



Sharvari's favourite

As 2025 draws to a close, actor Sharvari looks back at the people who ground her every day

LEISURE | P2



Gulf tensions

Saudi Arabia bombs Yemen port over weapons shipment from UAE, issues warning to Abu Dhabi

INTERNATIONAL | P10



8% surge

D-Street investors richer by ₹30.20 lakh crore this year, helped by over 8 per cent surge in the BSE benchmark Sensex

BUSINESS | P11



Eves thrash SL

India's bowlers seal a 5-0 whitewash over Sri Lanka in the five-match T20I series

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 31, 2025



WINTER DESTINATION: Tourists having a good time at the snow-clad ski resort at Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir, ahead of New Year celebrations, Tuesday

B'desh's 1st female PM Khaleda Zia dies at 80

AGENCIES

Dhaka, Dec 30: Khaleda Zia, who became Bangladesh's first female prime minister in 1991 and went on to develop a bitter rivalry with Sheikh Hasina as they spent decades trading power, died Tuesday after a long illness. She was 80.

Her Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said that she died after a prolonged illness. She had advanced cirrhosis of the liver, arthritis, diabetes, and chest and heart problems, her doctors said.

She went to London for medical treatment in early 2025, staying for four months before returning home.

Though Khaleda had been out of power since 2006 and had spent several years in jail or under house arrest, she and her centre-right BNP continued to command much support.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir attended the meeting as a special invitee.

In a televised address to the nation, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus announced a three-

day state mourning and a one-day general holiday.

"At the death of former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, I declare three days of state mourning and a one-day general holiday tomorrow on the day of her Namaz-e-Janaza (funeral prayers)," he said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourned Zia's death, saying as the first woman premier of Bangladesh, her important contributions towards the development of the country, as well as India-Bangladesh relations, will always be remembered. Modi also recalled his "warm meeting" with

her in Dhaka in 2015.

"We hope that her vision and legacy will continue to guide our partnership," he said.

Several other countries, including the US, Pakistan, China, Germany, Australia, and the European Union (EU), also expressed deep sorrow over the death of Zia and paid tribute to her political legacy and role in shaping the country's democratic journey.



Modi's deep concern over 'attack' on Putin's house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday voiced "deep concern" over the reports of the targeting of the residence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and urged Russia and Ukraine to focus on diplomatic efforts to end hostilities.

"Deeply concerned by reports of the targeting of the residence of the President of the Russian Federation," Modi said in a post on X.

Russia claimed Monday that 91 long-range Ukrainian drones attempted to attack Putin's country residence in the Novgorod region, north of Moscow.

Modi said the ongoing diplomatic efforts offer the most viable path toward ending hostilities and achieving peace.

"We urge all concerned to remain focused on these efforts and to avoid any actions that could undermine them," the PM said.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin extended New Year greetings to world leaders including President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and US President Donald Trump, the Kremlin said Tuesday.

The greetings were for "Christmas and the upcoming New Year 2026", the Kremlin said in a statement.

CM launches ₹1,362cr projects for Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

No celebrations in govt offices

The state government Tuesday prohibited all kinds of New Year celebrations in government offices. Celebrations such as gatherings, feasts and parties are strictly banned within the premises of all state government offices on New Year's Day.

According to a release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), all heads of offices and institutions have been directed to ensure strict compliance with these instructions. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has stated that government offices must not be used in any manner as venues for celebrating the English New Year. He emphasised that New Year's Day is a regular working day. He also requested the public not to visit him personally to convey greetings or congratulate him or officers of the CMO.



Tourists at Puri beach, Tuesday OP PHOTO

under the influence of alcohol. To curb such incidents, drivers of tourist vehicles will be subjected to breath analyser tests, and stringent action will be taken against violators of traffic and safety rules under the Motor Vehicles Act.

The department has stressed the four 'E's' of road safety—Enforcement, Engineering, Education, and Emergency Care. Measures have been outlined to ensure passenger convenience and safe return from picnic destinations. All activities will be carried out under the supervision of the District Collector, with active participation from the SP, RTO, and CDMO. Major wildlife sanctuaries and popular picnic locations have been identified, where special enforcement teams will be deployed at entry and exit points.

Meanwhile, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration

(SJTA), along with Puri district authorities, is taking comprehensive measures to ensure orderly darshan of Lord Jagannath for the expected large turnout of devotees.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja reviewed the preparations during a meeting Tuesday, emphasising the importance of organised darshan during the New Year celebrations.

Bargarh, Dec 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid stones for 123 projects worth over ₹1,362 crore in Bargarh district Tuesday.

This was revealed during Majhi's visit to the world-famous Dhanu Jatra in Bargarh.

During his visit to the court of King Kansa, the CM presented a comprehensive plan for the development of Mathura (Bargarh) city.

According to sources, Majhi laid foundation stones for 85 projects amounting to ₹980.58 crore were laid and inaugurated 38 projects worth ₹382.26 crore.

Some of the key projects include Dhanu Jatra open-air theater: ₹12.80 crore, beautification of Bargarh canal (box



CM Mohan Charan Majhi rides an elephant during Bargarh Dhanu Jatra OP PHOTO

Govt's NY curbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: With barely a few hours left for the Zero Night celebrations, the state government Tuesday directed the officials concerned to crack down on reckless driving, speeding, and traffic violations. Anticipating heavy footfall at wildlife sanctuaries and tourist hotspots, including beaches, authorities have been asked to deploy special enforcement teams at key entry and exit points. Additionally, the government has mandated that any vehicles arranged for group picnics or pilgrimages must obtain prior clearance from their respective Regional Transport Offices (RTOs).

Commerce and Transport department has issued comprehensive guidelines to ensure road safety during the ongoing picnic season, with strict action planned against drunk driving, speeding, and other traffic violations. Acting on the instructions of Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, the department has directed all RTOs and Additional RTOs to intensify enforcement to reduce road accidents.

