟବହାର ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅଙ୍ଗାରକାସ୍က ନିର୍ଗମନ ହ୍ରାସ ହେବା ସହ ବାସ୍ତୁ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ କମି ଥାଏ |

ଏହାକୁ ଚାର୍ଜ କରିବା ସାଧାରଣତଃ ପେଟ୍ରୋଲ୍ / ଡିଜେଲ ଯାନ ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଶସ୍ତ୍ରା |

着 ପାର୍କ୍ତରିକ ଯାନ ଡୁଳନାରେ ଅପେକ୍ଷାକୃତ କମ୍ଭ ଶବ୍ଦ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରେ ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର ଇ.ଭି. ନୀତି ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ ଯାନ କ୍ରୟ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ଦେଉଚ୍ଛନ୍ତି |



ଶକ୍ତି ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର ସର୍ବୋଚ୍ଚ ଯନ୍ତ୍ୱୀ, (ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ) ତଥା ପ୍ରସ୍ମୁଖ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ ନିରୀକ୍ଷକ



Special court to fast-track Azad's trial Only CPI(M) MLA opposes pay hike

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The state government established a Special Court to speed up the trial of Maoist leader Dunna Kesava Rao, alias Azad (52), who has been in judicial custody since 2011, a Home department notification said Thursday.

The notification said, ".. in compliance of the order of Supreme Court, the state government in consultation with High Court of Orissa, do hereby establish court of Additional District and Session Judge at Paralakhemundi in addition to the existing number of such courts in the judgeship of Gaiapati with effect from the date the said court functions with the local limits of jurisdiction in the entire state of Odisha and fix the place of sitting of



mundi for speedy trial of cases pending against D Kesava Rao.'

However, the Special Court will hear cases excluding those registered under the POCSO Act, 2012, for the time being, it said.

This is perhaps the first instance in the state when a separate court has been created solely to dispose of pending cases of one individual undertrial prisoner (UTP).

outlay of ₹99 crore. The plan closely follows the ₹71.19 crore

eco-tourism initiatives recent-

ly approved for the Debrigarh

Wildlife Sanctuary, being im-

plemented by the Odisha gov-

ernment. The Satkosia project

is also being proposed under the

Ministry of Tourism's Special

Assistance to States for Capital

The Satkosia Tiger Reserve,

Odisha's second tiger reserve,

is a crucial wildlife conserva-

tion habitat. The project aims

to develop sustainable tourism

opportunities—such as nature

trails, wildlife safaris, and river

cruises—while ensuring mini-

mal impact on the ecosystem.

Investment (SASCI) scheme.

Special Court will hear cases excluding those registered under the POCSO Act, 2012, for the time being

At least 37 criminal cases are currently pending against Azad in Odisha and in his native Andhra Pradesh. He was the prime accused in the killing of VHP leader Swami Laxamananda Saraswati, which led to large-scale communal violence in Kandhamal in 2008. At least 39 people were killed, and thousands of houses were burnt in the monthlong violence.

Azad was also an accused in the case related to attacks on the Nayagarh police armoury in 2008 and R Udaygiri jail in 2006. In the Nayagarh armoury attack incident, at least 14 people, including 13 police personnel, were killed.

He also has a murder case against him at Tumudibandha police station in Kandhamal district. Azad has been acquitted in at least 10 cases

Seeking speedy trial of his cases, Azad had launched hunger strikes in jail several times and in March this year, the Supreme Court had directed the governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh to consider setting up special courts for faster disposal of Azad's cases.

Azad was a member of the Maoist party's Orissa State Organising Committee (OR-SOC), and he had surrendered before the Andhra Pradesh police May 18, 2011. He was handed over to the Odisha police June 1, 2011.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Of the 147 MLAs, only CPI(M)'s lone member from Bonai constituency in Sundargarh district Laxman Munda has opposed the nearly threefold hike in lawmakers' salaries and allowances. Munda criticised the Bills that raised monthly emoluments of members from ₹1.11 lakh to ₹3.45 lakh

The Bills were passed unanimously December 9 with the support of Independents as well as BJD, BJP and Congress MLAs. Munda was not present in the House when the Bills were passed.

"I had opposed the four Bills in the committee meeting held to raise the salary and allow ance of MLAs, ministers, Speaker and Deputy Speaker," Munda told reporters Thursday.

A four-time MLA (2004, 2014,

allowances – ₹75,000 constituency, ₹50,000 conveyance, ₹10,000 books, ₹20,000 electricity, ₹50,000 travel, ₹35,000 medical and ₹15,000 telephone

Top posts: The CM will get ₹3,74,000 a month; the Speaker and Deputy CM ₹3,68,000; the Deputy Speaker and Ministers of State

Ministers & Whips: Cabinet Ministers and the Leader of Opposition will get ₹3,62,000 each, while the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip will draw ₹3,62,000 and ₹3,50,000, respectively

2019, 2024), Munda comes from a tribal family and is known for his Leftist views. He said that while Odisha trails many states in minimum wages for workers, its MLAs will now draw the highest salaries and allowances in the country.

While a MLA's salary will be

as constituency/secretarial al lowance, ₹50,000 conveyance allowance, ₹10,000 towards books journals and periodicals, ₹20,000 electricity allowance, ₹50,000 as fixed travelling allowance, ₹35,000 medical allowance and ₹15,000 telephone allowance, the provision of the Bill said.

Similarly, an ex-MLA will get ₹1.17 lakh as pension which includes ₹80,000 pension ₹25,000 medical allowance and ₹12,500 travelling allowance. For each term, an MLA will get an additional ₹3,000, the new provision said.

The CM will get ₹3,74,000 per month while Assembly Speaker and Deputy Chief Minister are entitled to receive ₹3,68,000 deputy speaker and minister of state ₹3,56,000 each. Cabinet ministers and the Leader of the Opposition will get ₹3,62,000 each per month.

ODISHA GETS MAJOR CENTRAL FUNDING

₹199 crore approved for Hirakud, Satkosia tourism

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Central government has approved over ₹199 crore for developing tourism infrastructure in the Hirakud and Satkosia regions of Odisha, with ₹131.92 crore already released to the state. Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat shared this in the Rajya Sabha Thursday, highlighting the government's commitment to boosting tourism in these picturesque regions.

In response to a non-starred question in the Upper Hourse, Shekhawat stated that the Centre had allocated ₹99.20 crore for Hirakud and ₹99.99 crore for Satkosia under the 2024-25 financial plan. The funds are intended to enhance infrastructure, provide improved amenities, and promote the distinctive natural and cultural heritage of

Earlier, the Forest Department's wildlife wing submitted a proposal for an eco-tourism project in the Satkosia Tiger Reserve, with an estimated

AIMS ANNUAL CONVENTION 2025

Good management key to India's growth: Guv



Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Thursday stressed that effective management—rooted in values and strengthened by knowledge-has been one of the driving forces of national development. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) Annual Management Convention 2025 at SOA University.

The Governor said it was a privilege to attend the convention, describing it as a testament to India's commitment to strengthening management education and nurturing the next generation of leaders. He welcomed the gathering to

Bhubaneswar, highlighting the City's growing reputation as a hub of learning, research, and innovation in Eastern India.

Highlighting the role of education, Kambhampati said, "Education is the energy that drives societal and economic transformation. It empowers individuals strengthens communities, and enables the nation to confront challenges with clarity. India's economic growth in entrepreneurship, industry, services, and technology has been guided by capable leaders whose education prepared them to plan, manage, innovate, and lead.'

The Governor added that management education in India is undergoing a major transformation to meet the demands of a rapidly

integrating artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, and digital tools, along with emotional intelligence, teamwork, leadership, and ethical thinking, ensuring students are prepared to navigate complex global challenges," he added.

Focusing on Odisha, Kambhampati said the state is expanding its educational infrastructure, strengthening universities, and building an ecosystem to nurture skilled human capital, highlighting Odisha's unique combination of modern ambition and timeless heritage—from its temples and festivals to its natural resources—which provides opportunities for tourism, industry, and innovation.

The Governor also emphasised the vital role of manage ment institutions in shaping India's future. "As the nation approaches its centenary of independence, nurturing responsible leaders, advancing knowledge, and fostering innovation will guide India toward equitable and sustainable prog-

MSME-DFO hosts 2-day IP Yatra



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 11: The MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Cuttack, under Ministry of MSME, in collaboration with CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar, inaugurated the two-day knowledge-driven programme titled 'IP Yatra' in Cuttack here Thursday.

Conducted under the MSME Innovative Scheme, the initiative aimed to strengthen awareness and capacity building on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among MSMEs. startups, entrepreneurs, innovators and industry stakeholders in Odisha.

The inaugural session began with a welcome address by MSME-DFO Deputy Director Nitisha Mann, followed by special addresses from CSIR-IMMT senior scientist LD Besra, SK Kar representing CV Raman College and MSME DFO joint director PK Gupta Ministry of MSME director Vinamra Mishra delivered the keynote address, highlight ing the ministry's vision and mission to empower MSMEs through IPR potential. Later, technical sessions fol-

lowed on the importance and impact of IPRs, AI-enabled pat ent search and drafting, trade marks and copyrights, and technology transfer for MSMEs The sessions were conducted by experts including T Payan Kumar, Aurobinda Panda, Sk Kar and Hareram Sahoo. The event also showcased an en trepreneurial success story by Shubhalaxmi Future Solutions Pvt Ltd founder Sambit Sahoo followed by an interactive Q&A Over 165 attendees participated

on the inaugural day.

CLASSIFIED

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate Rayagada dated 04.04.2025 I, Ganga Nisika , Address Vill - Chekaguda, PO

- Ramanaguda, Dist. - Rayagada, Pin Code -765029, Odisha, declare that I have changed the name of my Daughter from Jamuna Nishika to Ganga Nisika. Henceforth, she shall be known as Ganga Nisika for all purposes.

Ganga Nisika

CHEPALI PREM KUMAR, S/o Late Chepali Raja Rao declare by this affidavit No.282, dated 09.12.2025, Before the Executive Magistrate, Gunupur, that now onwards I want to correction my son's name as per Aadhaar No - XXXX XXXX 3764 CHAPALA LOKESH (Old name) & Date of Birth - 01.03.2001 (Old). As per Matric Certificate & Birth Certificate's actual name is CHEPALI LOKESH KUMAR & Date of Birth is 29.12.2006. Henceforth I know as Chepali Lokesh Kumar and my date of birth is 29.12.2006. My address as At/PO - Sirijholi, Via - Bikrampur, PS - Gunupur, Dist -Rayagada for all future purposes.

noted that while state gov-

AFFIDAVIT

ernments have the primary responsibility for tourism development, the Central government provides substantial support through schemes such as the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD), and Central Assistance for Tourism Infrastructure Development - Sundidhamuni, P.S (CATID). These initiatives have been instrumental in funding infrastructure projects across Odisha, including in Hirakud and Satkosia

> With these initiatives, Odisha aims to boost its tourism sector by generating employment, supporting local businesses. and promoting eco-friendly, sustainable tourism.

changing world. "Institutions are

From bent for 20 years to a straight life

Bhubaneswar, Dec AHMS-Bhubaneswar Thursday celebrated a remarkable medical breakthrough by its Orthopaedics department. A 37-year-old Kendrapara resident, Biswa Bhushan Rout, who had battled Ankylosing Spondylitis for nearly two decades, has received a new lease of life after undergoing three complex orthopaedic surgeries.

Rout's condition had resulted in complete fusion of his spine and both hips, creat-

that left his trunk bent and immobile from neck to hips. His spine and thighs formed an extreme 150-degree angle, with his chin nearly touching his thighs. The deformity crippled his daily life, making even basic activities such as walking, sitting, and sleeping extremely difficult.

Due to the complexity of his condition and the unpredictable surgical risks — including the possibility of paraplegia several hospitals in Odisha and even premier institutions

take up his case. His financial constraints further limited his access to high-end private healthcare.

The turning point came when he approached AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, where Dr Deepak Neradi accepted the challenge under the guidance of department head Dr Bishnu Prasad Patro. Dr Neradi, along with Dr Gurudip Das, successfully performed bilateral hip replacement and spinal deformity correction using advanced equipment such as Neuromonitor

burr and surgical microscope. These critical resources were made available through the vision and leadership of the institute's executive director, Dr Ashutosh Biswas

Biswas visited the patient and congratulated the Orthopaedics team along with all stakeholders involved in the effort. "AIIMS-Bhubaneswar continues to lead Eastern India with world-class facilities and

VARIATION

EURO **106.00** \$\times 1.00 \quad NIFTY **25898.55** \$\times 140.55

plex spinal and orthopaedic deformities. The department of Orthopaedics remains com mitted to delivering advanced patient-centric care," he said.

With dedicated support from the Anaesthesia team led by Dr Satvajeet Mishra, the surgery was completed without any complications. Following the procedure, the patient was able to sit, stand, walk, squat, and look straight ahead.

VARIATION

SILVER ₹196,755 **↑** ₹8,02

BMC plants 1K saplings in major drive at TTS

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: In a major push to expand urban green cover and improve air quality, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Thursday carried out a massive tree plantation drive at the Temporary Transit Shelter (TTS) near Sainik School. Over 1,000 saplings were planted across the campus as part of the initiative. Housing and Urban Development and Public Enterprises Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra graced the occasion as chief guest, inaugurated the newly established clean canteen, and formally launched the planta-

tion programme. Addressing the gathering. Minister Mahapatra said it is a matter of pride that Bhubaneswar now stands 4th in the country in the clean air survey, underscoring the effectiveness of the City's green initiatives. He added that under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), extensive tree plantation across BMC limits has played a crucial role in improving and sustaining the City's air quality. He urged citizens, SHGs, voluntary organisa-



tions, educational institutions and various organisations to join hands with BMC in its green mission.

BMC is developing dense urban forests at multiple locations in the City using scientific methods. At the TTS near Sainik School, saplings approved by the Odisha Pollution Control Boardshade-giving, flower-bearing and oxygen-rich species-have been planted to create a cool, clean and sustainable green belt. No fruit-bearing trees have been included, ensuring the focus remains on enhancing air quality. Medium-sized saplings were planted for quicker canopy growth and faster ecosystem development.

The Minister further noted that while the TTS campus already had a considerable number of trees, the addition of over a thousand new saplings will significantly strengthen the area's green cover.

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das highlighted previous Miyawaki plantations undertaken by BMC which have now grown into dense green pockets. "Plantation is only the first step. Consistent maintenance ensures long-term success. BMC's Miyawaki and avenue plantations are thriving today due to proper upkeep,'

Housing and Urban Development Principal Secretary Usha Padhee praised BMC's continuous efforts in strengthening urban ecology and emphasised that developing strong green infrastructure is as important as expanding physical infrastructure in a fast-growing city like Bhubaneswar.

She pointed out that BMC's plantation initiatives align with the state government's climate-resilience broader strategy, and that long-term environmental sustainability can only be achieved through collective ownership. Padhee appealed to citizens, community groups and institutions to actively participate, saying that community involvement is the backbone of every successful green initiative.

BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana delivered the welcome address, highlighting the critical role of afforestation in safeguarding Bhubaneswar from natural disasters and maintaining ecological balance. BMC's additional commissioner Kailash Chandra Das proposed vote of thanks.



MARKET WATCH

DOLLAR **90.40 ♦** 0.28 **SENSEX 84818.13 ♦** 6426.86 GOLD ₹**131,634 ♦** ₹1,83

	WEATHE	ER	
	BBSR	СТС	FOREC
Max Temp	28.8°	26.2°	Cold wa
Min Temp	11.8°	11.6°	condition to prevail
Humidity	68%	74%	Bhubanesw neighbou
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Dy CM visits violence-hit Malkangiri

Administration extends internet ban by another 12 hrs

Malkangiri/Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo along with MSME Minister Gokulananda Mallick Thursday visited violence-hit Malkangiri district and reviewed the situation, while the administration has extended the suspension of internet services by another 12 hours.

The two ministers reached the district headquarters town of Malkangiri and chaired a meeting with senior officials. including the Collector, ADGP (Naxal Operation), DIG (Southern Range), SP, on the prevailing situation at MV-26 village.

The Deputy CM was informed in the meeting that no violence has been reported in MV-26 village in the last 60 hours, an official said.

The clash erupted at MV-26 village when a tribal mob belonging to neighbouring Rakhelguda village allegedly attacked the Bengali settlement area Sunday and Monday.