According to the guidelines, accidents frequently occur near picnic spots due to reckless driving, over-speeding, and driving

under the influence of alcohol. To curb such incidents, drivers of tourist vehicles will be subjected to breath analyser tests, and stringent action will be taken against violators of traffic and safety rules under the Motor Vehicles Act.

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"Drinking water from plastic bottles is fine in an emergency, but it isn't something that should be used in daily life," said Sarah Sajedi, lead author of the review.

Microplastics are known to enter the bloodstream and reach vital organs, potentially causing chronic inflammation, respiratory issues, stress on cells, hormonal disruption, impaired reproduction, neurological damage, and various kinds of cancer. But their long-term effects remain poorly understood due to the lack of standardised testing methods to assess them within tissues.

In the review, researchers

examined the global impact of tiny plastic particles ingested from single-use plastic water bottles on human health, drawing insights from over 141 scientific articles.

The review suggests that people meeting their daily recommended water intake solely from single-use plastic water bottles may ingest an additional 90,000 microplastics per year compared to those drinking only tap water who ingest 4,000 microplastics a year.

The study also says that while existing research tools detect even very small particles, these do not reveal what the particles are made of.

And the tools used to determine the composition of plastic particles tend to miss the smallest of them, researchers note, calling for developing standardised global testing methods to measure particles accurately.

"The review highlights the chronic health issues linked to exposure to nano- and microplastics, including respiratory diseases, reproductive issues, neurotoxicity, and carcinogenicity," researchers wrote.

"We highlight the challenges of standardised testing methods and the need for comprehensive regulations targeting nano- and microplastics in water bottles."

Bottled drinkers ingest 90K more microplastics each yr: Study

AGENCIES



exposure to sunlight and temperature fluctuations, according to researchers at Concordia University in Canada who warn the health consequences of ingesting them "can be severe", according to a report by 'The Independent' quoting the 'Journal of Hazardous Materials' that published the review.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, he never protested, criticised the govt, or promoted liberal views. He is simply a convicted rapist

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

■ ARIES

You will be resolute and unswerving in your work today. By afternoon, you'll see results. Love will lighten your workload in the evening, when you meet your beloved. If single, you may come across someone very interesting, muses Ganesha.



■ TAURUS

You are likely to be disinterested and undecided during the morning. Though the will start off on a low note your resourcefulness and creativity will rise as the day progresses. The way you acquit yourself today will make you stand out and give you immense pleasure and satisfaction, assures Ganesha.



■ GEMINI

A day filled with socialising with your friends and relatives awaits you. Guests will probably fill your home. You may make new contacts and acquaintances at social get-togethers, who will prove beneficial to you in the future. The later half of the day is good for meditative and intellectual pursuits, says Ganesha.



■ CANCER

Today, you may have to pay a lot of attention to educational and intellectual activities, predicts Ganesha. There may be novel business proposals and job offers in the afternoon. The opposite sex will be attracted to you like iron pins are attracted to a magnet. However, you are likely to be loyal to the one you love.



■ LEO

Ganesha looks at the stars and foresees that you are at the receiving end of a lot of advice and suggestions from elders today. The best part is that you are likely to get influenced by them as well. Your workplace may look like a battlefield as there are chances that you get into open confrontation with peers.



■ VIRGO

In the sea of relationships, you may just chance upon the port you were looking to dock. But weigh your options carefully before forging a bond of love, warns Ganesha. Later in the day, you may think twice about continuing your current job. Romance will brew quite steadily, hopes Ganesha.



■ SCORPIO

Today will be a favourable day to conclude transactions in houses or vehicles, foresees Ganesha. On the business front, you will possibly get lesser profits than expected. At work, your negotiating skills will save your money from being swindled by others.



■ SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees signals of you being calm and in control to safeguard the sentiments of your dear ones. The afternoon is scheduled to be either the time for a business meet or for some fun and frolic. However, the evening may be heavy on your pocket as you may spend a lot to improve your appearance.



■ CAPRICORN

Today, you will be performing a balancing act as you will be balancing your domestic demands on one end and professional commitments on the other. Eventually, you will spend more time with your friends and family. You are surrounded with experienced and matured people, so ask for their guidance whenever you feel confused, advises Ganesha.



■ AQUARIUS

Wake up! Things are moving quickly and you want to keep pace. Today, your ideas find a place in the sun, and you will bask in all the attention you garner. You need to decide quickly about certain matters, but leave the big decisions for now, says Ganesha.



■ PISCES

Your honesty is your hallmark, and it will reap bountiful rewards for you today, both at the workplace on account of your integrity, and in relationships on account of your sincerity, says Ganesha. Financially also, it promises to be a good day.



I'M A CRAZY PERSON: CYNTHIA ERIVO

Actress-singer Cynthia Erivo calls herself a "crazy person" as she doesn't "eat anything on planes" and brings everything with her because she wants to preserve her voice. The 38-year-old star said: "I don't drink. I don't smoke. I'm a crazy person. I don't eat anything on planes. I bring everything with me."

FOSTER SAYS SHE CAN'T MULTI-TASK

Hollywood actress Jodie Foster, who is known for *The Silence of the Lambs*, is not really comfortable with multi-tasking. The actress has shared that she can't multi-task. The 63-year-old actress prefers to give one thing her entire focus and then when it is "done", she will immediately move on to something else, reports *Female First UK*.



Jacqueline's surreal experience

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez had a surreal experience as she made an emotional return to her alma mater.

The actress visited the Sacred Heart School, where she had received her early education in Bahrain. She shared a video of her visit on Instagram and is seen meeting the teachers and students in the campus. The actress wrote in the caption: "Felt so surreal to be back here at my old school! Sacred Heart School! Thanks for this wonderful welcome."

Jacqueline was raised in a multi-ethnic family. Her father, Elroy Fernandez, is a Sri Lankan, and her mother, was of Malaysian and Canadian descent. She was crowned Miss Universe Sri Lanka in 2006, and represented her country



Sharvari lists her 'favourite people'



Mumbai: As 2025 draws to a close, Sharvari has taken a moment to pause and look back at the people who ground her every day. The actress shared a series of portraits she had clicked of those closest to her, calling the collection "Grateful for them."

Sharvari took to Instagram, where she shared images featuring her sister, parents, younger brother, pet Miso, and members of her chosen family, faces that, as the Munjya actress put it, are the reason she smiles every day.

For the caption, she wrote in the caption section: "As 2025 comes to an end, I was looking back at these portraits I shot of my favourite people. Calling this series "Grateful for them". My sister, Aai, Baba, Miso, my little brother & my chosen family.. They're the reason I smile everyday!"

On the work front, Sharvari will next be seen in *Alpha*, which is a part of the YRF spy-universe. She will be sharing screen space with actress Alia. The two will be seen playing spies. *Alpha* marks the first female-led action film from the spy-universe.

AGENCIES



Kajol up for some 'bad advice'

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Kajol woke up, and chose violence. As the year draws to a close, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a note in which she spoke about being in a mood for giving some bad advice.

She wrote, "I'm giving free bad advice today. Ask me anything".

Kajol's quirky nature has always set her apart in Bollywood. Unfiltered, spontaneous, and refreshingly honest, she has never tried to fit into the industry's polished mould.

Whether it's her candid interviews, playful banter on reality shows, or hilarious social media posts, Kajol's humour feels effortless and real. She laughs loudly, speaks her mind, and embraces her imperfections



Special screening of *Ladhei*

Bhubaneswar: The much-anticipated Odia film *Ladhei: A fight till death* is all set to hit the theatres Wednesday. Ahead of its official release, a special screening was held Tuesday, drawing members of the film fraternity, media professionals, and select guests.

Directed by filmmaker Ashok Pati, *Ladhei* blends action, drama, romance, and thriller elements, promising a

complete entertainment experience.

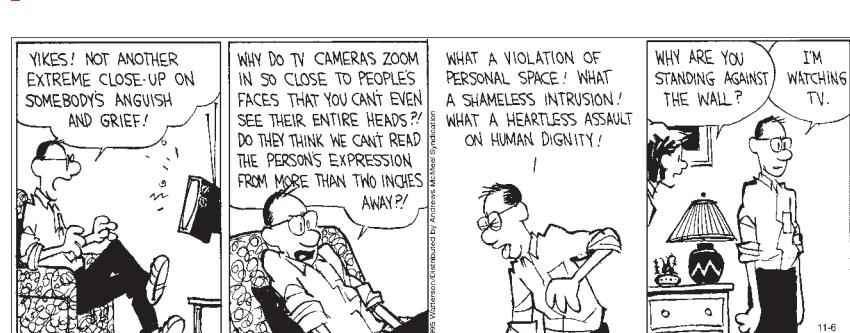
Produced under the DRS Enterprises banner, the film marks the debut of Lohitakshya Pattnaik as a lead actor in Odia cinema, opposite newcomer Avilipsa. With multiple shows lined up across Odisha and outside the state, *Ladhei* is expected to draw strong footfalls as the final Odia release of 2025 and usher in the New Year 2026 on a high note.

PHOTO: PIB

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

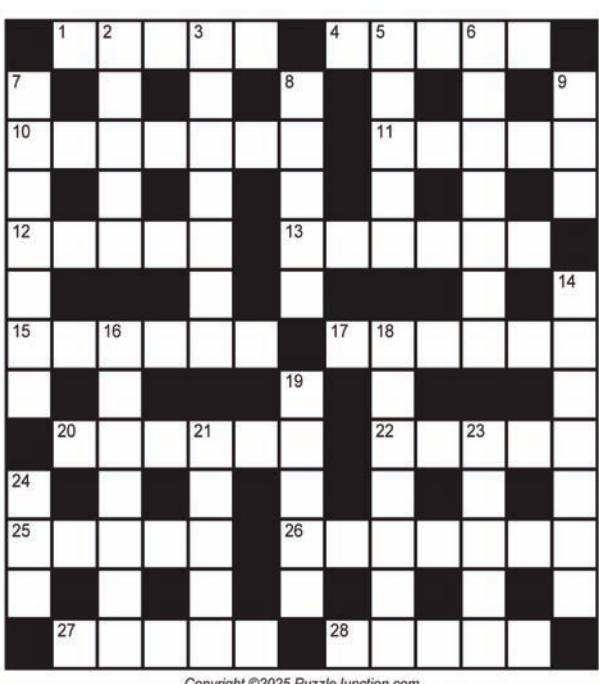


BREVITY



FUN POST

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Hollandaise, e.g.
- 4 Cuss
- 10 Perfect
- 11 Vestibule
- 13 Tea type
- 15 Account book
- 17 Connect
- 20 Meagre
- 22 Edible

Down

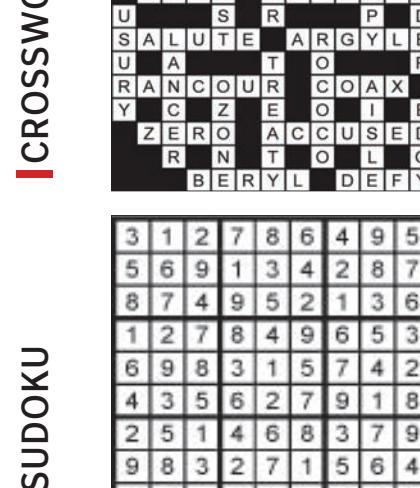
- 25 Astrological ram
- 26 Fan palm
- 27 Santa Claus feature
- 28 Large wading bird
- 7 Office space, at times
- 8 Tick off
- 9 Swedish shag rug
- 14 Ski lodges
- 16 Lead astray
- 18 Type of glass or acrobat
- 19 Substantial
- 21 Stair part
- 23 Mature mushroom
- 6 Wave catcher

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SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

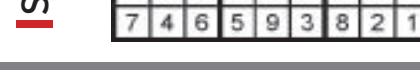
FUN POST

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.



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU



downtown

**14TH
NIJUKTI
MELA**

Uphold integrity, keep system clean: CM to 1,543 new recruits



PNN & AGENCIES

fice. This appointment is a symbol of your trust and success."