The tribals were angry over the recovery of the headless body of a tribal woman from the bank of the river Poteru December 4. They suspected that a man from MV-26 village killed the woman, whose severed head was also found at a distance of 15 km Wednesday.

A Home department notification Thursday said, "As per the request of Collector and District Magistrate, the Home department extends prohibition of the use and access of social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, X and any other through internet and other medium of data services for another 12 hours till 12:00 midnight of today (11.12.2025) in Malkangiri district.'

Singh Deo also met representatives of Malkangiri Bengali Samaj (MBS) and District Adivasi Samaj Mahasangh at the Collector's office here and heard their grievances. Both groups submitted memorandum to the Deputy CM and apprised their demands while agreeing to cooperate in the restoration of peace in the district.

Speaking after the meeting, Singh Deo stressed maintaining peace. He directed the administration to ensure law and order in the district and prevent further escalation of violence.

In its petition, the MBS has expressed concern over the safety of the Bengali settlers who have been staying in the tribal dominated district for 60 years after being rehabilitated by the Central government in the 1960s.

While demanding a high-level enquiry over the violence at MV-26 and Rakhelguda murder the MBS alleged that attacks on them were made by some influential people. During the riot, every house and household was attacked, they said.



"The people were saved as they fled from the scene, but their houses were destroyed and torched by the mob. All the houses were burned to ashes. After the attack, the way houses were damaged and burnt, some evidence was found of the cannot deny the involvement of Maoist ultras behind such an attack." said MBS president Gouranga Karmakar.

The MBS demanded that the government provide seeds, fertilisers and all necessary things to cultivate for the upcoming season free of cost, as the people have lost everything in the

Tribals, on the other hand, claimed that their lands are being forcibly grabbed by non-tribals, and Malkangiri witnessed a rise in crimes due to the influx of infiltrators between 1970 and 1980. The Bangladeshi infiltrators should be immediately evicted from Malkangiri, they demanded.

The District Adivasi Samaj Mahasangh, Malkangiri, in its petition to the Deputy CM, alleged that non-tribals are fraudulently purchasing tribal lands and encroaching upon community land. The tribals are at the receiving end due to the non-implementation of different laws, including the PESA (Panchayat Extension to Schedule Area) Act.

They demanded that the family of the deceased tribal woman be given land rights over which she was eking out a living by cultivation. "She was killed over the land dispute, and her family should be given rights over that piece of land," the tribals said.

The police have arrested

one 42-year-old man from MV-26 village who allegedly killed the tribal woman over a dispute on sharecropping.

Meanwhile, over 300 people of MV-26 have returned to their houses after tension eased to some extent. The administration has deployed a large contingent of BSF jawans and Odisha Armed Police Force personnel in the area.

The Opposition BJD Thursday constituted a fact-finding team following instructions from party president Naveen Patnaik to visit Malkangiri district to assess the situation

"The team has been entrusted with the responsibility of visiting the affected areas, assessing the ground situation. and submitting a detailed report to the party president," a BJD release said.

JSW pipeline expansion to hit 150 waterbodies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 11: JSW Utkal Steel Ltd. (formerly JSW Steel Ltd.) received permission from the state Water Resources department in 2019 to lay a slurry pipeline transporting iron ore from Joda in Keonjhar district to its steel plant in Paradip. Recently, the company extended the pipeline route from Joda to Kalamang in Sundargarh district. This extension has been approved by the department, with Under Secretary Sasmita Mishra directing the chief engineer to take necessary action December 5.

The expanded pipeline route will cross 150 waterbodies, exacerbating concerns about the region's declining groundwater levels. Mining and industrial activities, particularly unregulated blasting in quarries, have already contaminated groundwater. A report submitted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in June found chromium levels in the Sukinda mining belt 14 times higher than the permissible limit. Environmentalists warn that the loss of wetlands and ponds poses serious ecological risks, with many traditional waterbodies being filled instead of restored.

Despite the risk to waterbodies, approvals for the slurry pipeline continue to move forward, raising concerns that industrial interests are being prioritised over environmental protection

JSW's steel plant in Paradip has increased its annual pro duction capacity from 10 million to 12 million metric tonnes. requiring the construction of a 350 km slurry pipeline. Previ ously, the company received approval for a pipeline from Joda to Paradip, crossing 136 waterbodies. The new propos al, extending the pipeline in the opposite direction from Gobardhanpur, will cross 14 additional waterbodies. The Water Resources department has imposed 30 conditions, including immediate repairs and compensation in case of pipe line bursts, and ensuring that farmland and waterbodies are not damaged. However, local residents fear the pipeline will damage forests, farmland, and waterbodies in Keonihar, Ja jpur, Kendrapara, and Jagatsinghpur districts. The pipeline is set to pass through 70 km of reserve forests, 30 km of protected forests, and 20 km o other forestlands. The project will also draw over 10,000 cubic

Despite a 2018 High Court di rective to protect waterbodies, critics argue that authorities have ignored conservation measures, pushing the pipeline project forward at the expense of the environment.

meters of water daily from the

Baitarani river.

J'khand man trampled to death by elephant

Baripada: A young man from Jharkhand was allegedly trampled to death by a wild elephant in Mayurbhanj district Thursday, officials said. The deceased was among several people who had gone to a forest to see a herd of 24 wild elephants, they said. Suddenly, a tusker chased him and trampled him to death they added. The incident was captured on camera, and the clip has since gone viral on social media. The identity of the deceased is yet to be established, officials said. Assistant Conservator of Forests (Karanjia) Madan Mohan Mahant said more than 50 wild elephants are roaming in the area.

Underpass project to begin in Chhatrapur

Chhatrapur: In a significant development, the long-awaited underpass project at two major junctions on National Highway 16 in Chhatrapur will finally move forward. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has issued a notification inviting bidders to finalise contractors for the construction of vehicular underpasses at these locations. The plan includes three underpasses along the stretch from DRDA Square to Science College Square. One underpass will be constructed at each of the junctions, while the third will provide access for long-distance and short-distance buses traveling in and out of the Chhatrapur Bus Terminal, situated between the two squares. Local residents have been demanding the construction of either flyovers or underpasses at these junctions for over two decades. Despite protests and roadblocks in the past, the project had not materialised until now

Al trail helps arrest 5 Similipal poachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Dec 11: Five noarrested from Similipal National Park after forest officials used advanced scientific tools, including the Similipal Wildlife Intelligence Net-

The arrested men have been identified as Veerasingh Ho (33), Charan Ho (43), Chhale Ho (23), Sagar Ho (29) and Sukra Ho (32), all residents of Dengam and Jadidara villages under Khunta police limits in Mayurbhanj

Forest officials seized two torchlights, seven snares, one gun barrel, 535 grams of dried venison, one polythene sheet, one carry bag. and other items from their possession. A 130 cm country-made gun, hidden behind one of the houses, was also recovered along with two lead bullets and 14 cycle balls used as ammunition.

According to officials, the poachers had allegedly entered the southern forest division of the Similipal Tiger



Reserve armed with weapons to hunt wildlife. Images captured by AI-enabled cameras alerted authorities, following which the project's Deputy Director, Samrat Gowda, instructed field staff to identify the suspects

A team led by the Jenabil ranger conducted a raid in Jadidara village December 9 and seized the materials. A case has been registered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and the accused have been produced before the SDJM Court in Baripada. Forest officials also informed the police about the seized gun, which led to registration of a separate case under the Arms Act. Deputy Director Gowda confirmed that further investigation is underway.

Man kills self over betrayal in business Parjang: A 40-year-old differently-abled man from Kantor village under Parjang police limits in Dhenkanal

district ended life after releasing a video accusing his cousin of betraying him in their truck business, officials said Thursday. According to the complaint, the man, identified as Bibhuti Sahu, had purchased a truck and deployed it in the Talcher coal mines. He had entrusted his cousin, Subhramanyu, with managing the truck's operations. In 2014, when Bibhuti fell ill and was admitted to a hospital in Cuttack, Subhramanyu allegedly took advantage of the situation and transferred ownership of the truck to his own name through refinancing. After recovering, Bibhuti learned about the transfer and lodged a written complaint at Parjang police station November 3, 2024. Then Parjang police official Priyabrata Dash called both parties and, in the presence of lawyers, Subhramanyu reportedly agreed to pay Bibhuti the value of the truck. However, he never paid the promised amount, leaving Bibhuti under severe mental stress. Distressed, Bibhuti recorded a video stating that Subhramanyu should pay ₹9 lakh to his sister, Pushpalata Sunday. He then consumed poison in an attempt to end his life. Family members rushed him to Parjang Community Health Centre and later shifted him to a private hospital in Cuttack where he succumbed. Pushpalata has submitted a written complaint to the superintendent of police and to the IIC of Parjang police station Thursday. Police officials said action will be taken against those found responsible.

Two students killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ravagada. Dec 11: Two college students were killed Thursday when a motorcycle they were riding collided head-on with a private passenger bus on National Highway (NH) 326 near Palupai village under Ramnaguda police limits in Ravagada district.

The victims were identified as Debendra Sabar of Saura Sahi in Gudari and Bishnu Sabar of Badaguda village under Pendili panchayat. Both were first-year students at Badisola College in Kolnara block. The crash occurred while they were riding to college in the morning. Locals rescued the students and took them to the Ramnaguda Community Health Centre, where doctors pronounced them dead.

The mishap sparked tension in the area as relatives of the victims and villagers staged road blockades in front of the health centre and at the accident site near Palupai, demanding compensation. The blockade disrupted traffic on the NH. Ramnaguda BDO Pradyumna Kumar Mandal, tehsildar Pranakrushna Panigrahi, Gunupur SDPO Babuli Nayak and Ramnaguda IIC Sunita Behera reached the spot and began negotiations with the agitators to clear the road following which they relented. An ex-gratia of Rs 10, 000 was also handed over to the kin of each deceased students.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SYSTEMS AND DATA MANAGEMENT **CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS**

HOTEL SAMRAT, CHANAKYAPURI. NEW DELHI Website: www.cbic.gov.ir

Email : cis.dgsystems@gov.in Tender Id.: 2025_DREV_889258

NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SELECTION OF IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY (IA) FOR CUSTOMS INTEGRATED SYSTEM (CIS)

The President of India, through the Principal Director General Directorate General of Systems & Data Management in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs invites Expression of Interest fo Selection of Implementation Agency for Customs Integrated System (CIS). The interested bidders may submit their duly filled application with complete information required as per the tender document ic 2025_DREV_889258 uploaded on CPPP portal on 10.12.2025. The last date for submission of bids is 21.01.2026 upto 17:00 hrs (IST) For detailed Notice and for participation, please visit the e-tender website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. All queries may be emailed to cis.dgsystems@gov.in

CBC 15502/11/0045/2526

Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf o

PR-887/Q/25-26

the President of India invites E-Tende against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST 25-26-51, Date: 10.12.2025, Name of work: Development of loading/unloading platform in connection with upgradation modernization of infrastructure of existing goods shed at Birrajpur. Tender Value ₹3,47,15,265.30. **EMD:** ₹3,23,600. **Cost** of Tender form: ₹ 0. Date of Opening 05.01.2026. The tender can be viewed at website http://www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer/ bidders must have class-II Digital Signature Certificate & must be egistered under on IREPS Portal, Only egistered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper musbe uploaded at the time of participating n e-tendering. Note: e-Tender Forms

NIT-R's AI robot can recognise emotions

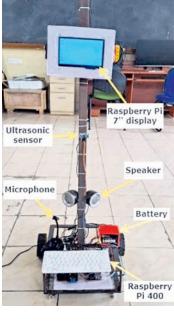
Rourkela/New Delhi, Dec 11: Researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela have developed a robotic system designed to interact with people in the most human-like manner. Developed using Artificial Intel-

ligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLMs), the social robot can understand everyday language, follow spoken commands. answer questions, and engage in real-time conversations beyond pre-coded responses. It is also capable of recognising

users' emotions by interpreting facial expressions, such as happy, neutral, or sad. It can greet users, provide instructions, and reply using natural-sounding speech. The system, which can be used

in homes, classrooms, offices, hospitals, and community spaces, can also detect simple gestures such as waving and raising a hand, and react appropriately.

"The indigenously developed robotic system significantly aligns with the Government of India's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives. In contrast to existing systems available globally, NIT Rourkela's social robot introduces a uniquely integrated framework that combines gesture. emotion, speech, and LLM-based conversational abilities within a



cost-effective platform suitable for Indian contexts," said Dr Anup Nandy, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, NIT Rourkela.

The Institute has also secured a patent for the developed innova-

tion and system. The robot uses the Raspberry Pi system to process user inputs such as spoken commands or text-based

The LLM analyses the input,

◀ The developed system can understand everyday language, follow spoken commands, answer questions, and engage in real-time conversations beyond pre-coded responses

between ₹80,000 and ₹90,000, the developed robot offers a significantly affordable solution compared to other similar systems

₩ith an estimated cost

determines the context, and produces an appropriate, human-like response. This output is then delivered through the robot's speech system using Google Textto-Speech.

The robot is equipped with a wheel-based platform and navigation system for easy movement. The built-in distance-sensing module allows it to avoid obstacles and ensure safe movement in a crowded setup.

The developed robot, detailed in the paper co-authored by Dr Nandy along with Dr Asim Kumar Naskar, Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering, and research scholar Sougatamoy Biswas, and M Tech graduate Rahul Saw at NIT Rourkel and published in the Computers and Electrical Engineering journal, is expected to cost between ₹80.000 and ₹90.000 based on manufacturing scale and component optimisation.



REGIONAL OFFICE: RAYAGADA 1st Floor, Sri Vinayaka House, Near M.I Division, New Colony, Rayagada-765001

POSSESSION NOTICE

[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India under the

Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Co-Obligant/Co-Applicant in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Co-Obligant/Co-Applicant having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Co-Obligant/Co Applicant and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Co-Obligant/Co-Applicant in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches for an amount mentioned below & interest thereon. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Co-Obligant/ Co-Applicant attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor/ Co-Obligant

SEMILIGUDA BRANCH

Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Co-Obligant: 1) Mr. Narasingha Khila, S/o: Dhullabha Khila, 2) Mr. Dhullabha Khila, S/o: Arjuna Khila, 3) Mrs. Sanai Gaurinayakaput, PO: Hikimput, Via: Nandapur, Semiliguda, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha-764039

RAYAGADA MAIN BRANCH Borrower/Co-applicant/Guarantor: 1)

Mr. Meka Chaitanya, S/o: Meka Chinna Veerraju, 2) Mrs. M. Durga, W/o: Meka Chinna Veerraju, 3) Mr. Meka Chinnaveera Raju, 4) Mrs. M At: Gandhi Nagar, 2nd Lane, Rayagada, Dist.: Rayagada, Odisha-765001

Place: Rayagada Date: 11.12.2025

Liabilities **Date of Demand** due as per Notice (in ₹)

Notice / Date of Possession 05.09.2025

All that part of the property Building covered by Khata

No.: 45/167, Plot No.: 7/433, measuring Area: Ac.0.025 Dec. situated over Mouza: Khilua, PO.: Hikimput, Tahasi Khila, W/o: Dhullabha Khila, All are At: Nandapur, PS.: Nandapur, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha, in the name of Mr. Dhullabha Khila and Mrs. Sanai Khila, Bounded by East: Shyama Khillo, North: Property of Damai Hantal, West Road, South: Laichan Khillo. ₹7,35,191/-19.08.2025

charges thereon

₹17,36,371/-

+ Interest &

charges thereon

08.12.2025

All that part of Residential Land situated over Khata No.: 52/2414, Plot No.: 281

Description of

Secured Asset

592/4367, measuring Area: Ac.0.053 Dec., (2308 sqft Approx.) situated over Mouza: Barijola, PS/Tahasi Rayagada, Dist.: Rayagada, Odisha, in the name of Mrs. N Puspabati, W/o: M Chinna Babu, All are Puspabati, Bounded by East: Land of Vendor, North: Road, West: Land of Vendor, South: Land of Mr. S Subba Rao & G Rama Krushna.

> Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India

Auction Start Date & Time: 19.12.2025 at

required information regarding this e-auction. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager PR-887/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

DRM/ENGG, South Eastern Railwa

shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers (Authority- Railway Board's letter no 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd 16.07.2020).