He added, "Our government came to power only 18 months ago. In this short period, we have provided employment to 39,459 people at the government level."

"Uphold integrity. Be committed to making the system corruption-free, while ensuring that you yourself remain free from corruption. Provide good service to the people of the state. Never forget your duty and responsibility towards the people. Continue to serve the public with sincerity and compassion," the CM said.

Addressing the newly-appointed officials, the CM said, "You have reached here through hard work and sacri-

Our government came to power only 18 months ago. In this short period, we have provided employment to 39,459 people at the government level

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CHIEF MINISTER

"This recruitment fair plays an important role in realising our vision of building a developed nation and a developed state. Therefore, our government is continuously continuing the campaign to employ the youth and create employment opportunities for

them," Majhi said.

At the event, Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo urged the newly-appointed sports coaches to create at least 10 Olympians from Odisha by 2036. Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Pravati Parida said, "For 2036, you should have bigger vision than dreams." She expressed hope that the people of the state will get new services through the newly-appointed officials.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said, "From today, the general public will be your examiner." He inspired the newly-appointed officials by saying that the recognition of the general public is far above all other certificates.

School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond advised the newly recruits to discharge duty with honesty, sincerity and dedication.

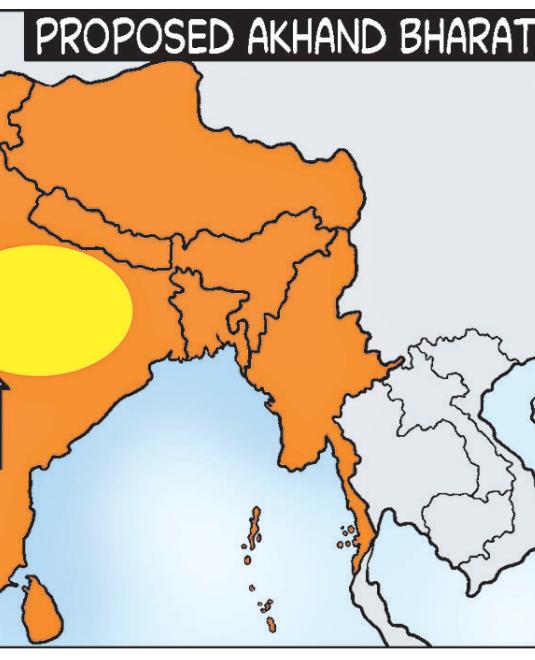
Among the new recruits, Dhruv Kumar Behera from Bolangir, Bhagyashree Swain from Cuttack, Debamruti Sahu from Jajpur and Manisha Nayak from Ganjam expressed gratitude to the CM for getting the appointment due to the state government's clean and impartial selection process.

3 PSUs pay ₹6.39cr dividend to state govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

**YOU WILL BE
CONSIDERED A
CITIZEN ONLY IF YOU**

- 1. EAT LIKE THEM
- 2. DRINK LIKE THEM
- 3. THINK LIKE THEM
- 4. LOOK LIKE THEM
- 5. DRESS LIKE THEM
- 6. SPEAK LIKE THEM
- 7. VOTE LIKE THEM
- 8. ACT LIKE THEM

MANJUL**POLITICKLE by MANJUL****3 PSUs pay ₹6.39cr dividend to state govt**

POST NEWS NETWORK

AGM of shareholders, Odisha Agro Industries Corporation (OAIC), Odisha State Seeds Corporation Limited (OSSCL) and Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Limited (OSCDCL) paid the above sum to the state government.

Rules and regulations related to declaration and payment of dividend have been mentioned under Section 123 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013. As per the Office Circular No-3980 dated 17.02.2016 and 30885 dated 07.11.2025 issued by the Finance

department of the Government of Odisha, it has been directed to pay 30 per cent of the Profit After Tax (PAT) as annual dividend by PSUs.

OAIC paid ₹5,23,74,222 for the FY 2023-24, OSSCL paid ₹23,20,967 for FY 2021-22 and (OSCDCL) has paid ₹46,51,200 for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 each, a total amount of ₹93,2,400.

The state-owned enterprises play a vital role in promoting economic prosperity and advancing the sustainable development goals of Odisha.

PRADHAN TO GADKARI: APPROVE BYPASS AROUND RAIKHAL TOWN

POST NEWS NETWORK

ments such as Bhima Bhoi Degree College. The daily movement of students, patients, government employees and senior citizens has intensified traffic pressure, particularly during peak office hours.

He pointed out that the movement of heavy commercial vehicles through narrow town roads, which are not designed for highway traffic, has led to frequent congestion and heightened the risk of road accidents, causing inconvenience to residents and commuters alike.

He also informed that the demand for a bypass has been strongly supported by local residents, along with the Bar Association, Truck Owners' Association, Senior Citizen Forum and local journalists of Rairakhol.

Pradhan requested Gadkari to issue necessary instructions for the construction of a bypass outside the town limits in the larger public interest, aiming for smoother traffic flow and safer commuting for the people of the region.

MARKET WATCH			
CURRENCY	VARIATION	BOURSES	COMMODITIES
DOLLAR	90.09 ▲ 0.28	SENSEX 84675.08 ▲ 20.46	GOLD ₹136,215 ▲ 1273
EURO	106.15 ▲ 0.33	NIFTY 25938.85 ▲ 3.25	SILVER ₹243,051 ▲ 18622

Patha Utsav starts Jan 4



POST NEWS NETWORK

The 'Bhubaneswar Got Talent' open stage, designed to showcase hidden talents among the public. Participants can perform dance, singing, mono-acting, mimicry, and more. The platform is open to men and women of all age groups.

The festival will also feature a food market, allowing visitors to relish a variety of delicacies while enjoying the winter morning atmosphere. Special activities such as rangoli, painting, face painting, kids' kingdom, and games have been arranged for women and children.

Several new attractions have been added this year, and organisers expect thousands of citizens to participate every Sunday morning. The event will run from 6:30am to 9:30am, promising a refreshing and joyful experience for all.