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NAME OF WORK : STRIPPING OF FIAT BOGIES, SHOT BLASTING OF FIAT BOGIE FRAMES & COMPONENTS SS-850/SAE GRADE S-330, PAINTING OF SHOT BLASTED FIAT BOGIE FRAMES & COMPONENTS (INCLUDING SUPPLY OF PAINT ITEMS AND CLEANING & PU PAINTING OF FIAT BOGIES WITH COMPONENTS A MANCHESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF 3

dvertised Value : ₹13,51,75,410/-EMD : ₹8,25,900/-, Period o Completion: 36 Months

Bidding Start Date: 12.12.2025.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 26.12.2025. Manual offers are not allowed against this ender, and any such manual offer eceived shall be ignored. complete information including e-Tender

ocuments and corrigendum is available website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH) CRW/Manch











Watch the too indignantly righteous. Before long you will find them committing or condoning the very offence which they have so fiercely censured



Stephen Holmes

US National

Strategy bears

the cognitive

signature of a

experiences

demographic

and cultural

change as

existential

catastrophe.

The goal is not

merely to ignore

real threats but

to redefine the

threat itself as

the presence

Donald Trump

calls "garbage"

of people

President

movement that

The new

Security

SRI AUROBINDO

Trump's Betting

he new US National Security Strategy is not, in any meaningful sense, a strategy. A strategy connects means to achievable ends. What President Donald Trump's White House published last week is something else: a 33-page confession that this administration does not believe in the future – and therefore sees no point in

Trump's NSS oscillates wildly between triumphalism and declinist anxiety. America is the greatest nation in history; America is being invaded. We are winning; we are losing it all. This is not simply incoherence: It is the cognitive signature of a movement that experiences demographic and cultural change as existential catastrophe.

The NSS announces sweeping objectives without specifying resources, timelines, or mechanisms. Calling it "short-sighted" suggests that a long game is being neglected. But there is no long game. A movement convinced that its world is ending does not plan for the next generation. It smashes and grabs

The grabbiness is explicit. "All our embassies must be aware of major business opportunities in their country, especially major government contracts," the NSS instructs. "Every U.S. Government official that interacts with these countries should understand that part

of their job is to help American companies compete and succeed." Diplomacy has been formally converted into a business development operation.

The National Security Council is tasked with identifying "strategic locations and resources" in the Western Hemisphere for exploitation. Le Monde calls it what it is: prédation économique – economic predation.

The Council on Foreign Relations observes that great-power competition has vanished as an organizing principle in this NSS, replaced by economics as "the ultimate stakes." The document is more polemic than strategy, Council members say, and non-Americans would be wise to discount it as a genuine statement of intent.

Still, the disappearance of great-power rivalry as a framework is not an oversight. It reflects an administration that has quietly abandoned the project of shaping the international order because shaping that order requires believing in the future.

Consider the treatment of allies. The NSS redirects rhetorical fire toward Europe while markedly softening its language about Russia and other adversaries. It warns that Europe risks "civilizational erasure" through immigration and "regulatory suffocation." It demands that Europeans assume "primary responsibility" for their own defense—while simultaneously announcing that the United States will "cultivate resistance" to Europe's current political trends by supporting nationalist and populist parties in European Union countries.

This is not alliance management. It is sabotage dressed as burden-sharing.

The administration claims to reject the liberal internationalist habit of lecturing others about their internal affairs. But it then announces a hemispheric sphere of influence that denies Latin American countries the sovereign right to choose their own trading partners and security arrangements. The 'Trump Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine is nineteenth-century great-power politics repackaged for a president who cannot dis-

tinguish between national interest and personal enrichment. The Cato Institute, no friend of liberal internationalism, identifies another contradiction: the tension between rhetoric rejecting "forever wars" and an underlying insistence that the US must remain global arbiter. An "America First veneer" overlays a de facto hegemonic project. The administration wants the benefits of primacy without its burdens -deference without commitment, access without relationships. This is not foreign-policy realism. It is the doctrine of someone who

has never had to honor a promise. What holds its contradictions together is not a theory of international order or a vision of American leadership, but rather a shared enemy: the future itself.

The NSS is suffused with demographic angst. Migration is framed not as a policy challenge but as an "invasion." The border is "the primary element of national security." The document blurs the line between external threats and internal political competition, treating diaspora communities and demographic change as security problems on par with hostile states. This is the "Great Replacement" theory translated into official dogma.

Why does an administration preparing to withdraw from global commitments need to demonize immigrants? Why does a strategy focused on the Western Hemisphere devote so much energy to attacking European migration policy? It is because the fear that animates this administration is not China or Russia or terrorism. Its animating fear is that tomorrow's America will not look like yesterday's America. The NSS is not a plan for navigating the future. It is an expression of rage at the future's inevitability.

This explains the predatory economics. If you have given up on building lasting relationships, you extract what you can while you can. If alliances are just transaction costs, you abandon them. If the international order impedes you in anyway, you refuse to maintain

it. The logic is that of a liquidation sale: everything must go. Fear of the future also explains the Trump administration's softness toward Russia. Vladimir Putin's Kremlin shares Trump's demographic anxiety, hostility to liberal institutions, and resentment of a cosmopolitan future, and he has what Trump wants: a revisionist ethnonationalist state that has embraced imperialism and suffered no meaningful consequences. The NSS does not name Russia as a serious threat because this administration does not experience Russia as threatening what it values.

What remains when policy cannot deliver what a movement craves? Demolition. Alliances that took generations to build can be wrecked in months. The NSS provides ideological justification - "civilizational" language, "great replacement" premises, "invasion" rhetoric - for severing the ties that allow democracies to work together to confront

the grave challenges of the future. The goal is not merely to ignore real threats but to redefine the threat itself as demographic change – the very presence of people Trump calls "garbage." Why preserve alliances to manage the future if the future will not be white?

The NSS is what happens when foreign policy is drafted by those who experience the future as an enemy. Unable to stop time, they settle for smashing the clocks - and pocketing whatever isn't nailed down.

> Stephen Holmes, a professor at New York University School of Law and Berlin Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin.

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

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

FOCUS CITES COP20

GREEN CRIMES

or half a century, it has been institutionalised that controlled commerce in wildlife and their derivatives meets both people's needs and the survival of the wildlife. Despite 48,000 species, out of 172,600 assessed globally, are still critically endangered, near threatened, and vulnerable in the wild, the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP20) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), global body to regulate wildlife trade, met from November 24- December 5, has brought regulation of 51 species under its ambit at the historical city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Is CITES contributing to and supporting the conservation and

management of wildlife? Largely, when the climate COPs attract all the limelight, despite the urgency in protecting wildlife and their natural habitats against the anthropogenic onslaught, the wildlife COPs generate limited enthusiasm in the public domain, at least in India so far. From the Saiga Antelope in Kazakhstan to the whale shark in the Indian Ocean, the world's wildlife trade regulatory body has brought more species under its purview. However, among others, the listing of Guggul (Commiphora wightii), an endangered shrub found in India, Pakistan and Oman and the withdrawal of scrutiny of Vantara, the largest private wildlife rescue and care centre in Jamnagar, are worth mentioning.

One of the least discussed in public, but highly political issues is the large-scale import of wildlife into Vantara facilities. In September, CITES raised concerns about India's implementation of enforced mechanisms on large-scale imports of wildlife to Vantara, a privately owned facility, and asked



With the porous international borders and a large appetite for poaching and overharvesting domestically for commercial purposes, India becomes one of the high-profile routes of illegal trafficking of live wildlife and its derivatives

India not to issue any further import permits to the facility. However, India defended its laws and regulatory practices, citing a recent Supreme Court order that stated that animal acquisitions by Vantara complied with national and CITES requirements. Remember, the Supreme Court of India asked for an SIT report on compliance with international and national laws by Vantara in a 'sealed envelope'. With support from the US, Japan and Brazil, the CITES has withdrawn the reservations against India, thereof Vantara. This is one of the high-profile private cases in the CITES defended by a host government, which otherwise has been very strict in its approach to protecting endangered species; most are rehabilitated in Vantara.

Since 1976, as a signatory to CITES, India's active participation has been anchored in the principle of precautionary approach and science-based decision making with an effective conservation ethos and commitment to protecting endangered species. It may be noted that India is one of the 17 mega-biodiverse countries in

the world and four of 34 global biodiversity hotspots are in India. Therefore, the stakes are very high for India in CITES, in addition to its unilateral wildlife protection measures. With only 2.4 percent of the earth's land area. India hosts 96,000 species of animals, 47,000 species of plants, and nearly half the world's aquatic plants. Arguably, with the porous international borders and a large appetite for poaching and overharvesting domestically for commercial purposes, India becomes one of the high-profile routes of illegal trafficking of live wildlife and its derivatives.

The Illegal wildlife trade, which can be termed as green crimes or environmental crimes, is an illegal activity harming the environment by exploiting natural resources. While the legal wildlife trade is estimated to be an annual average of \$2.3 trillion in the world, the illegal wildlife trafficking has grown to an annual \$ 25 billion. Arguably, the CITES in the last 50 years have demonstrated to address the challenges in regulating legal trade and combating wildlife trafficking. Domestically, in Odisha,

profitable illegal wildlife activities, two elephant tusks were seized in the Ramla under the Champua division in Keonjhar early this week. In September, two leopard skins, a live Pangolin and a tiger skin were seized in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, respectively. It's being acknowledged that more than 6,900 poachers were arrested for killing and trafficking of 2,869 wildlife animals during the past 10 years in Odisha. This covert industry is ranked

as the fourth most lucrative criminal enterprise in the world. The wildlife trade is incredibly diverse, encompassing live animals, plants and a wide range of wildlife products. Despite its global significance, CITES is not bereft of its weaknesses. So far, CITES has only been focusing on regulating trade rather than addressing the root causes of declining species, such as habitat loss and socio-economic linkages. In addition, the enforcement of provisions of CITES is inconsistent across the range countries of species, leading to loopholes that poachers and traffickers are grossly abusing. For example, India and its neighbouring countries do not have equivalent laws and regulations regarding illegal trafficking or poaching of endangered species. At last, even the listing process of animals is hugely influenced by political and economic clout, overriding scientific assessments. Above and beyond, the CITES success in protecting species depends on the cooperation among range states, stronger enforcement, periodic capacity building of enforcement officials, and minimising corruption at the local level with predictable financial assistance.

The writer is an international advisor on climate change risks and transboundary rivers.

SPECTRUM LABOUR CODES

Avilash Roul

WHEN THE

CLIMATE COPS

ATTRACT ALL

DESPITE THE

URGENCY IN

PROTECTING

HABITATS

WILDLIFE AND

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THE WILDLIFE

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IN THE PUBLIC

LIMITED

DOMAIN

COPS GENERATE

THEIR NATURAL

ANTHROPOGENIC

THE LIMELIGHT.

Labour reforms or rights erosion?



Bruhaspati Samal

SIMPLIFICATION IS WELCOME, BUT **SIMPLIFICATION** THAT SIDELINES **WORKER WELFARE IS NOT REFORM-IT IS** REGRESSION

n the political economy of contemporary India, few reforms have invited such sharp polarisation as the four Labour Codes notified for nationwide implementation through the Gazette Notification dated 21 November 2025. Even before the ink on the notification dried, the streets began to reverberate with protests from Central Trade Unions, independent federations, and workers' collectives across the country. It's alleged that the present Government's approach beginning 2019–20, to club the laws into the Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code are pro-corporate. It dilutes long-established labour rights, lengthen the working day, weaken workplace safety, restrict formation and functioning of trade unions, and endanger the social security framework that evolved through 44 specialised labour laws painstakingly enacted over nearly a century, say critics. However, the Government describes it as simplification, rationalisation, and a catalyst for "ease of doing business." The divergence between the two narratives reflects a deeper conflict—between the objective

of economic efficiency and the imperative of protecting labour rights.

The Code on Wages is the first example of this ambiguity. It unifies the Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Wages Act, Bonus Act, and Equal Remuneration Act under a single legislative umbrella. On paper, it seeks uniformity, but the core concern remains that the Code does not mandate a binding national floor wage. States may still legally fix wages below this benchmark, thereby defeating the purpose of creating minimum income security for workers. By making wage fixation a matter of executive discretion, the Code risks legitimising artificially low wages under the guise of competitiveness, a fear repeatedly expressed by trade unions.

The Industrial Relations Code is arguably the most controversial of all. It raises the threshold for the applicability of Standing Orders from establishments with 100 workers to those with 300, effectively allowing a large proportion of workplaces to hire and fire workers without due process. This single change alters the bargaining power of nearly 70 per cent of workers in the organised sector.

The Code on Social Securi-

ty, which promises universal coverage, presents another laver of concern. It claims to bring gig workers, platform workers, and unorganised workers under its ambit. However, the language of the Code is largely discretionary, allowing the Government to "frame schemes without creating binding statutory obligations. Funding mechanisms are vague, employer contributions are uncertain, and the cap on contributions from aggregators risks making benefits too small to matter.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code replaces thirteen individual laws, including those governing mines, factories, contract labour, and inter-state migrant workers. While the Government argues that it reduces overlap, many of the detailed and mandatory safety requirements of earlier laws have been diluted. The threshold for application has been raised, leaving workers in smaller establishments outside the purview of formal safety regulation.

The implications of the four Labour Codes reach far beyond legal drafting and touch the core realities of India's labour landscape, which is already marked by long working hours, low wages, high informality, and one of the world's highest rates of occupational injuries. Insecure workplaces often undermine productivity and long-term industrial stability.

Yet it would be mistaken to conclude that labour reforms are unnecessary. India needs modern frameworks that balance economic dynamism with social justice. This requires reforms that preserve essential rights through genuine tripartite consultation, scientific wage determination, universal and well-funded social security, stronger safety norms, and protected migrant worker benefits.

Ultimately, labour reforms must emerge from consensus, not confrontation. Simplification is welcome, but simplification that sidelines worker welfare is not reform—it is regression. If the Government embraces dialogue and addresses the substantive concerns raised by workers, the Labour Codes can be reshaped into instruments that genuinely promote growth while upholding the rights of the millions who are the backbone of the nation's economy.

> The writer is a service union representative and a columnist

Strategic shift

Sir, An old adage - Put your money where your mouth is - urges people to demonstrate their conviction through concrete action rather than lofty words. Over the past few weeks, Amazon, Microsoft, and Google have done exactly that by collectively announcing more than \$67 billion in investments in India—an extraordinary vote of confidence that goes far beyond diplomatic praise or market optimism. These commitments signal a major strategic shift: India is no longer viewed merely as the world's IT back office but as the emerging AI front office where cutting-edge innovation, scalable digital infrastructure, and a vast talent base converge. By choosing India as their largest digital investment destination outside the United States, these tech giants affirm the country's growing role as the anchor of a new, non-Chinese digital ecosystem, one that offers stability, scale, and democratic credibility. Their actions highlight India's accelerating journey toward becoming an AI-first economy, where artificial intelligence drives governance, industry transformation, and economic growth. In essence, global technology leaders are signalling that the future of digital innovation increasingly runs through India..

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Disturbing trend

Sir, It is a matter of significant public concern that Parliamentary debates in India have been shrinking of late, a trend highlighted by data on the number of sitting days, the time spent on discussions on key issues, and the increasing frequency of disruptions. Rising political polarisation and a lack of bipartisanship have considerably reduced the scope for constructive dialogue and consensus-building. Candidly put, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership religious nationalism continues to gain strength that often diverts public attention from core issues confronting the country. While India's economic performance, which is the essence of a growing democratic nation, remains lacklustre, despotic tactics, on the contrary, silence dissent. Parliamentary debates are the cornerstone of a truly vibrant democracy. It's through such tools that a democracy ensures Parliamentary scrutiny of Executive's decisions. Without debate and discussion. a democracy is reduced to a body without soul.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





FOCUSES ON MIGRANT WORKERS, DOCUMENT-LESS VOTERS

TMC begins groundwork for second phase of SIR

TMC sources admit that the party's grassroots economic ecosystem is closely tied to the local municipalities and panchayat, which were seen actively canvassing in neighbourhoods during the first phase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 11: With the first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ending Thursday and the draft rolls set for publication next week, the ruling TMC in West Bengal has already launched an aggressive three-track strategy to protect its voter base in the second phase, party leaders

Senior leaders told PTI that the party has begun "early groundwork" on three crucial fronts bringing back migrant workers to ensure in-person verification, identifying and assisting document-less voters, and adding the names of newly married women who have shifted residences

The party, they said, has instructed its organisation down to the booth and block levels to remain "on high alert. A senior TMC leader said,

'The first phase created some wounds because of the pressure exerted by the Commission. The second phase offers us the chance to apply the balm. We cannot afford to slip."

The first major thrust area is voters who lack the 2002 family linkage on the rolls as well



as any of the documents prescribed by the Election Com-

TMC leaders concede that this group is vulnerable and at risk of exclusion.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already announced that from December 12, every block will host a "May I Help You" camp where state government officials will assist citizens in generating necessary documents.

A senior TMC leader told PTI, "The state administration is willing to help but taking these document-less voters to the camps is organisational work. We have identified most such voters during the first phase. Taking them to the government camps will not be very difficult because most of the elected local representatives belong to our party.'

The party has prepared a draft list of such voters and circulated it among local leaders.

According to senior functionaries, the TMC's internal assessment shows that several

districts in south Bengal still

have a significant portion of

migrant workers who did not

Although family members

submitted enumeration forms

on their behalf, the party fears

many names may not make it

to the draft rolls unless the

workers appear physically

One senior TMC leader over-

seeing preparations said, "We

had been trying for months to

encourage them to return. The

government even launched

schemes to motivate them.

The response was not huge, but

the participation we saw in the

first phase has encouraged us.

We now have to ensure the rest

appear in person in the second

MLAs have been asked to

monitor this exercise closely

and ensure that local commit-

tees coordinate transport and

The third category the TMC

is targeting comprises newly

married women who have relo-

District presidents and

during hearings.

phase.

outreach.

return during the first phase.

TMC sources admit that the party's grassroots economic ecosystem is closely tied to the local municipalities and panchavat, which were seen actively canvassing in neighbourhoods during the first phase.

cated, either between districts

or from other states, after mar-

"This number may not be

taken care of. Even if small, it's

an emotional and political mes-

sage that we stand by them,'

said a party functionary.

"The second phase is entirely administrative, carried out by government employees acting as Commission-nominated officers. So our organisational alertness has to be sharper," a senior leader said.

The TMC is also wary of alleged attempts to add "fake voters" aged 18 and above to the rolls. Local-level vigilance committees have been asked to monitor all new inclusions.

At the same time, the party is preparing to challenge deletions, especially those marked as deceased, by demanding supporting documents during hearings to "put pressure on the Commission.

Simultaneously, the TMC is maintaining a parallel dataset through the 'Didir Doot' app, which is being monitored jointly by the government and the party's advisory agency. Constituency-wise tracking is already underway.

"TMC's brass accepts that if the first phase was challenging, the second will be even more crucial," a senior party leader said, adding, "This is where the real battle for voter protection

India's 1st indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell vessel in Varanasi

Varanasi (UP), Dec 11: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Thursday flagged off India's indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell vessel in Varanasi. marking a key milestone in the country's push towards clean, and sustainable inland water transport.

At a ceremony held at Namo Ghat, the Ports, Shipping, and Waterways minister inaugurated the vessel's commercial operations.

Sonowal said the hydrogen-powered vessel reflects India's growing technological capabilities and its commitment to sustainable energy. "This is not just technological progress, but a sign that we are advancing confidently towards green energy and indigenous solutions,'

The minister said it was a matter of national pride that India has now joined the list of countries such as China, Norway, the Netherlands, and Japan that operate hydrogen-powered vessels.

"This proves that our technical capabilities are ready for the future. This has been made possible due to the Prime Minister's visionary leadership. The speed and approach with which every sector has been advancing has ensured that inland waterways now play an important role in India's development journey,' he said in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency.

Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Transport (Independent Charge) Dayashankar Singh, Minister of State for Ayush, Food Safety and Drug Administration (Independent Charge) Dayashankar Mishra and Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fees and Registration (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal were among the public representatives present on the



was a matter of national pride that India has now joined the list of countries such as China, Norway, the Netherlands, and Japan that operate hydrogen-powered vessels

Sonowal said the development marks a major step in India's shift towards green energy and indigenously developed clean-technology solutions.

He noted that hydrogen engines are an emerging technology offering clean, sustainable energy with near-zero emissions, though research and testing are still underway before full-scale commercial adoption.

Highlighting the sector's expansion, the minister said the number of national waterways has increased from five to 111 in the past decade. Cargo traffic on inland waterways rose from 80 million tonnes in 2014 to over 145 million tonnes at present. while tourism activities are operational on 13 waterways.

He added that the foundation for this transformation was laid by the Jal Marg Vikas Project, which created a modern navigation corridor from Haldia to Varanasi on National Waterway-1, with multimodal terminals, advanced equipment, and community jetties.

"Projects worth more than ₹300 crore have already been completed in Uttar Pradesh for waterway development, while schemes worth around ₹2,200 crore will be launched in the coming years," the minister

According to an official state ment, the hydrogen vessel initiative is part of the ongoing modernisation of India's inland waterways under the leadership of PM Modi, who has prioritised clean transport, improved connectivity and enhanced public convenience.

In recent years, the Central government and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) have expanded navigation channels, launched modern terminals, and operationalised new passenger and cargo routes to strengthen water-based communication and reduce logistics costs, it stated. These efforts align with long-

term strategic frameworks including the Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030) and Mar itime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV 2047), which outline the roadmap for greener transport smart infrastructure, and in creased use of alternative fuels on inland waterways, it added

Noida airport to give flyers a taste UP's heritage, Indian culture



Combining Swiss efficiency with Indian hospitality, NIA promises a seamless, comfortable, and world-class travel experience with state-of-the-art technology and facilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Greater Noida, Dec 11: Nearing inauguration, Noida International Airport (NIA) is designed to reflect Indian culture and will offer passengers an immediate sense of the state's identity the moment they arrive, an official statement Thursday said.

Combining Swiss efficiency with Indian hospitality, NIA promises a seamless, comfortable, and world-class travel experience with state-of-theart technology and facilities, it said. Shailendra Kumar Bhatia, Additional CEO of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, said the airport will enhance UP's and India's global profile.

"NIA will offer passengers a fast, smooth, and memorable journey at every stage. The Chief Minister is personally monitoring progress and recently visited the site to review the work and provide directives," he said. The airport's terminal will feature carved elements like lattice screens that will also regulating natural light and airflow, he said.

The grand entrance is inspired by the iconic ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar, reflecting the region's spiritual and histor-

ical heritage, the statement said,

Inside, a spacious haveli-style courtyard will create an open, welcoming environment, underscoring the importance of courtvards in Indian architecture. The terminal's white, flowing roof symbolises the calm, continuous movement of UP's major rivers, embodying a harmonious blend of nature and modernity.

Noida International Airport will also offer a cutting-edge, digital-first travel environment.

Advanced systems such as self-bag-drop machines, self-boarding gates, and biometric-based DigiYatra at all entry points will reduce waiting time and simplify the passenger journey. Smart signage, intuitive interfaces, and fully digitised processes have been integrated to ensure maximum convenience and efficiency, it said.

The authorities' said the airport's retail area will showcase a mix of local handicrafts, artwork, modern brands, and exclusive souvenirs.

Duty-free stores, premium outlets, and UP's signature crafts such as Banarasi silk, chikankari, and attar will be on sale. Noida International Airport has been developed as a green airport, with sustainability integrated into every stage from construction to daily operations, the statement said.

The airport complex will rely extensively on renewable energy, particularly solar power and off-grid wind systems, to minimise dependence on conventional sources. Rainwater harvesting, advanced waste management, and modern sewage treatment plants will further strengthen its environmental

EV charging stations will be available across the campus to encourage electric mobility and reduce carbon emissions.

After mosque row, Ayodhya-style Ram Temple proposed in Bengal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 11: In a sharp escalation of Bengal's temple-mosque political duel ahead of the assembly polls, posters appeared across Salt Lake Thursday announcing plans for an Ayodhya-style Ram temple complex on the metropolis's eastern fringes, promising a school, hospital, old-age home and other welfare facilities.

The posters, attributed to local BJP leader and former local unit president Sanjay Poyra, have come up in City Centre, Karunamoyee and several other prominent pockets of Bidhannagar.

They proclaim that a Ram temple "similar to the Ayodhya structure" will be erected on a four-bigha plot and invite residents to contribute Re 1 each as donation for the project.

The development comes just days after suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir laid the foundation stone of a Babri Masjid-styled mosque in Rejinagar, Murshidabad, December 6, the anniversary of the 1992 demolition, under unprecedented security.

On the same day, the BJP held a parallel ceremony in Banjatiya's Manindra Nagar, also in Murshidabad, where local leaders initiated groundwork for a Ram temple, taking sharp aim at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for "appeasing politics".

With Salt Lake now entering the arena, the battleground has moved close to the state's administrative heart, giving the political tug-ofwar an unmistakable symbolic edge.

Speaking to reporters, Poyra described the initiative as a social-spiritual movement rooted in 'Ram Rajya'.

"Ram's kingdom must have Ram's temple. A Ram temple will come up in Bidhannagar-just like the one in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh," he said. On the specifics of land, Poyra remained guarded. "We have identified land, but I will not disclose the location now. If we reveal it, obstacles will be created. Many people have offered to donate land, many have offered to supply construction materials, and some have even expressed willingness to donate idols," he said.

Poyra announced that the bhumi pujan and foundation stone-laying ceremony will be held March 26, coinciding with Ram Navami.

Babri Mosque Trust raises ₹3.5cr so far

Kolkata, Dec 11: West Bengal Islamic Foundation of India, the trust formed for the proposed Babri Mosque at Beldanga in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, by the now-suspended Trinamool Congress leader Hu₹3.50 crore.

The manual counting of currencies collected as cash donations filled in 11 trunks was completed Wednesday night, and the total amount accumulated was ₹87 lakh, confirmed a close confidant of Kabir. At the same time, the online

Varies from approximately Rs.4.92 lakh to Rs.38.85 lakh for 13 Nos. of work (Rs.121.29 Lakh)

From dt.17.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to dt.26.12.2025 up to 05.30 P.M.

From dt.17.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to dt.26.12.2025 up to 05.30 P.M. through online On dt.29.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M. onwards

signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

donations deposited at the designated bank account of the said trust, through the scanning of the QR code. have reached ₹2.63 crore as of Wednesday night. It was learnt that from Sunday afternoon until night, the money from a total of four boxes was counted. A sum

Nature of Works

OIPR-08155/11/0004/2526

cash. The counting of mon ey resumed using machines Monday afternoon. The counting of the remaining seven boxes was completed by Tuesday. The total amount of dona-

tions collected from these boxes reached ₹38.34.000. In total, ₹75.67.523 were counted

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SAMBALPUR

No. 4920/Date, 09.12,2025 'e' Procurement Notice BID REF No.: SE, MID, SBP/13/2025-26

13 (Thirteen) No.

Referred to DTCN Referred to DTCN

Civil Construction works

Name of work No. of Works

ender paper cost

eriod of receipt of bid through Date of opening of bid documents Digital signature certificate of

http://tendersodisha.gov.in Name & Address of the OIT

Further details can be seen from ne e-Procurement market place

Total No. of works

Date & time of availability of bid

Last date/time for receipt of bid only

Date/time of opening of Financial Bid

0. Date of Transparent Lottery (if cases

12. Further details can be seen from the "e" Pro

OIPR-32260/11/0024/2526

te/time of opening of Technical Bid

Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Sambalpur At-Motijharan, P.O.-B.S.S. Nagar, Dist.-Smbalpur, PIN-768001, Ph.: 063-2412791, E-mail ID: eemisbp@yahoo.co.in http://tendersodisha.gov.in

in website (http://tendersodisha.gov.in

The bidder must possess compatible digital

Sd./- Superintending Enginee OIPR-32036/11/0029/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, NAYAGARH e-Procurement Notice

atter No. 3223

o. A-1112: The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Nayagarh on behalf overnor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Double Cover only in ONLINE mod ribe contraction of works detailed in the table from "B" Class contractors registered with centre of State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Centre. overnment/M.E.S./Railways for execution of civil works on production of definite proof fro e appropriate authority. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works

Improvement to Canal Service Road of projects under CAPEX Road grant for the

year 2025-26. 02 (Two) Varies from Rs.86.70 lakh to Rs.99.97 lak

03 (Three) Calendar Months From 12.12.2025 at 10 A.M. to document in the portal for online bidding 18.12.2025 upto 5 P.M.

> 19.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. at Office of th Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division intimated through website aft

At 11.00 hrs. onwards of Dt.23.12.2025 . Name & address of the Officer Inviting Office of the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Nayagarh, Tel. No. (06753) 291003 e-Mail ID: eemidivisionnayagarh@gmail.corcurement Portal https://tendersodisha.gov.ir

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

Building Works 'C or D' Class 55,53,040/-3 Calendar Months 12.12.2025 (5.30 P.M.) to 23.12.2025 (5.00 P.M.) Availability of Bid documents Last date for receipt of Bids 23 12 2025 upto 5 00 PM Clast date for receipt of Bids
 Can Laz 225 upto 5.00 P.M.
 Supering of Bids
 Can Laz 225 at 5.00 P.M.
 Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodishagov.in. The Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender, if any, will be hosted

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST
OFFICER, ATHMALLIK (KL) DIVISION
At: Haridanali, P.O./P.S.: Athmallik, Dist.: Angul, PIN - 759125
No. MM-346 Email: dfo.kl.alk@gmail.com, Mob. No.: 8280342716
Order No. 273

Bid Identification No. DFO (KL) ALK-02 (Online) 2025-26
The Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik (KL) Division, Odisha on behalf o Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate in Single cover system in ONLINE

MODE only, for the work 1. Construction of Forest Quarter at Kadaligan

MODE only, for the work 1. Construction of Forest Quarter at Kadaligarh (KL) Range Office Campus. 2. Construction of Forest Guard Quarters at Nakchi KL Range. 3. Construction of Forest Guard at Anandapur CG Campus of Boinda (KL) Range. 4. Construction of Forest Guard quarters at Kurumtap CG Campus of Madhapur (KL) Range under Athmallik (KL) Division for the year 2025-26.

4 Nos.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 11.12.2025

the website only. Sd /- Divisional Forest Officer

Athmallik (KL) Divisi

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER



EOI Identification No. CCEKC-01/2025-26 Expression of Interest No.B-801: The Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar (the "Authority") on behalf of the Works Department, Government of Odisha invite Expression of Interest (EOI) from Registered firms for the following works.

engagement 36 Months Arrangement of Venue Set-up, Logistics Non-Consultancy and other allied activities associated with state level function at different locations under Keonjhar (R&B) Circle In accordance with the provisions under the Guidelines for Engagement of Non Consultancy Services issued in the Office Memorandum No. 7460/F Dt. 04.03.2025 No. 16832 dt. 04.06.2025 & No. 21619 dt. 23.07.2025 of the Finance

Government of Odisha & Odisha General Finance Rule-2023, the Authority no invites eligible registered service provider to apply for above assignments. Letter of Invitation of the Authority along with all other relevant details of Express of Interest (EOI) will be available in the website: www.odisha.gov.in from 10:30

A M of 12.12.2025 to 4:00 P.M of 31.12.2025. Further details with any addendur corrigendum and cancellation can be seen from www.odsha.gov.in.

Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted by Courier/ Speed Post Registered Post only to the following address latest by 4:00 P.M. on 31.12.2025 during office hours only. Submission of bid through any other mode and late bid wil

Proposals received shall be opened at 11:00 A.M. on 02.01.2026 in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Keonihar (R&B) Circle, Keonihar-758001

Adress of Authority
Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar, O Pin - 758001, Tel : +91-6766-255226

IPR-34033/11/0099/2526

Email: ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com

national



The Congress government was compelled to take loan to repay the installments of already existing loans as there was a loan liability of ₹75,000 crore when he took charge

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU I HIMACHAL PRADESH CM

'ROCKETS WILL BE LAUNCHED FROM KULASEKARAPATTINAM'

Rockets will be launched from Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu from 2027, ISRO chairman V Naravanan said Thursday. India's second space-port is currently under construction in TN's Tuticorin district to handle Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) launches





Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, and their families should step

quest the Election Commission to conduct their re-electior in Uttar Pradesh using ballot papers

KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA I

UTTAR PRADESH DY CM

We should not allow them to come. But if they are already there in some places of Upper Assam. then we will evict them from

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM People know for whom so many teach-

there as we did in Uriamghat

ers lost their jobs in 2017, and now they have joined hands. This is dwell much on it

political talk and I don't want to MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Modi hosts dinner for NDA MPs

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday hosted a dinner for MPs belonging to the National **Democratic Alliance** constituents (NDA) at his residence here. The MPs travelled together in batches, boarding buses which took them to Modi's residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. This comes close after the NDA's landslide victory in the recently held Bihar polls, in which the coalition secured 202 seats in the 243-member state Assembly.