A special attraction will be

CM condemns attack on Odisha youth in TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday condemned the attack on a youth from Odisha in Tamil Nadu, and sent an officer to the southern state to conduct an inquiry.

Odisha's ruling BJP also slammed the DMK government in Tamil Nadu and demanded resignation of its Home Minister over the youth's assault in a train December 27. K Suraj, 20, is presently undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Tiruvallur.

Taking to X, the CMO said, "Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri @ MohanMODisha has taken immediate cognizance of the inhumane attack on an Odia youth in Tamil Nadu and expressed deep concern. Such a barbaric attack on an innocent Odia boy is strongly condemnable."

It said that the Odisha government has taken this incident very seriously and is in constant touch with the Tamil Nadu administration.

Steps are being taken at the administrative level to provide the victim with the best treatment and assistance, and ensure severe punishment for the culprits, it said.

The CM said, "The safety and self-respect of all Odias are paramount to us. Our government is

determined to ensure the safety of every Odia brother and sister working outside the state."

Labour and ESI Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhunia said that the state government has sent a labour liaison officer to Tamil Nadu to conduct an inquiry and submit a detailed report to the Odisha government.

The Tamil Nadu government has also been urged to take strict action against those responsible, he said.

Meanwhile, the Odisha BJP criticised the DMK government and claimed that law and order has collapsed in the southern state.

State BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal alleged that the DMK government was protecting the criminals and 'failed' to provide security to the people even in public places. He demanded a quick trial of the case.

Biswal said that Suraj was attacked by four juveniles with sickles in the train.

"...The Tamil Nadu government must strongly respond with deterrent punishment to the criminal delinquent attackers. Terrible law & order in

Tamil Nadu. Is DMK govt dead Mr @mkstalin?" Biswal said in an X post.

The BJP leader said that a video of some people attacking a young man from Odisha has gone viral.

"The video... shows how the criminals exhibited victory sign after the attack. What does it indicate? It appears that the Tamil Nadu government has no control over law and order in the state," he claimed.

"The Odisha BJP demands a fast-track investigation into the incident and the resignation of Tamil Nadu Home Minister. This incident is highly condemnable," Biswal said.

A Chennai report said that the police have booked an attempt to murder case against four teenagers allegedly involved in the attack.

The four, aged about 17, were apprehended December 28, and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board. Based on the orders of the Board, three were sent to a juvenile home while the fourth was handed over to the custody of his parents.

POST NEWS NETWORK

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: Coming to the rescue of a woman who underwent Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) to become a male, the Orissa High Court has directed the state government to change the gender status of the petitioner in the mutation certificate and his status/gender therein from "granddaughter" to "grandson" within a fortnight.

The law relating to the protection, safeguard, development, and security of transgender individuals and the duty of the courts towards them, like the petitioner, as per law has already been clarified by the Apex Court, Justice Behera stated in the order, citing the Supreme Court verdict in an identical litigation.



If a person has changed his/her sex in the tune with his/her gender characteristics and perception, which has become possible, because of the advancement in medical science and when that is permitted by medical ethics with no legal embargo, there is no impediment in legal or otherwise in giving due recognition to the gender identity based on the

re-assign sex after undergoing Sex Reassignment Surgery, the Court stated citing the apex Court order.

The petitioner diagnosed with "Gender Dysphoria Syndrome" had undergone "Laparoscopic Assisted Vaginal Hysterectomy with Bilateral Salpingo Oophorectomy", i.e., a surgical procedure to remove uterus, cervix, fallopian tubes, breasts, at Apollo Cosmetic Clinic, Chennai 7 January 2019 and after the successful surgical intervention, a certificate series were issued in favour of the petitioner and accordingly, the gender of the petitioner was changed from female to male.

In pursuance of the surgery, the petitioner applied for a certificate as per Rule-6 of The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020, and Section 7 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, before the District Magistrate, Cuttack.

After making a due enquiry, the District Magistrate, Cuttack, issued a certificate in his favour.

favour of the petitioner certifying that the petitioner has undergone medical intervention, i.e., SRS, and the petitioner has changed his gender from female to male, for which he is entitled to change his name and gender in all official documents.

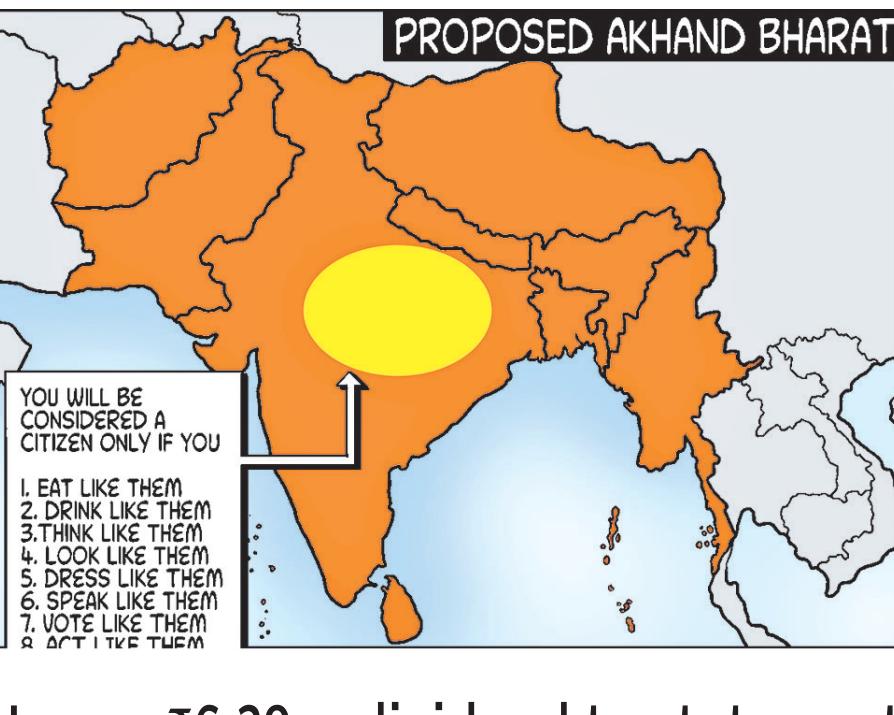
Pertinent to mention here that the petitioner has already made a notification in the gazette of Tamil Nadu state 2 November 2023 in the Tamil Nadu Gazette declaring his changed gender status.