MP CM declares state free of Naxalism

Balaghat/Bhopal: With the surrender of two Navalites in Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yaday claimed Thursday that the state was free of became possible due to the determination to eliminate Naxalism from the country by 2026 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. he said. Yadav was addressing a programme organised under the 'Rehabilitation to Rejuvenation' campaign related to the surrender of Naxalites in Balaghat via video conference from Bhopal.

Delhi cops recover 40 stolen phones

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested four alleged members of a mobile phone theft syndicate and recovered 40 high-end smartphones, more than 20 of which were stolen during the recent AP Dhillon concert at the IGI Stadium, an official said Thursday. The accused allegedly used aluminium foil to wrap stolen iPhones immediately after theft to block signals and prevent tracking through "Find My iPhone" or remote locking. Afterwards, they took the devices to Ghaziabad and sold them in the grey market within

Court grants interim bail to Umar Khalid

hours, the official said.

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday granted interim bail from December 16 to 29 to former JNU student Umar Khalid to attend his sister's wedding. Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai granted interim relief to Khalid, who is an accused in the case regarding the larger conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots

Mamata warns of dharna over any voter deletion



Krishnanagar (WB), Dec 11: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee Thursday intensified her attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah. calling him "dangerous" and warned that she would sit on an indefinite dharna if even a single eligible voter's name was excluded during the SIR

Addressing a rally in Nadia district's Krishnanagar, Banerjee alleged that Shah was directly guiding attempts to remove "1.5 crore names" from the voters' list, and accused the Centre and EC of using the SIR of electoral rolls to unlawfully delete names of lakhs of eligible Bengali voters ahead of the 2026 assembly polls.

"The country's home minister is dangerous. His two eyes send a message of disaster-in one eye you see Duryodhan, and in the other, Dushasan, He asks to tag the people of these bordering areas as Rohingyas

The CM's remarks came a day after Amit Shah warned in Parliament that those "standing with infiltrators" would "vanish from Bengal", prompting Banerjee to issue a sharp counter Thursday

and Bangladeshi," Banerjee said, dramatically intensifying the rhetoric she has been using over the past week in her public meetings

Banerjee alleged that the SIR exercise was being "weaponised" barely two months before the polls, selectively conducted in Opposition-held areas and supervised by officials "aligned with the BJP" and sent from Delhi.

"From Delhi, BJP is sending people to pressurise the DMs with the intent of removing 1.5 crore names from the electoral list. If any name is deliberately removed, I will do a sit-in protest. I urge you to do the same. If any eligible person's name is struck off, I will sit on a dharna till it's restored." she said.

In her sharpest escalation yet, the chief minister issued an unusually strong call to women to "fight back" if their names were struck off, alleging that the revision process would be used to intimidate mothers and sisters during the polls.

"Mothers and sisters, if your names are struck off, you have things at your home the ones vou use for cooking. Do vou have strength in your soul? If they cut your name, will you catch them? The women will fight from the front and the men will be behind them. Bengal wants to see your strength," she said.

Banerjee claimed that dis-

trict magistrates were being pressured to remove valid names during the revision.

"In Bihar you may have managed it, but you cannot do this in Bengal," she said, alleging that the draft rolls were being prepared "at the instruction of the BJP's IT cell.'

The chief minister cited reports that individuals who had submitted names of grandparents as part of their documentation would be called for hearings and risk deletion from the rolls.

Baneriee also said the BJPled NDA government at the Centre would not be able to complete its term.

The CM reiterated that she had not filled her own SIR enumeration form, asserting that she would do so only after every citizen's form was accepted.

EC officials have clarified that as a serving chief minister, Banerjee is already enrolled as a "marked elector," a category that includes the PM, all CMs and other constitutional office-bearers, and does not legally require her to submit an enumeration form.

The first phase of the SIR concludes Thursday, with draft rolls scheduled for publication December 16.

Hearings and verification will continue through December and mid-January, with the final electoral rolls slated for publication in mid-February.

Guwahati commercial complex fire controlled after nearly 40 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Dec 11: A blaze that engulfed a commercial complex housing a shopping mall and SBI's premium and commercial banking branches in Guwahati was contained Thursday evening after 40 hours, with water tenders from the Indian Air Force, Indian Army, and Guwahati Refinerv assisting in firefighting efforts officials said.

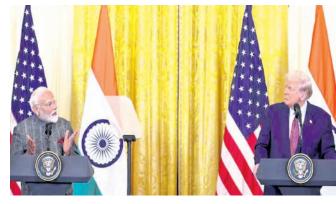


The fire broke out at Swagata Square Complex in ABC Point around 12.30 am Wednesday. Besides offices of the PSU lender, the complex also houses shopping mall 'Sohum Emporia'. "The fire was controlled at 4 pm. However, we will observe the building tonight and do a thorough search during daylight tomorrow," a senior official of the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) told PTI.

The official said altogether 28 fire tenders were pressed into service since the incident. with additional units arriving from Morigaon, Kamrup, Nalbari and Darrang districts. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was also called in with high-tech smoke-reduction equipment to assist in the operation.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASD-MA) in its evening bulletin said though the fire is controlled, operations are still on.

PM dials Trump, discusses economic ties, trade deal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump Thursday discussed ways to sustain momentum in the bilateral economic partnership in a phone conversation amid signs of the two sides inching closer to firm up a much-awaited trade deal.

The phone talks between the two leaders came on a day Indian and American negotiators concluded two-day talks on the proposed bilateral trade agreement that is expected to provide relief to India from Trump administration's whopping 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods. In a social media post, Mo-

di described the conversation as "warm and engaging". "We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments. India and the US will continue to work together for global peace, stability and prosperity," Modi said without making any reference to trade ties. US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer Tuesday said without divulging details that the US has received 'best" ever offers from India on the proposed trade agreement.

Modi and Trump last spoke in October. The relations between New Delhi and Washington witnessed a major downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent in August including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

The strain in the relations has been exacerbated by con stant criticism of New Delhi by officials in Trump's adminis tration. There have been efforts by both sides In the last few weeks to repair the ties. Modi and Trump reviewed the steady progress in India-US bilateral relations and exchanged views on key regional and global developments, an Indian readout said. It said the two leaders reiterated that India and the United States will continue to work closely together to ad vance global peace, stability and prosperity.

Officials familiar with the phone conversation said Modi and Trump reviewed progress in India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership and exchange views on expanding cooperation in trade, critical technologies, energy defence and security.

Both leaders agreed to work closely to address shared challenges and advance common interests besides expressing satisfaction at the steady strength ening of bilateral cooperation across all domains, they said.

OVERSEAS JOB SCAM

6,700 Indians rescued from Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Centre Thursday informed the Parliament that it has taken notice of instances of dubious firms involved in fake recruitment job offers, having lured Indian nationals mostly through social media channels to South-East Asian countries, and till date over 6.700 Indians have been rescued from Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said this in a written response to a query in Raiva Sabha.

"It has come to the notice of the government instances of dubious firms involved in fake recruitment job offers having lured Indian nationals mostly through social media channels to South-East Asian countries including Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and made them to carry out cyber crime and other fraudulent activities from scam centres operating in these countries," he said.

Missions/Posts take up the issue of rescue and repatriation of Indian nationals actively with the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned government agencies of the host country like immigration, labour department, home affairs, defence and border affairs and law enforcement agencies," he said.

Singh, in his response, also shared the number of Indian nationals including software engineers rescued till date, with concerted efforts of Indian embassies in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

These figures stood at 2,265 in Cambodia, 2,290 in Lao PDR and 2,165 in Myanmar.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



'New Aravalli definition a death warrant for mountain range'

As per the new definition, "Aravali Hill" is any landform in designated Aravali districts with an elevation of 100 metres or more above its local relief and an "Aravali Range" is a collection of two or more such hills within 500 metres of each other

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Dec 11: The recent Supreme Court order adopting the Centre's 100-metre definition for Aravalli hills and permitting sustainable mining is "a death warrant" for Rajasthan's oldest mountain range, experts said.

They argued that up to 90 per cent of the Aravallis could vanish in the coming years if the decision is implemented.

As per the new definition, "Aravali Hill" is any landform in designated Aravali districts with an elevation of 100 metres or more above its local relief and an "Aravali Range" is a collection of two or more such hills within 500 metres of each other.

At a seminar organised bv Bharat Seva Sansthan at Prakrit Bharati auditorium here Thursday, the experts argued that relying solely on a committee report allowed mining in an ecologically fragile belt spanning Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat.

Magasaysay awardee Rajendra Singh, known as the "Waterman of India," said earlier governments and courts took nature and environmental issues seriously, but that approach has disappeared.

"If this decision, meant to benefit one individual, is implemented, only 7-8 per cent of the Aravalli will survive," he said, calling for a legal battle



as well as mass public mobilisation.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly Tika Ram Jully endorsed the campaign, saying, "If the Aravalli doesn't survive, nothing will."

Activist Jayesh Joshi said the first concern should be the

than's economy. G S Bapna, former Advo-

tribal communities who have

lived off the Aravalli ecosys-

tem for thousands of years.

Pradeep Poonia, also an ac-

tivist, warned that if mining

expands, "not just the hills

but agriculture, wildlife and sanctuaries will be wiped out".

Congress leader Vaibhav

cate General and secretary of Bharat Seva Sansthan, urged the Centre to bring a "Mountain Conservation Act" similar to the Forest Conservation Act. "Once mining begins, the

Gehlot termed the situation

alarming. "If we don't act now,

future generations will never

thambore and Sariska survive

because of the Aravalli," he

said, stressing that protecting

the range is crucial for Rajas-

Jhalana Leopard Safari, Ran-

forgive us.

available technology can flatten the Aravalli in days," he warned.

Speakers said unrestricted mining would worsen desertification, strain water resources, and trigger irreversible ecological damage. They vowed to challenge the order through legal means while building a people's movement to safeguard nature.

Top court asks HCs to monitor UAPA cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Supreme Court Thursday asked chief justices of all high courts to examine the status of pending trials in their states under laws such as the UAPA, posing a reverse burden of proof on the accused.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh also directed the State Legal Services Authority to make aware each undertrial of his/her right to representa tion, either by counsel of their own choice or through a legal aid counsel.

For those who choose the latter, assignments to their cases to the counsel should be made expeditiously so that the proceedings can start/continue at the earliest, it added.

The top court said when the statute like Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act imposes a re verse burden, then the State must also ensure that the trial is expedited. "A constitutional democracy does not legitimise burdens by simply declaring them; it must ensure that those burdened are meaningfully equipped to bear them, even those who are accused of the worst offences imaginable.

"If the State, in spite of all its might presumes guilt, then the same State must also, with the employment of all the re sources at its command, create pathways through which the accused can reclaim their innocence," the bench said. The top court also asked the

chief justices to ascertain the number of special courts designated to try the said offences, and if special courts have not been designated, the number of sessions courts dealing with matters under these legislations and to take up the matter with the appropriate authority if it is found that they are not sufficient. The bench asked the chief justices to discern, whether posting of ju dicial officers in these courts as also staffing is sufficient, there by foreclosing a ground for delay and adjournment, and if not, then suitable order for posting be issued expeditiously.

national



The Arpora incident is a prime example of corruption. There was no alternative to the BJP (so far) in in Goa, but now the AAP is there

ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP CONVENOR

HIMANTA LAUNCHES **BICYCLE SCHEME**

In an attempt to make daily commute of students faster and safer, especially those in rural and interior areas, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday launched a bicycle distribution scheme for over three lakh Class IX pupils





mative reforms in the telecom sector, expanded connections, and demonstrated India's global strength through

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

Terror victims will get justice and jobs, and terrorists will MANOJ SINHA I J&K LT



on the 'rashtra geet' in its own country and why are they remembering Vande Mataram after so many years. Vande Mataram has completed 150 years, but the BJP's love for Vande Mataram is only for a day

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) PRESIDENT



Do Weekly Press Conference and **Monthly Sessions** with Members of Public Share **Updates About** Work and Progress Done Take

Relevant Questions and Feedback Same Should Be Applied To **Bureaucrats This Can Greatly** Improve Overall Governance @Ravisutanjani

SHORT **TAKES**

Student dies in hostel fire

Itanagar: A six-year-old student was killed as fire ravaged the hostel of a school in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district in the early hours of Thursday, a statement said. The fire broke out around 12.20 am at the hostel of Netail Subash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalaya at Taktsang when most children were asleep, it said. Dorjee Tsomu, a student of class 8, and hostel warden Nima Lhamu managed to rescue several students, but Choine Tsomu of Class I could not be saved, said the statement issued by the district administration.

CBI chargesheet on

'digital arrest' scams New Delhi: The CBI has filed a chargesheet against 13 individuals for allegedly running "digital arrest" cyber fraud scams, controlled by masterminds located in Southeast Asian countries. officials said Thursday. The agency also ran a parallel investigation into cyberslavery and the organised digital exploitation networks in Southeast Asia, with slave compounds in Myanmar and neighbouring areas, that are emerging as incubators for the

Three held for killing leopard

execution of such frauds.

Nagpur: The forest department in Maharashtra's Nagpur has arrested three persons in connection with the alleged poaching of a leopard in Hingna area near here. A leopard was hunted in Mauza Bhivkund in Hingna December 9, and three persons allegedly involved in its hunting were arrested from Bhivkund, Butibori and Bhivapur, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Nagpur division) Vinita Vyas said in a statement. Weapons used in the crime were also seized from them, she said.

DGCA steps up IndiGo scrutiny Congress slams Shah's vote chori' claim as 'lie'

New Delhi/ Mumbai, Dec 11: Aviation watchdog DGCA Thursday stepped up scrutiny of the crisis-hit IndiGo with its officials stationing themselves at the carrier's headquarters to monitor the operations and CEO Pieter Elbers being grilled by an inquiry panel on a day when the airline announced a compensation of ₹10.000 in the form of travel vouchers to affected passen-

IndiGo, on its part, said it is expected to operate 1,950 flights carrying around 3 lakh passengers, while airports reported flight cancellations.

Over 200 flights were cancelled at Delhi and Bangalore airports Thursday, according to sources.

The civil aviation ministry has also directed the airline, generally operates around 2,300 flights, to reduce its winter schedule by 10 per

IndiGo CEO Elbers, who appeared before the DGCA-constituted inquiry panel Thursday, has been asked to appear again Friday as the watchdog delves deep into the factors that led to the massive flight disruptions, resulting in hundreds of flight cancellations and impacting thousands of passengers

The four-member panel comprises Joint Director General



Sanjay Brahamane, Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, senior Flight Operations Inspector Kapil Manglik, and FOI Lokesh Rampal, with a mandate to identify the root causes of widespread operational disruptions at the leading domestic carrier.

The committee's mandate includes assessing manpower planning, fluctuating rostering systems, and the airline's preparedness to implement the latest duty period and rest norms for pilots, which came into effect from November 1 this year.

IndiGo, in a regulatory filing, said that Elbers has been asked to appear December 12, before the Committee of Officers at DGCA, which is examining the matter related to flight disruptions.

Enhancing oversight, DGCA

■ INDIGO, ON ITS PART, SAID IT IS EXPECTED TO OPERATE 1,950 FLIGHTS CARRYING AROUND 3 LAKH PASSENGERS, WHILE AIRPORTS REPORTED FLIGHT

OVER 200 FLIGHTS WERE CANCELLED AT DELHI AND BANGALORE AIRPORTS **THURSDAY**

CANCELLATIONS

■ THE CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY HAS ALSO DIRECTED THE AIRLINE, WHICH GENERALLY OPERATES AROUND 2,300 FLIGHTS, TO REDUCE ITS WINTER SCHEDULE BY 10 PER CENT

(Directorate General of Civil Aviation) officials on Thursday began monitoring IndiGo's operations, refunds, and other processes from the airline's headquarters, sources said,

They said the officials are

reports on the situation at the airline, which has been grappling with significant operational disruptions and the subsequent cancellation of thousands of flights due to planning failures related to the implementation of new pilot and crew duty norms. With the operations slowly

stabilising, IndiGo said it will offer travel vouchers worth ₹10,000 to each passenger whose flights were cancelled or delayed for long during December 3-5. The vouchers can be used for flights in the next 12 months. While thousands of passen

gers were impacted, it was not immediately clear how many passengers will be getting the compensation.

This compensation is in addition to the commitment under the existing government guidelines, as per which, Indi-Go will provide compensation of ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 depending on the block time of the flight, to those customers whose flights were cancelled within 24 hours of departure time," the statement said.

In an unprecedented move. DGCA, Wednesday, decided to deploy two members from an oversight panel at IndiGo's Gurugram headquarters to monitor cancellation status, crew deployment, unplanned leave, and routes hit by staff shortages.

three instances of alleged "vote

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Congress Thursday rebutted Home Minister Amit Shah's "vote chori" charge against Jawaharlal Nehru, saving the claim that he was made the prime minister despite Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel being the popular choice is a "lie" and a "figment of imagination".

Congress general secretary incharge communications Jairam Ramesh said party colleague Piyush Babele has "totally exposed" one of the home minister's "many lies" in the Lok Sabha and shared his video on X.

The Congress also shared Babele's video and said it exposes the "outright lie" of Shah. In another post, Ramesh said,

"While speaking in Parliament, BJP members starting with the G2 themselves, have attacked Nehru pulling out some document or the other from their bunch of papers. They try to give the impres-

sion that they have done some deep research and discovered something sensational that has been kept supressed, he said. "But the truth is almost in-

variably they are using material that are in the public domain especially in the 100 volumes of Nehru's Selected Works (1903-1964), now easily accessible on nehruarchive.in," Ramesh said.

Intervening in the debate on election reforms in the Lok Sabha Wednesday, Shah cited

cident to what she described as

an atmosphere of fear created

in the name of the ongoing Spe-

cial Intensive Revision (SIR)

of electoral rolls, she alleged,

"From SIR to the harassment

of poor vendors, everything is

part of their conspiracy before

elections." The CM condemned

what she said was the BJP's at-

tempt to "import a culture of

communal division" and wea-

ponise religious texts for polit-

chori" by Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

"So, 28 votes went to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and two were cast in favour of Jawaharlal Nehru. But Nehru ji ended up being the prime minister," he had said, prompting an uproar in the Opposition benches.

In the video shared by Ra mesh and the Congress, Babele said the claim that Nehru was made PM despite Patel being the popular choice is a "figment of imagination" of the RSS. "According to this lie, it is

stated that in 1946, elections to Congress presidentship took place and Patel got more votes but despite Nehru getting less votes he was made Congress president and therefore went on to become the prime minister. The truth is that the election that had to take place in 1946 for Congress presidentship did not take place," Babele said.

"As they (BJP-RSS) say that voting took place, there was no such voting. This is a lie that has been spread. The president was made but the situation in the country was bad due to riots and law and order was dis turbed and there was tension prevailing, Shimla parleys were taking place, Maulana Azad had been the Congress president and the situation was not there that elections to elect a party president take place," he said.

Mamkootathil turns up to vote in local body polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palakkad(Kerala), Dec 11: Expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil Thursday turned up to cast his vote in the local body polls at Kunnathurmedu ward here which comes under the BJP-ruled Palakkad Municipality.

The Palakkad MLA turned up to vote after he secured protection from arrest in the two cases of sexual assault against him.

He arrived to cast his ballot towards the fag end of the day at around 5 pm and was report edly greeted my some Congress workers and the party candidate contesting from the ward and they accompanied him inside the polling booth.

Mamkootathil was absconding for the last more than two weeks after the first FIR was registered against him for sex ual assault and forced abortion.

After casting his vote, as the MLA stepped out of the booth. he was surrounded by report ers who bombarded him with questions regarding where he was hiding till now and what he has to say about the allegations against him. Mamkootathil finally responded that what he had to say was before the court.

"What I have to say, what is said against me, all that is before the court. The court will take a decision. The truth will win, I am confident about that, he said. Thereafter, he immedi ately left the polling booth in a vehicle with the MLA board as activists of the CPI(M)'s youth wing -- DYFI -- held up placards with photos of cradles and roost ers and hooted at him.

Indian Coast Guard seize a Pakistani fishing boat and apprehend 11 crew members operating illegally in the Indian

Bengal is not UP: Mamata

ASSAULT ON FOOD VENDORS AT GITA RECITAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Krishnanagar, Dec 11: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday tore into the BJP over the assault on two food vendors at a recent Bhagavad Gita recital event in Kolkata, asserting that the state would not tolerate intimidation, communal division or attempts to dictate what people should eat.

'This is West Bengal, not Uttar Pradesh," she declared. vowing stringent action against those responsible.

Addressing a public meeting in Krishnanagar in Nadia district, Banerjee said all the accused had been arrested within hours. "They beat up poor patty sellers. We arrested everyone last night. In every gathering, hawkers sell some food or the other. You have beaten a poor hawker. I will not spare anyone who harasses the poor,"she said. Linking the in-

ical mobilisation. "I do not believe in communal divisions. I respect all religions. What is the need to hold a public meeting just to read the Gita? We all read and recite Gita. Those who pray to God or seek blessings from Allah do so in their hearts," she said. Taking a pointed jab at those

"chanting 'Gita, Gita' for politics," Banerjee added, "I want to ask them what did Sri Krishna say about dharma? Dharma

means purity of intention, humanity and peace.'

Death to 1, life term to 9 in Maharajganj communal clash murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), Dec 11: A local court Thursday sent one man to death row and awarded life terms to nine people for a murder during communal violence last year in Maharajganj town during a Durga idol immersion procession.

Last year, October 13, Ramgopal Mishra, 21, was shot dead when a communal clash broke

out in the mixed-population town. According to District Government Counsel (Criminal) Girish Chandra Shukla, the court of Additional Sessions Judge, First, Pawan Kumar Sharma had December 9 convicted Sarfaraz, Abdul Hameed, Mohammad Talib, Faheem, Zeeshan, Mohammad Saif, Javed, Soeb Khan, Nankau, and Maroof Ali.

It acquitted Khurshid, Sha-

keel and Afzal for lack of evidence and reserved the verdict on the quantum of punishment for the rest. On Thursday, the iudge sentenced Sarfaraz — the man who fired the fatal shot - to death, and awarded life terms to the remaining nine

Assistant government counsel Pramod Singh said the court delivered its verdict 13 months and 28 days after the incident.

Sarfaraz was awarded the death penalty under BNS section 103(2), a provision related to mob lynching, he said.

Roli Mishra, the wife of Ramgopal Mishra, told reporters that the three acquitted were also involved in her husband's killing. All of them should have got a death sentence, she said.

On the night of the killing, 13 people were named as accused in an FIR. Two of them were killed in a police encounter while fleeing, while the rest were arrested over time.

The prosecution filed a chargesheet against the 13 on January 11, and charges were framed February 18.

Shukla said the sentences pronounced Thursday pertain to the murder charge, while imprisonment and fines have also been imposed under other offences.

'Prashasan Gaon ki Ore' campaign to run from Dec 19-25

The campaign 'Prashasan Gaon ki Ore', organised as part of Good Governance Week 2025, aims to take

administration to the grassroots, ensure doorstep grievance redressal, promote good governance practices and document innovations across the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

lic grievances and improving public service delivery, an official statement said Thursday. The campaign 'Prashasan

Gaon ki Ore', organised as part of Good Governance Week 2025, aims to take administration to the grassroots, ensure doorstep grievance redressal, promote good governance practices and document innovations across the country. According to the statement

issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the week-long exercise will focus on disposing



share success stories, add new online services and prepare the District@100 Vision Document, it added. A dedicated portal - https://

darpgapps.nic.in/GGW25 - has been made operational from December 10 for uploading activities, best practices and progress reports. Department of Adminis-

trative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) Secretary Rachna Shah chaired the first preparatory meeting for the 2025 campaign on Thursday with administrative reforms states and districts will plan district- and tehsil-level events and undertake publicity. Attended by more than 700

till December 18, during which

Collectors/District Magistrates and field officers from more than 1,200 locations the meeting sensitised officials on the priority of clearing pend ing grievances and documenting governance initiatives during the campaign period, the statement said. The campaign is aligned

with the objectives of Special Campaign 5.0, which focuses on cleanliness drives, reducing pendency, improving record management and systematic disposal of scrap and e-waste.

of public grievances filed in secretaries and district collec-New Delhi, Dec 11: The Centre the Centralised Public Grievtors/district magistrates. service delivery applications, The preparatory phase of will launch a week-long nationance Redress and Monitoring Under the campaign, the government will hold special grievdocument good governance wide campaign from December System (CPGRAMS) and state the campaign has started from 19 to 25 for the redressal of pubportals. ance-redressal camps, clear practices with photographs, Thursday and will continue

international



All "misunderstandings" with the United States over Ukraine had been resolved following a meeting earlier this month between President Vladimir Putin and **US envoy Steve Witkoff**

SERGEI LAVROV

OVER 12MN FACE ACUTE HUNGER IN MYANMAR

More than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger next year as mounting violence forces more people to flee their homes, the United Nations World Food Programme said Thursday. Around 1 million of those will face emergency levels of hunger, meaning they will need lifesaving support, the agency added



India calls for a pragmatic engagement with the Taliban.

positive actions. A focus on only punitive measures will only ensure that a 'business as usual' approach continues as we have been seeing now for the last four and a half

PARVATHANENI HARISH | PERMANENT REPRE-SENTATIVE TO THE UN AMBASSADOR, INDIA





The Somali people are known around the world for their hard work. They are known for their resilience in the



face of adversity. They have faced hardships and many enemies including those who deny their existence, kill them, humiliate and

AHMED MOALLIM FIOI DEFENCE MINISTER, SOMALIA

SHORT **TAKES**

US clears advanced F-16 support package for Pak

Islamabad: The United States has approved the sale of advanced technology and support for F-16 fighter jets valued at \$686 million to Pakistan. The US Defence **Security Cooperation Agency** (DSCA), in a letter sent to Congress on Monday, gave the approval, reported Dawn on Thursday. The package includes Link-16 systems, cryptographic equipment, avionics updates, training, and comprehensive logistical support. The DSCA letter makes clear the rationale for the sale, stating that it "will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by allowing Pakistan to retain interoperability with US and partner forces in ongoing counterterrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations."

Bulgarian PM resigns

Sofia: Bulgarian Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov handed in his government's resignation Thursday following weeks of street protests over its economic policies and its perceived failure to tackle corruption. Zhelvazkov announced his resignation in a televised statement minutes before parliament had been due to vote on a no-confidence motion. The resignation comes shortly before Bulgaria is due to join the euro zone on January 1. Thousands of Bulgarians had rallied Wednesday evening in Sofia and dozens of other towns and cities across the Black Sea nation, the latest in a series of rolling demonstrations that have underlined public frustration with endemic graft and the failure of successive governments to root it out.

Airstrike on Myanmar hospital kills 34

Bangkok: An airstrike by Myanmar's military destroyed a hospital in an area controlled by a leading rebel armed force, killing 34 patients and medical staff, according to a local rescue worker and independent media reports Thursday. About 80 other people were injured in the attack Wednesday night on the general hospital in Mrauk-U township, an area controlled by the ethnic Arakan Army in the western state of Rakhine. The ruling military has not announced news of any attack in the area. Wai Hun Aung, a senior official for rescue services in Rakhine, told AP that a jet fighter dropped two bombs at 9:13 pm with one hitting the hospital's recovery ward and the other landing near the hospital's main building.

Trump launches Gold Card

The Trump Gold Card is a visa based upon an individual's ability to provide a substantial benefit to the United States

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, Dec 11: US President Donald Trump announced the launch of a million-dollar "Gold Card" offering a pathway for immigrants to US citizenship, saying that it is a "shame" that students from India and China have to go back to home countries.

The Trump Gold Card announced Wednesday is a visa based upon an individual's ability to provide a substantial benefit to the United States.

"It is a gift of getting somebody great coming into our country, because we think these will be some tremendous people that wouldn't be allowed to stay," Trump said during a roundtable in the White House.

Trump added that students graduate from college, "you have to go back to India, they have to go back to China, they have to go back to France. They have to go back to where ever they came from. Very hard to stay. It's a shame,"

Flanked by IBM;s Indian-American CEO Arvind Krishna and Dell Technologies CEO Michael Dell, Trump announced that the Gold Card website is live and companies can "buy" the Gold Card to keep the students they hire from top American universities such as Wharton, Harvard and MIT in the US.

Trump said that he has heard from Apple CEO Tim Cook several times and other executives



that they cannot hire people from the best colleges because "you don't know whether or not you can keep the person."

Trump said students are "thrown" out of the country. "You graduate number one from your college, and there's no way of guaranteeing... that they're able to stay in the country."

Trump said Cook spoke to him about this "real problem".

"It's not going to be a problem anymore. As you know, they used to send people up to Canada and other places, other countries. So we solved that,' Trump said adding that through the Gold Card, the US will take in billions of dollars that will be used for the country.

"So it'll be a great thing. We'll take in, I think, billions of dollars, many billions of dollars even. So that's very exciting,' he said. Trump added that the companies are now going to be very happy with the Gold Card, which will have greater advantages over a green card that offers permanent residency in the US.

He said companies will be able to go to the schools such as Wharton School of Finance, New York University's Stern Business School, Harvard, MIT. "wherever you may get

Wealthy foreign nationals, high-skilled foreign graduates, and major US companies like Apple and IBM are the target applicants and

Anew, expedited pathway to US lawful permanent residency (a Green Card) and eventual citizenship. It replaces the traditional EB-5 investor visa

he administration aims to attract global talent, generate billions of dollars in direct revenue for the US Treasury, and address longstanding complaints from tech CEOs about retaining top foreign graduate

your students, any school, and you're able to buy a card and keep that person in the United States. So there's certainty."

Trump described the Gold Card as a "Green Card, but much better, much more powerful, a much stronger path and a path is a big deal. Have to be great people, but much stronger path". which also helps companies.

He cited the example that if IBM wants to hire an individual at the top of his or her class at Wharton but can't guarantee the person stays in the country. the company can buy the Gold

Card and "that employee can be there for essentially a very long period of time. It's so needed for the companies. It's basically a much better form of green card. And you can't get green cards. They are impossible to get. This is much better than a green card," Trump said.

The decision came even as pre-scheduled interviews of thousands of H-1B visa appli cants slated for later this month in India have been abruptly postponed by several months, apparently to scrutinise their social media posts and online profiles.

The Trump administration has been tightening the H1B visa programme under its broader policy on checking immigration. There has been wider scrutiny now of social media posts and profiles of visa applicants.

Meanwhile, giving details of the Gold Card, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said it will cost one million dollars for an individual and two million dollars for a corporation and will involve "full" and "best' vetting to "make sure these people absolutely qualify to be in America '

Then the company can keep them here, and they have a path to citizenship. Obviously, they have to be perfect people in America, and having passed the vetting. After five years, they'll be available to become citizens,' Lutnick said, adding that then the corporation can put someone else on the card. "For a company they can keep putting people on the card, one person per card, and for an individual, it's a million dollars. And it's a gift to the United States of America, to help America be great again under Donald Trump," Lutnick said

vote since uprising

Dhaka, Dec 11: Bangladesh will hold parliamentary elections February 12, authorities said, its first national vote since a deadly student-led uprising forced then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to India last year.

"Voting will take place February 12, 2026, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin said in an address to the nation Thursday. A referendum will simulta-

neously be held on the voting day to elicit public opinion on a series of reform proposals of the Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus-led National Consensus Commission. An interim administration

led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has governed since, but has been grappling with fresh protests over delayed reforms, and warnings of unrest by Hasina's party, which has been barred from the vote. Highlighting the turmoil,

President Mohammed Shahabuddin - who was nominated for the largely ceremonial role by Hasina - said he would step down after the vote, halfway through his term, telling Reuters he has felt humiliated by the Yunus government.

REFERENDUM ON JULY CHARTER REFORMS

Analysts say voters' concerns include restoring democratic rule, reviving the core export-driven garment industry and repairing ties with giant neighbour India, which have been strained by New Delhi taking in Hasina.