However, the Director of Estates, General Administration Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, later rejected the application for a change in name and gender in the mutation certificate.

Let down by the Director of Estates, the petitioner, as a last resort, moved the High Court based on undergoing reassignment surgery, certificate, PAN Card, identity card, and Aadhaar Card issued by the District Magistrate, Cuttack, and other competent authorities in his favour.

14 IPS OFFICERS PROMOTED

Bhubaneswar: The state government Tuesday promoted 14 Indian Police Service (IPS) officers including Inspector General Shyam S to the additional DGP rank, as per a notification. At present, Shyam is heading the Crime Against Women and Children Wing (CAWCW) of Odisha Police. Her new rank will come into effect from January 1, 2026, said the notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance department. The government has also allowed Soorya Thakappan, who is on Central deputation, to avail proforma promotion to the rank of ADG of police. Similarly, Satyajit Nair and Umashankar Dash have been promoted to the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP). Prakash R, who is currently on Central deputation, has also been granted proforma promotion to the rank of IGP. The government has also promoted Madkar Sandeep Sampat and Sudhanshu Sekhar Mishra (on Central deputation) to the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, the notification said. Besides, several other IPS and IAS officers have been given promotions ahead of New Year. The promoted officers will continue in their present postings until further orders, it said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL**PROPOSED AKHAND BHARAT****3 PSUs pay ₹6.39cr dividend to state govt**

POST NEWS NETWORK

AGM of shareholders, Odisha Agro Industries Corporation (OAIC), Odisha State Seeds Corporation Limited (OSSCL) and Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Limited (OSCDCL) paid the above sum to the state government.

Rules and regulations related to declaration and payment of dividend have been mentioned under Section 123 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013. As per the Office Circular No-3980 dated 17.02.2016 and 30885 dated 07.11.2025 issued by the Finance

department of the Government of Odisha, it has been directed to pay 30 per cent of the Profit After Tax (PAT) as annual dividend by PSUs.

OAIC paid ₹5,23,74,222 for the FY 2023-24, OSSCL paid ₹23,20,967 for FY 2021-22 and (OSCDCL) has paid ₹46,51,200 for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 each, a total amount of ₹93,2,400.

The state-owned enterprises play a vital role in promoting economic prosperity and advancing the sustainable development goals of Odisha.

PRADHAN TO GADKARI: APPROVE BYPASS AROUND RAIKHAL TOWN

POST NEWS NETWORK

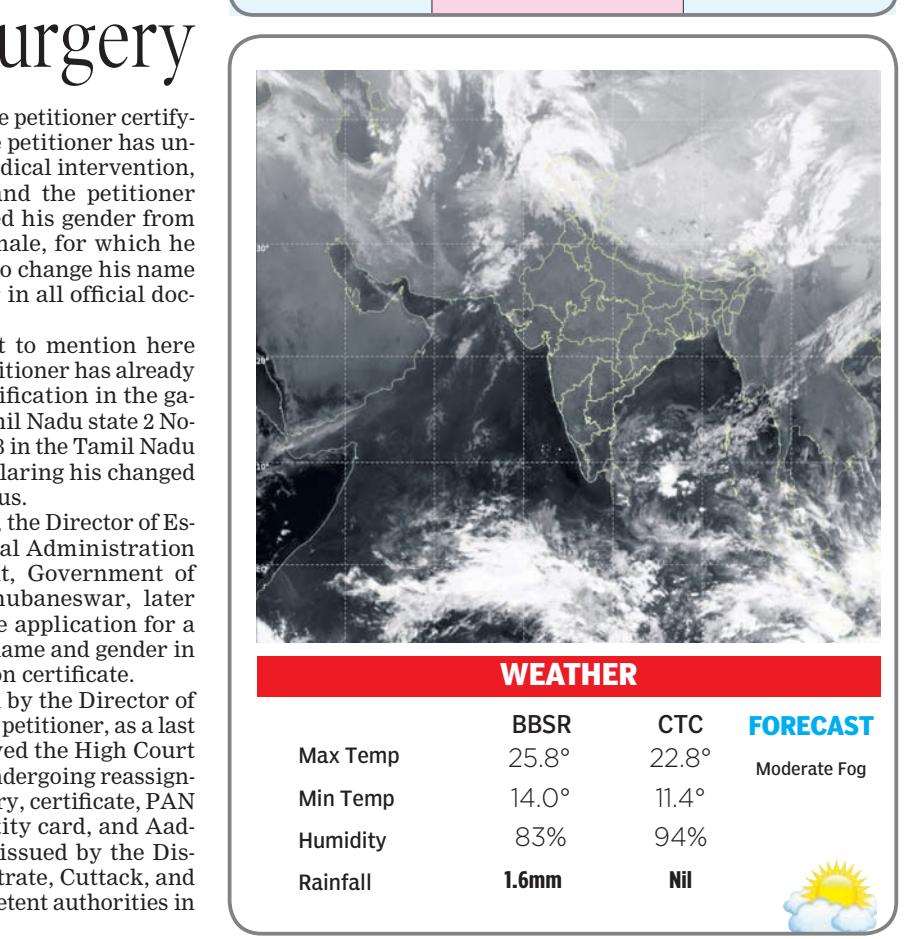
ments such as Bhima Bhoi Degree College. The daily movement of students, patients, government employees and senior citizens has intensified traffic pressure, particularly during peak office hours.

He pointed out that the movement of heavy commercial vehicles through narrow town roads, which are not designed for highway traffic, has led to frequent congestion and heightened the risk of road accidents, causing inconvenience to residents and commuters alike.

He also informed that the demand for a bypass has been strongly supported by local residents, along with the Bar Association, Truck Owners' Association, Senior Citizen Forum and local journalists of Rairakhol.