Nearly 128 million voters are eligible to take part at more



B'desh to hold first

President Shahabuddin says he plans to quit after vote

Referendum July Charter reform plan will run

BNP front-runner, Jamaat returns to electoral politics

wami League barred from A election, warns of unrest

than 42,000 polling stations across 300 seats.

The vote will run alongside a referendum on implementing the so-called 'July Charter', a state reform plan drafted in the aftermath of the unrest, Chief Election Commissioner AMN Nasir Uddin said in a national broadcast.

The Charter proposes wide-ranging changes to state institutions, including curbing executive powers, strengthening the independence of the judiciary and election authorities, and preventing the misuse of law-enforcement agencies.

YUNUS HAILS 'IMPORTANT MILESTONE'

Yunus welcomed the announcement of the election and referendum schedule, describing it as a defining moment for Bangladesh. "Bangladesh's democratic

journey has crossed an important milestone, strengthening the new path the nation has taken after the historic mass uprising," he said.

Pak court sentences ex-ISI chief to 14 years in jail



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Dec 11: Pakistan's former spy chief Faiz Hameed was Thursday sentenced to 14 years in jail by a military court, which found him guilty on multiple charges, including violating the Official Secrets Act and engaging in political activities. According to a statement by

the army, the process of Field General Court Martial (FGCM) against Hameed was initiated August 12, 2024, under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act, and continued for 15 months.

He was tried on four charges related to engaging in political activities, violation of the Official Secrets Act in a manner "detrimental to the safety and interests of the State", misuse of authority & government resources, and causing wrongful loss to individuals.

"After lengthy and laborious legal proceedings, the accused has been found guilty on all charges and sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment by the court," the army said.

It is for the first time that a former chief of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been convicted and sentenced. He served as the Director General of the ISI from 2019 to 2021. He last served as Commander of the XXXI Corps before taking premature retirement in December 2022 after Asim Munir took over as the army chief. Hameed was considered close to the then Army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

The army said that the Court-Martial complied with all legal provisions and that the accused was "afforded with all legal rights, including (the) rights of (a) defence team of his choice." It said that the convict has the right of appeal at a relevant forum after conviction. "Involvement of the convict in fomenting vested political agitation and instability in cohorts with political elements and in certain other matters is separately being dealt with," the army said.



Servicemen of the 13th Operative Purpose Brigade 'Khartiia' of the National Guard of Ukraine prepare targets with images depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin during shooting practice between combat missions, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv region, Ukraine

Indian artefacts stolen in high-value UK museum burglary

The items were stolen from Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection September 25 and released CCTV footage of four white male suspects in an appeal for information

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Dec 11: A number of artefacts from India dating back to the British colonial era are among over 600 "high value" items stolen in a burglary at a museum in Bristol, southwest England, the police said

Thursday. The Avon and Somerset Police said the items were stolen from Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection September 25 and released CCTV footage of four white male suspects in an appeal for information.

The historic collection documents the links between Britain and countries in the British Empire from the late 19th century onwards. "Detectives investigating a

high value burglary of museum artefacts are appealing for the public's help to identify these people," the police force said in a statement. "The building housed items

from the Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection. More than 600 artefacts of various descriptions were taken by the offenders,' the police said.



Among the items stolen in the robbery include an ivory Buddha and a waist belt buckle belonging to an East India

Company officer. "The theft of many items which carry a significant cultural value is a significant loss for the city," said Detective Constable Dan Burgan of the Avon and Somerset Police.

"These items, many of which were donations, form part of a collection that provides insight into a multi-layered part of British history, and we are hoping that members of the public can help us to bring those re**Among the items** stolen in the robbery include an ivory **Buddha and a waist** belt buckle belonging to an East India **Company officer**

sponsible to justice. So far, our enquiries have included significant CCTV enquiries as well as forensic investigations and speaking, liaising with the victims," he said.

The officer appealed for members of the public to contact the force if they recognise anyone from the CCTV footage released this week or may have come across any of the possible items being sold online.

It remains unclear why the police appeal is being issued over two months after the burglary. The Bristol Museum website states that its British Empire and Commonwealth collection is made up of house hold belongings, souvenirs, photographs and papers of British people who lived and worked in the colonies It is designed to give visitors

an insight into the workings of the British Empire and the lives of the people who made it function. "We make these sources available to help people and communities worldwide to explore difficult, forgotten or hidden histories from their own perspectives. The majority of the collection was previously held by the former British Empire & Commonwealth Museum in Bristol," the museum states.

business



The Indo-EU FTA will be a fair, equitable and balanced document which will be a win-win for all the countries PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION

WEAK ₹ MAY MAKE BMW COSTLIER

German luxury carmaker BMW is looking to hike vehicle prices from next month as it aims to offset the impact of the weakened rupee against the euro, company's President and CEO Hardeep Singh Brar said Thursday. "Forex fluctuation is a big dampener. We were looking at somewhere about 93 to 95 (rupee against euro) this year, but it is actually around 103 to 105, so it's about 10 per cent deterioration versus our expectation. So that puts a lot of pressure on pricing and profitability," Brar told PTI





India will be engineering hubs, driving sig opment, especially for the AI and SaaS



QUALCOMM TECHNOLOGIES I believe



a lot of opportunities in India FERNANDO FERNANDEZ | CEO, UNILEVER INDIA

I request the government of India to start a new award line, social innovation line, so that social innovators

can be recognised, respected, and we get the advantage of that, all of us in the society SUDHA MURTY NOMINATED

MEMBER, RAJYA SABHA

SHORT **TAKES**

Amazon to invest over \$35bn in India

Mumbai: Amazon plans to invest more than \$35 billion in India by 2030 to expand its operations by boosting artificial intelligence capabilities and increasing exports, the US e-commerce giant said Wednesday, as global tech firms deepen their presence in Asia's third-largest economy. Major US tech firms have poured billions of dollars into India this year, underscoring the country's emergence as a strategic hub for cloud. AI and deep-tech growth. Microsoft pledged an investment of \$17.5 billion in India for AI and cloud infrastructure by 2030 Tuesday, marking its largest investment in Asia, while Google has committed \$15 billion over the next five years to build AI data centers. Amazon's investments are "strategically aligned with India's national priorities and will focus on expanding AI capabilities, enhancing logistics infrastructure, supporting small business growth and creating jobs,'

ICICI AMC secures ₹4,815cr funding

the company said in a

statement.

New Delhi: As many as 26 domestic and foreign investors have infused ₹4,815 crore into ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC), a subsidiary of ICICI Bank, through a pre-IPO funding round. As part of this transaction, the asset management company undertook a private placement of 22,240,841 equity shares at an issue price of ₹2.165 per share. according to its public announcement Wednesday.

Silver shines to fresh high

The white metal surges ₹2,400 to new record ₹1.94 lakh/kg

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: Silver prices jumped ₹2,400 to a fresh all-time high of ₹1,94,400 per kilogram in the national capital Thursday tracking firm global cues amid weakness in the rupee and a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

The white metal had rallied sharply Wednesday, rising ₹11,500 to scale the record level of ₹1,92,000 per kg, according to All India Sarafa Association. Since the beginning of the

calendar year, silver has climbed ₹1,04,700, or 116.72 per cent, from ₹89,700 per kg December 31, 2024. "Silver prices has reached an-

other record high on Thursday, fuelled by robust physical and investment demand. The upward momentum in domestic prices has been significantly supported by a combination of tight market supply, record-breaking international silver prices, and a weaker Indian rupee," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said.

He further stated that the white metal outperformed gold in terms of returns this year, due to a combination of global

RBI eases curbs on

cash credit accounts

Mumbai, Dec 11: The Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) Thursday

removed all restrictions on

banks opening and maintain-

ing cash credit accounts under

new transaction account rules.

erationally different from a cur-

rent or overdraft account," the

central bank said, adding banks

may now offer these facilities

based on customer needs with-

Cash credit acts as a short-

term, flexible business loan for

working capital. The regulator

adopted the changes following

industry feedback on draft

These amendments form part

The RBI also eased norms

Banks may now maintain current accounts without re-

of the central bank's updated

for opening and maintaining

current and overdraft accounts.

striction for customers with

banking exposures under ₹100

For exposures exceeding ₹100

million rupees, banks holding

at least 10% exposure to a bor-

rower may provide current and

overdraft facilities, the central

Current accounts serve busi-

nesses and individuals with

high transaction volumes. The

RBI classifies current, over-

draft, and cash credit accounts

collectively as "transaction ac-

counts." The move is aimed at

providing greater flexibility to

million.

bank said.

rules issued October 1, 2025.

transaction account rules.

out restriction.

"A cash credit account is op-

REUTERS

GOLD & SILVER



The US Federal Reserve's decision to cut key interest rates by 25 bps amid persistent inflation has reinforced bullish sentiment in precious metals. With bullion

already at record highs, this policy shift adds momentum to the rally, as investors seek safe-haven assets amid economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures HAREESH V | HEAD OF COMMODITY RESEARCH, GEOJIT INVESTMENTS

supply deficits, alongside consistently high demand from China and a surge in industrial consumption.

"In the domestic market, spot silver price is showing strong bullish momentum and is expected to inch towards ₹2,10,000 per kilogram in the coming days," Parmar added.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent purity added ₹90 to ₹1,32,490 per 10 grams from the previous close

Bhubaneswar: Canara Bank signed MoU

Canara Premium Payroll package to ECoR

employees. The MoU signing ceremony

of Canara Bank by Bhubaneswar Circle

All Regional Heads of the bank and top

Head Suman Chakraborty highlighting the

officials from East Coast Railways Khurda

Road Division attended the ceremony. The

significant growth and progress of the bank.

commenced with a brief introduction

with East Coast Railways Khurda Road

Division Thursday for extending the

of ₹1,32,400 per 10 grams, as per the association. Globally, spot gold fell \$15.55,

or 0.37 per cent, to \$4,213.12 per Spot silver gained for the third

straight session, rising \$1.06, or 1.71 per cent, to a record \$62.88 per ounce. So far this year, the metal has added \$33.91, or 117.06 per cent. from \$28.97 per ounce on December 31, 2024.

"The US Federal Reserve's decision to cut key interest

Premium Payroll package: Canara Bank signs MoU with ECoR

event continued with a presentation highlighting the features of the Premium Payroll package. Thereafter, MoU

presence of PK Behera, ADRM (OP), Subhrajyoti Mandal, ADRM (Infra) and officials of ECoR. This partnership will

was executed by Suman Chakraborty, Circle Head, Bhubaneswar Circle and Pramod Behera, DPO (I/C), in the

enable enhanced, seamless banking solutions for the dedicated workforce of East Coast Railways

BULLISH MOMENTUM

Since the beginning of the calendar year, silver has climbed ₹1,04,700, or 116.72%, from ₹89,700 per kg Dec 31, 2024

Spot silver gained for the third straight session, rising \$1.06, or 1.71%, to a record \$62.88 per ounce

rates by 25 bps amid persistent inflation has reinforced bullish sentiment in precious metals. Lower rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold and silver, attracting fresh investment flows. With bullion already at record highs, this policy shift adds momentum to the rally, as investors seek safe-haven as sets amid economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures, Hareesh V, Head of Commodity Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

weakening of the US dollar is further supporting gold and silver prices, as a softer greenback makes these metals more affordable for global buyers.

"The sharp rally in bullion is underpinned by structural supply deficits, robust industrial demand for silver, and sustained ETF inflows," Hareesh

He added that the post-cut

Forex traders said the rupee

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias as delay in trade deal between India and US may continue to dent the domestic currency," Choudhary said, adding that any intervention by the central bank may also support the rupee at lower levels.

"Any intervention by the cen-

Rupee drops to new all-time low of 90.32

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 11: The rupee plunged 38 paise to close at an all-time low of 90.32 against the US dollar Thursday amid uncertainty over the India-US Forex traders said the rupee

is expected to trade with a negative bias as the delay in the trade deal between India and the US may continue to dent investor confidence Moreover, prevailing risk-

averse market sentiment and sustained foreign fund outflows weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 89.95 against the US dollar, then lost ground and fell to a record intra-day low of 90.48. registering a 54-paise decline from its previous close. At the end of Thursday's

trading session, the rupee was quoted at 90.32 against the American currency, down 38 paise over its last close. On Wednesday, the rupee

depreciated 7 paise to close at 89.94 against the US dollar.

fell to a new all-time low of 90.48 after Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran reportedly said the India-US trade deal is likely to be inked by March. "Indian rupee hit a fresh

all-time low amid uncertainty over the India-US trade deal. However, positive domestic markets and a weak US Dollar cushioned the downside," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, MiraeAsset ShareKhan.

RUPEE ₹ VS DOLLAR\$ 1 USD = 90.33 INR*

The rupee plunged to a record low against the US dollar, a move largely fuelled by aggressive dollar purchases from the importers. Specifically. surging global prices for precious metals enforced metal importers into rush for dollars, creating immense

DILIP PARMAR | RESEARCH ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

tral bank may also support the rupee at lower levels. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 90.10 to 90.75. Choudhary added.

Meanwhile, US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer has said the US has received the "best" ever offers from India on the proposed trade agreement amid com mencement of two-day talks here between the two countries

Meanwhile, the dollar index which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.18 per cent lower at 98.61, after the FED cut rates and gave a not-so-hawkish guidance.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.25 per cent lower at \$61.43 per barrel in futures trade.

Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth ₹2,020.94 crore Thursday, according to exchange data.

GOING GREEN

FED RATE **CUT BOOST**

Shares snap three-day losing run

Mumbai, Dec 11: Indian benchmark shares closed higher Thursday in a broad-based rebound after the Federal Reserve's 25-basis-point rate cut, following a three-session slide, even as the rupee slumped to a record low on worries over the lack of a US trade deal.

The Nifty 50 rose 0.55% to 25,898.55 while the BSE Sensex gained 0.51% to 84,818.13.

Both benchmarks had lost about 1.6% each in the last three sessions.

On the day, fifteen of the 16 major sectors advanced. The broader small-caps and midcaps rose 0.8% and 1%.

Financials and information technology gained 0.6% and 0.8%, after losing 1.7% and 2.4%, respectively in the last three sessions.

Metals gained 1.1%, tracking firmer metal prices due to



+2.65% +2.63% TOP +2.57% GAINERS +2.38% 1

a weakening US dollar after the Fed rate cut.

While the Fed's projection of only one cut in 2026 underscores caution, the rate cut boosts global liquidity and improves market confidence, said Ross Maxwell, global strategy operations lead at VT Markets.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell's



balanced outlook on future rate trajectory eased market nerves about a hawkish message, but the rate cut "alone cannot offset the structural headwinds for the Indian rupee from higher tariffs and US yields," said Rajeev Sharan, head of criteria of model development and research at Brickwork Ratings.

Both benchmarks had lost about 1.6% each in the last three sessions

The rupee weakened to a record low against the US dollar, as the absence of a trade deal with the US and dollar outflows added to the pressure on the currency

Among individual stocks, Tata Steel gained 2.6% after it bought a stake in iron ore pellets maker Thriveni Pellets, a deal expected to secure iron ore pellets supply for the firm.

India's top silver producer Hindustan Zinc and its parent Vedanta rose 2% and 1% after silver prices surged to a record high. Wires and cables maker KEI Industries rose 2.5% after beginning the first phase of commercial production of cables at its Ahmedabad unit.

Late-stage funding drives EV sector

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 11: India's electric vehicle (EV) sector raised \$1.4 billion year-to-date in 2025 up 27 per cent from over \$1.1 bil lion raised in 2024, a report said

The funding was concentrated in just 65 funding rounds compared with 135 in the previous year, the report from market in telligence platform Tracxn said

Electric vehicle manufacturers dominated funding, securing \$1.2 billion of the total, with Del hi leading the city rankings with

\$1.1 billion raised. Late-stage funding surged 105 per cent year-on-year from \$536 million in 2024 to \$1.1 billion in 2025 YTD, reflecting renewed confidence in scale-ready, selec

tive and mature startups. This indicates a transition to wards performance-led capital deployment with sector maturi

ty, the report noted. Early-stage funding, however, dropped 49.3 per cent to \$226 million from \$446 million, while seed-stage funding dropped to \$61.2 million across 32 rounds from \$129 million over 77 rounds in 2024

Pune followed Delhi in terms of funding, raising \$120 million while Bangalore secured \$105 million. The investor base nar rowed. with total investors fall ing from 150 in 2024 to 70 in 2025 YTD, and first-time investors dropped from 63 to 32.