Pradhan requested Gadkari to issue necessary instructions for the construction of a bypass outside the town limits in the larger public interest, aiming for smoother traffic flow and safer commuting for the people of the region.

MARKET WATCH			
CURRENCY	VARIATION	BOURSES	COMMODITIES
DOLLAR	90.09 ▲ 0.28	SENSEX 84675.08 ▲ 20.46	GOLD ₹136,215 ▲ 1273
EURO	106.15 ▲ 0.33	NIFTY 25938.85 ▲ 3.25	SILVER ₹243,051 ▲ 18622

**WEATHER**
	BBSR	CTC</



Nothing, not even the darkest falsehood can stop the ultimate triumph of Truth.

THE MOTHER

Thai-Cambodian Truce

After a protracted, bloody conflict in which over 100 people were killed and about half a million civilians in both countries living in the border areas displaced, Thailand and Cambodia finally agreed to hold a ceasefire on December 29 and expressed a desire to rebuild mutual trust. However, the ceasefire has already suffered initial jolts with the Thai military accusing its Cambodian counterparts of violating the truce with drone flights. Cambodia of course downplayed the violation glossing it over as a minor incident, but Thailand is not convinced with the explanation.

Stretching across over 817km, the shared land border between Thailand and Cambodia has been the scene of continual conflicts for more than a century. Sovereignty has been contested since France, which occupied Cambodia until 1953, first mapped the border in 1907. US President Donald Trump had brokered a ceasefire deal in July, but it did not last long and fighting continued. Bangkok reluctantly agreed to the deal because the US wielded tariffs as leverage. Phnom Penh, in the weaker position, was happier for it to intercede. Thailand then accused Cambodia of laying new landmines in border areas, injuring several Thai soldiers. The conflict reigned in early December with each side blaming the other.

The century old territorial dispute between Thailand and Cambodia centred around disagreements over colonial-era maps. The two countries had clashed before over an ancient temple and seen unrest over who can claim other aspects of the heritage. Thailand has also attacked the proliferation of criminal online scam centres in Cambodia. But, more than the age-old grievances it is the nationalist feeling and compulsions of domestic politics that provide the trigger for the continuing border tension and skirmishes. In Cambodia the longstanding ruler Hun Sen has given way to his son Hun Manet in a dynastic dictatorship. This has caused anger in neighbouring Thailand and the Cambodian leadership lapped it up to whip up nationalistic feelings that helped to legitimise a regime that has little to offer its people.

In Thailand the long running feud between the powerful military and royalist elites and the politician Thaksin Shinawatra, his family and proxies has been the most predominating domestic political concern. In August, a court dismissed his daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra as Prime Minister for her failure to protect the country's interests after a recording of her discussing the border dispute with Hun Sen was leaked. It captured her addressing him as "uncle", promising to "take care of it," and denigrating a key military commander. This created a huge backlash against her and played to political opponents' claims that the Shinawatra family were happy to sell the country's interests for personal benefit.

The caretaker PM, however, earned popularity by giving the military free rein in its stated aim of crippling the Cambodian army. The clashes are so well timed before the next elections that they help distract the people from governmental woes – including a poor response to deadly floods – as well as positioning the army as national champions.

It appears both sides have agreed to the ceasefire, however fragile it may be, after their respective armies suffered considerable casualties, while the large number of displacement of citizens living in the border areas is sowing seeds of further popular discontent. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the ceasefire a positive step towards alleviating the suffering of civilians, ending current hostilities and creating an environment conducive to achieving lasting peace.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China hailed the peace initiative in the interest of regional peace and trade.

An observer team from ASEAN will also monitor the ceasefire arrangements. Peace is the need of the hour and people's concerns need to be put far above the manipulations of scheming politicians and army top brass which are the bane for countries in this part of the globe.

Interestingly, India has not cared to utter a word in this regard and made itself a nation without any relevance in its own neighborhood while it thinks fit to express 'concern' on a supposed drone attack on the home of Putin in Moscow. This kind of silent distancing from real issues near home has harmed India's diplomacy in this part of Asia.

WISDOM CORNER

Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

LAO TZU

Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

OPRAH WINFREY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1600: The East India Company, formed for the exploitation of trade with East and Southeast Asia and India, was incorporated by English royal charter.

1775: American troops under General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold were defeated by the British in the Battle of Quebec.

1907: The first ball was dropped at Times Square in New York City to celebrate New Year's Eve on this day in 1907. Made of iron and covered in lightbulbs, the ball was so heavy that it had to be wrangled by six men. It established a tradition that continues today.

1983: Coup in Nigeria. A military coup in Nigeria overthrew the civilian government of Shehu Shagari and installed Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari.

1991: The Soviet Union legally ceased to exist. Russia and other former Soviet republics having declared themselves independent and having founded the Commonwealth of Independent States on December 21, 1991.

LOL

ROOKIE ON THE JOB

A rookie police officer was out for his first ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came in telling them to disperse some people who were loitering. The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner. The rookie rolled down his window and said, "Let's get off the corner people."



A few glances, but no one moved, so he barked again, "Let's get off that corner... NOW!" Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled stares in his direction. Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?" Pretty good," chuckled the vet, "especially since this is a bus stop."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

power post

FOCUS NATION

2025 - THE YEAR OF REFORMS



of companies will get reduced.

100% FDI Insurance reform:

- 100% FDI permitted in Indian insurance companies.

- This will give a fillip to insurance penetration and security for the people.

- Apart from enhanced competition, it would offer better insurance choices and improved service delivery for the people.

Securities Market Reform:

- Securities Market Code Bill has been introduced in Parliament. It will enhance governance norms in SEBI, also enhance investor protection, reduce compliance burden and enable a technology-driven securities market for a Viksit Bharat.

- Reforms will ensure savings thanks to reduced compliances and other overheads.

Maritime and Blue Economy Reforms:

- In a single Parliament session, the Monsoon Session, five landmark maritime legislations were passed: the Bills of Lading Act, 2025; the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025; the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025; the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025; and the Indian Ports Bill, 2025.