Electric vehicle sales rose

from about 50,000 in 2016 to over 2 million in 2024, representing roughly 9 per cent of the global EV stock, another recent report said, highlighting a \$100 bil lion export opportunity in auto components. EV penetration is expected to remain modest at 3-4 per cent, the report said forecasting electric car volumes in the PV segment at around 1.75 lakh units for FY26. EV sales grew by 83 per cent in FY24 and 11 per cent in FY25, reaching 1.11 lakh units in FY25.

India-made Prada sandals debut at \$930 after backlash

Italian luxury brand faced criticism six months ago after showing sandals resembling 12th-century Indian footwear, known as Kolhapuri chappals, at a Milan show

Mumbai, Dec 11: Prada will make a limited-edition collection of sandals in India inspired by the country's traditional footwear, selling each pair at around 800 euros (\$930), Prada senior executive Lorenzo Bertelli told Reuters, turning a backlash over cultural appropriation into a collaboration with Indian artisans.

The Italian luxury group plans to make 2,000 pairs of the sandals in the regions of Maharashtra and Karnataka under a deal with two state-backed bodies, blending local Indian craftsmanship with Italian technology and know-how. "We'll mix the original manu-

facturer's standard capabilities with our manufacturing techniques", Bertelli, who is chief marketing officer and head of corporate social responsibility, told Reuters in an interview.

The collection will go on sale in February 2026 across 40 Prada stores worldwide and online, the company said. Prada faced criticism six

months ago after showing sandals resembling 12th-century Indian footwear, known as Kolhapuri chappals, at a Milan show. Photos went viral, prompting outrage from Indian artisans and politicians. Prada later admitted its design drew from ancient Indian styles and began talks with artisan groups for collaboration.

It has now signed an agreement with Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation (LID-



COM) and Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation (LIDKAR), which promote India's leather heritage.

"We want to be a multiplier of awareness for these chappals,"

stores in India

said Bertelli, who is the eldest son of Prada founders Miuccia Prada and Patrizio Bertelli.

A three-vear partnership whose details are still being finalised, will be set up to train local artisans. The initiative will include training programmes in India and opportunities to spend short periods at Prada's Academy in Italy.

Chappals originated in Ma-

are handcrafted by people from marginalised communities. Artisans hope the collaboration will raise incomes, attract vounger generations to the trade and preserve heritage threatened by cheap imitations and declining demand.

Bertelli said the project and training programme would cost "several million euros", adding that artisans would be fairly remunerated.

opened its first beauty store in Delhi this year, has no plans for new retail clothing shops next year or factories in India. "We have not planned yet any

Bertelli said Prada, which

store openings in India, but it's something that we are strongly taking into consideration, he said, adding that this could come in three to five years.

The luxury goods market in India was valued at around \$7 billion in 2024 and is expected to reach about \$30 billion by 2030, according to Deloitte, as economic growth accelerates to 7% this year and disposable income among the middle and upper classes rises. The market, however, is dwarfed by China, which generated about 350 billion yuan (\$49.56 billion) in value in 2024, according to Bain.

Once Prada endorses this craft as a luxury ndian artisans for product, definitely mited-edition sandals the domino effect will work and ndia-made Prada sandals to go on sale globally in result in increasing ebruary 2026 demand for the craft PRERNA DESHBHRATAR | MD, LIDCOM Prada has no immediate plan to expand retail harashtra and Karnataka and

grabs double gold

Poor show by Men in Blue Swimmer Indori

South Africa level series after de Kock special; Gill, SKY misfire again in a challenging chase of 213

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mullanpur, Dec 11: The lean run of Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav was extended as Indian batters stumbled on a good batting surface to lose the second T20 against South Africa by 51 runs here Thursday.

Quinton de Kock made an effortless 90 of 46 balls, pushing South Africa to a challenging 213 for four after India opted

India were expected to chase down the steep target but South Africa removed Indian trio of Abhishek Sharma (17), Gill (0) and Suryakumar Yaday (5) inside the powerplay to put the hosts on the backfoot. India were eventually bowled out for 162 in 19.1 overs with Tilak Varma (62 off 34) playing a lone hand.

The five match series now stands at 1-1 with the third match scheduled in Dharamsala December 14.

The local crowd was expecting their home heroes, Gill and Abhishek, to fire but it was not to be.

Yet to realise his potential in the shortest format, vice-captain Gill, facing his very first ball, got a beauty from Lungi Ngidi that seamed away from length to take a thick outside edge.

Abhshek was caught behind in the following over from Marco Jansen. Next to depart was skipper Suryakumar who too got a faint edge after Jansen angled it away from the India

Batting at three, Axar Patel (21 off 21) was pouched at cover with Reeza Hendricks just about managing to have his fingers under the ball. From thereon, Tilak batted

at a high tempo but lack of partnerships and soaring run rate pushed the game out of India's reach.

Earlier, de Kock entertained the crowd with his remarkable strokeplay.



When in full flow, De Kock is among the most attractive batters in the game and he flaunted his special skills on a true pitch. He was mainly dealing in sixes in the middle and majoritv of his seven maximums came in the deep square leg region.

De Kock, who recently reversed his ODI retirement and was not sure about his T20 future post the World Cup last year, is back with a renewed purpose and remains

on top of his game.

An innings like this just less than a week before the mini auction will also create the buzz among the franchises, who might indulge in a bidding war for the multi-skilled cricketer.

Arshdeep Singh, who had De Kock caught behind in the series opener, was at the receiving end Thursday. De Kock began the assault with a pick up shot for six off Arshdeep before pulling the left-

LEAN PATCH

■ndia's captain

Yadav averages

fifty in 19 innings

fice captain

averages 23 in

14 innings since

his return to T201

Shubman Gill

Suryakumar

14 and has no

of 2025

arm pacer for a maximum over deep mid-wicket.

Jasprit Bumrah too conceded 16 runs in his second over after being disdainfully pulled for six by Reeza Hendricks. The righthander missed a skidder from Varun Chakravarthy in the following over to give India a welcome breakthrough but de Kock maintained the pressure on the opposition, taking his team to 53-1 in the powerplay.

Brought back into the attack

dian pacer tried to bowl wide yorkers from thereon but failed miserably and ended up bowling as many as seven wides in a 18-run over. The South African opener

in 11th over. Arshdeep lost his

usual calm under pressure after

being smashed for a six down the ground by de Kock. The In-

looked certain to cross the 100-run mark for the second time in his T20 career but was run out in a bizarre fashion by wicket-keeper Jitesh Sharma after attempting a nonexistent single.

The big hits kept coming even after de Kock's fall with Donavan Ferreria (30 not off 16) and David Miller (20 not out off 12) doing the damage in the death overs.

Arshdeep's new ball partner Bumrah too had an off day and conceded 18 runs in the 20th over after being hammered for two towering sixes by Ferreira.

Brief Scores:

South Africa 213 for 4 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 90, Donovan Ferreira 30 not out ; Varun Chakaravarthy 2/29 beat India 162 all out in 19.1 overs (Tilak Varma 62; Ottniel Baartman 4/24) by 51 runs

13-ball over, 7 wides:

Pacer Arshdeep Singh equalled the unwanted record of Afghanistan's Naveen-ul-Haq for bowling the most number of balls in an over in T20I cricket among full-member nations



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dubai, Dec 11: India marked a proud moment at the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 as Abdul Quadir Indori delivered an impressive performance in the swimming events, winning two gold medals in the 50m Butterfly and 50m Backstroke events.

"Golden glory for India! A remarkable achievement that reflects his dedication, discipline, and the rising strength of India's young para-athletes. Congratulations, Abdul!' Paralympic Committee of India shared on X. The Opening Ceremony of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 was also held Wednesday in Dubai, featur-

ing cultural performances and

participation from young para

athletes representing various

Asian nations countries. Among the nations, Iran, the table toppers at the last edition in Bahrain 2021 with 51 gold medals, will field the largest delegation with 195 athletes, demonstrating their deep commitment to youth development

and Para sport excellence. Uzbekistan (124), Thailand (122), and India (122) follow, bringing in the second- and third-largest teams to the competitions, the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) informed in a release Friday.

The hosts, the UAE, will have 55 athletes demonstrating how Para-sport has developed in the nation and the commitment of organisations such as the Asian Paralympic Committee and Dubai Club for People of Determination to promote inclusion in the region.

Dubai is hosting the Games for the second time since 2017, reaffirming its growing role as a hub for Para sport in Asia Defending champions Iran, the table-toppers from the previous edition, have arrived with the largest contingent of athletes totalling 195 participants, and are aiming to retain their titles.

The Games will also feature some of Asia's top Para athletes, including Para Taekwondoin Zahra Rahimi of Iran, silver medallist in the women's -52kg at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, and Chen Po-Yen (Chinese Taipei), ITTF World No 1 and Paris 2024 Paralympic Games silver med allist in Class 11.

India blank Brazil, top pool in squash WC

Chennai: Already through to the quarterfinals, hosts India blanked debutants Brazil 4-0 in their final pool B match of the Squash World Cup here Thursday. National champion Velavan Senthilkumar gave India the perfect start, outplaying world No 183 Pedro Mometto 3-0 (7-5, 7-2, 7-2). India's 17-year-old rising star Anahat Singh then doubled the lead as she brushed aside



Laura Silva 3-0 (7-4, 7-0, 7-2) in 14 minutes. India's top-ranked player Abhay Singh sealed the fixture with a clinical 3-0 (7-3, 7-1, 7-1) victory against Diego Gobbi. Veteran Joshna Chinappa was given a walkover in the final match of the tie. Having defeated Switzerland in their opening fixture of the tournament, India thus topped their Pool. They will take on South Africa in their quarter-final match Friday.

Rupa Bayor rises to career-best eighth



New Delhi: Asian bronze-medallist Rupa Bayor has become India's first Taekwondo player to to be ranked as high as eighth in the latest world rankings, rising a rung from her previous career-best position. The 24-year-old Poomsae competitor from Arunachal Pradesh won a bronze medal at the World Taekwondo President Cup Europe held in Innsbruck, Austria, from November 29 to 30. Earlier this year, she also won a bronze at the

Australia Open Taekwondo Tournament in August. Poomsae is a noncombative form of Taekwondo in which competitors perform a pattern of moves like gymnastics routines to be evaluated by a panel of judges. This format is currently a non-Olympic category but features in the Asian Games. Bayor, who trains at the Indo Korean Taekwondo Academy in Mumbai, was inducted into the Target Asian Games Group (TAGG) of the Sports Ministry in April this year. She is the only Indian in the top 100 of the world rankings across categories.

2026 T20 World Cup tickets go live

Mumbai: Sale of tickets for the 2026 T20 World Cup began Thursday with price being as low as Rs 100 or LKR 1000 in phase 1 for some venues. The competition is being co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8. The ICC announced the sale of tickets for the 10th edition of the T20 showpiece on its platform with the 20-team tournament set to be played across eight venues. Ahmedabad, Chennai, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata will be the host cities for the World Cup



in India, while Sri Lanka will have Colombo (two venues) and Kandy as the two locations. Defending champions India will take on the USA in one of the three matches on the opening day of the tournament. ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta said the global governing body wants to make the tournament "most accessible and global ICC event ever".

ODISHA MASTERS

Top seeds cruise into quarterfinals

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attends Day 3 action

Cuttack, Dec 11: The Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack hosted a thrilling third day of the International Badminton Tournament -Odisha Masters 2025, where 39 matches across Women's Singles, Men's Singles, Women's Doubles, Men's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles were completed in the pre-quarterfinal round.

The day saw a special presence as Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi attended the event as the Chief Guest. boosting the morale of participating athletes.

Indian shuttlers continued their strong showing with top seeds Unnati Hooda and Tharun Mannepalli, alongside Tanvi Sharma, Kiran George, and Anupama Upadhyaya advancing to the singles quarterfinals.

In women's singles, Unnati defeated Thailand's Tidapron Kleebyeesun 21-7, 21-14 in just 25 minutes to book her quarter-

Joining her was Tanvi, who overcame fellow Indian Aditi Bhatt 21-18, 22-20 in a 33-minute

battle. Anmol Kharb staged an impressive comeback against Japan's Shiori Ebihara, recovering from a 6-21 opening-game loss to take the next two games 21-8, 21-13 in 46 minutes.

Anupama also advanced after her opponent retired in the third game.

Tasnim Mir, who delivered a major upset Wednesday, put up a strong fight against qualifier Nanami Someva of Japan. She will now take on seventh seed Tung Ciou-Tong of Chinese Taipei, who defeated India's Aakarshi Kashyap 11-21, 21-8, 21-18 in a 66-minute contest.

In men's singles, top seed Tharun moved into the quar-

terfinals with a 21-16, 12-21, 21-11 win over Govind Krishna in 48 minutes and will next face Indonesia's Muhamad Yusuf.

George advanced with a 21-12, 21-18 win over Dendi Triansyah and will take on eighth seed Rithvik Sanjeevi in an all-Indian quarterfinal. Rounak Chouhan and S Sankar Muthusamy also progressed to the last eight. In doubles, World Junior Team Championships medal ists Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu outplayed Nithin HV and Venkata Harsha Veeramreddy 18-21, 24-22, 21-17 to secure a quarterfinal berth.

Fourth seeded men's doubles pair Pruthvi Krishnamurthy

and Sai Pratheek, along with women's doubles combinations Kavipriva Selvam/Simran Singhi and Ashwini Bhat/Shikha Gautam, also advanced.

In mixed doubles, fourth seeds Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh survived a challenge from Nitin Kumar and Ritika Thaker, winning 17-21, 21-13, 21-19 to enter the quarterfinals.

Sathwik Reddy and Reshika Uthayasooryan also advanced with a confident 21-19, 21-12 victory over Par Tien Ann and Juliana Zefanya Gabriela in 28 All quarterfinal matches will

be played December 12.

IOC confirms LA28 Olympic hockey path

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved the qualification system for the women's and men's hockey events at the 2028 Los Angeles Games, the sport's governing body FIH announced Thursday. As has been the case since the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 12 teams per gender will compete at the Games, including host nation USA.

The remaining 11 teams in each category will qualify through the FIH Pro League. the five Continental Championships, and the Olympic Qualification Tournaments.

"The highest placed nation in the FIH Hockey Pro League Seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27 will qualify; if the same team that wins the 2025-26 Season also wins the 2026-27 Season, the runner up of the 2026-27 Season will qualify," FIH said. Additionally, the highest-placed team at each of the five Continental Championships that has not already qualified either as host or through the FIH Pro

The Olympic Qualification Tournaments, scheduled for early 2028, will provide the final pathway. There will be four tournaments (two per gender), each featuring eight teams.

League will secure a spot.

LITTLE SWIMMER, BIG MILESTONE

1-year-old Veda makes waves as youngest to swim 100m

Ratnagiri's Veda scripts her name in India Book of Records for becoming the youngest to swim 100m in 10 minutes and 8 seconds

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Dec 11: In Maharashtra's Ratnagiri, a oneyear-old has set the record of the youngest child to swim 100 meters, securing a place in the India Book of Records

The young swimmer Veda Paresh's achievement was publicised in an Instagram post, which shows the official mail from the Book of Records.

The email stated that Veda completed 100 meters, which equates to four laps. She achieved the remarkable feat in Ratnagiri's municipal swimming pool in a record time of 10 minutes and 8 seconds. She is only 1 year, 9 months, and 10 days old.

The India Book of Records honoured her achievement, not-



ing that it was an extraordinary milestone for someone her age. The mail was sent November 25, and stated that "Veda has become the youngest to swim 100 meters. The record for swimming 100 meters was set by Veda Paresh Sarfare, born on January 22, 2024, of Ratnagiri.'

Her official Instagram page features several videos of her swimming, showing the little girl confidently diving into the pool and completing laps effortlessly.

"She swam 100 metres (4 laps) across the length of a swimming pool measuring 25 metres * 22 metres in 10 minutes and 8 seconds at the municipal swimming pool," the email further read. Similarly, a 10-year-old Aan-

vi Shailesh Suvarna completed an open-water sea swim of 17 kilometres from Atal Setu to the Gateway of India. Originally from Dombivli in Maharashtra, Aaanvi's achievement placed her among the youngest swimmers in India to accomplish a long-distance sea route.

The accomplishment was made even special as she had completed it on her tenth birthday.

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