- These reforms simplify documentation, make dispute resolution easier and reduce logistics costs.

- Outdated Acts dating back to 1908, 1925 and 1958 have also been replaced.

- Jan Vishwas... Ending the Era of Criminalisation:

- Hundreds of outdated laws have been scrapped.

- 71 Acts have been repealed through the Repealing and Amendment Bill, 2025.

- Together, these reforms mark India's move towards a transparent, technology-driven tax administration.

Boost to small & medium businesses:

- Definition of "small companies" has been expanded to include firms with turnovers up to Rs. 100 crore.

- Compliance burdens and associated costs for thousands

consumers for electronics, bicycles and automotive products.

Historic labour reforms:

- Labour laws have been reshaped, merging 29 fragmented laws into four modern codes.

- India has created a labour framework that secures the interests of workers while boosting the business ecosystem.

- The reforms focus on fair wages, timely payment of wages, smoother industrial relations, social security and safer workplaces.

- They ensure greater female participation in the workforce.

- Unorganised workers including contract workers are brought under the ESIC and EPFO expanding the coverage of formal workforce.

Diversified and expanded markets for Indian products:

- Trade deals inked with New Zealand, Oman and Britain. These will add to investments, boost job creation and also encourage local entrepreneurs.

- Reinforce India's position as a trusted and competitive partner in the global economy.

- The FTA with the European Free Trade Association, comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, has been operationalised. This marks India's first FTA with developed European economies.

- These reforms were designed with empathy, recognising the realities of small businesses, young professionals, farmers, workers and the middle class.

- They were shaped by consultation, guided by data and anchored in India's constitutional values. They add momentum to our decade-long efforts to move away from a control-based economy to one that operates within a framework of trust, keeping the citizen at its core.

- These reforms are aimed towards building a prosperous and self-reliant India. Building a Viksit Bharat is the polestar of our development trajectory. We will continue pursuing the reform agenda in the coming years.

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IN JEST THIS

Don't quit on your New Year's resolutions



Melvin Durai

JUST ASK SELENA GOMEZ HOW MANY YEARS IT TOOK FOR HER TO GIVE UP JUSTIN BIEBER

It's that time of year again – time to make your New Year's resolutions. If you're like me, you have to rack your brain to remember your resolutions for 2025. Were you hoping to walk 10,000 steps per day? Were you hoping to do 30 minutes of yoga every morning? Were you hoping to restrict your social media scrolling to just eight hours per day?

Perhaps you were smart enough to write your resolutions down and read them every day – at least until the second week of January, when they started collapsing and you couldn't revive them, not even with smelling salts.

Even if you failed to keep your 2025 resolutions alive for more than a few days, don't let that stop you from trying again. The worst thing you can do is quit (unless you're a smoker). Whether you're trying to give up a bad habit or adopt a good

one, it often takes many attempts before you're successful. Just ask Selena Gomez how many years it took for her to give up Justin Bieber.

"Keep trying" is the first tip I'd give anyone who is tired of making the same resolution over and over. You never know when you will finally succeed. Sometimes all it takes is a change in your environment. You thought you would never have the discipline to learn a new language, but that was before you met your cute new neighbor from Estonia.

Here are four other tips that I've gathered from experts and my personal experience:

Don't make too many resolutions. Instead of making ten resolutions, choose two or three that will have the biggest impact on your life. You are more likely to be successful if you devote your energy to making just a couple of changes, such as "read 10 pages a

day" and "smile as much as possible at the new neighbor from Estonia."

Small changes can make a big difference. The easiest way to fail is to try to do too much. Just because your favourite author writes 1,000 words per day, producing two novels per year, don't think you can automatically do the same. It takes a lot of discipline and dedication to maintain that output, day after day, even on those days when Liverpool plays Arsenal. Instead of shooting for 1,000 words per day, give yourself a more realistic goal: 100 words. That may not seem like much, but it's better to set a target that you can achieve consistently.

Setting realistic goals is something I like to do. Instead of resolving to run 10 laps around the track every day, I resolve to run 10 laps around the coffee table.

Give yourself a "lazy out." I try to go to the gym four times a week to lift weights for about 45 minutes. When I'm feeling lazy,

instead of skipping the workout altogether, I tell myself that I'll just do 20 minutes. That's my "lazy out." It gets me off the couch. And once I'm in the gym, the laziness often disappears. In the same way, if I have a household task that I'm reluctant to do, I tell myself that I'll just do it for five minutes. That's my "lazy out."

But once I get going, I often don't stop until the job is done; otherwise I risk being called a lazy oaf by my wife.

Satellite survey exposes fake paddy cultivation claim on fuel pump land



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Dec 30: A case of false crop declaration has come to light in Chhatrapur block of Ganjam district, where a farmer allegedly registered paddy cultivation on a land that actually houses a fuel pump. Following detection through satellite survey, the Cooperation Department has issued a show-cause notice to the farmer concerned.

According to official sources, under Maa Kalijai Women's Self-Help Group Society in Badamadhapur panchayat, a farmer registered his paddy cultivation on plot No. 2468 under Khata No. 770. However, verification revealed that a petrol pump exists on the

said plot.

The discrepancy went undetected during the initial physical verification by the Cooperation Department but was identified later through satellite survey conducted by ORSAC. Officials said the land-use classification (kisan) of the plot has not been changed despite the presence of a petrol pump.

Based on these findings, the Cooperation Department issued a letter December 23 directing that a show-cause notice be served to the farmer for registering non-agricultural land as cultivable farmland.

When contacted, the secretary of the society said that he had mentioned that paddy cultivation was not carried

out on the plot, but due to an inadvertent error it was recorded as paddy land. He also said that 699 plots under the society were struck off during the current season for non-compliance.

Officials said the issue is not limited to a single case. Several plots across the district, where there is no visible sign of paddy cultivation, were allegedly shown as cultivated land for farmer registration purposes.

To bring transparency to the paddy procurement process, the government has undertaken satellite surveys of suspicious plots. District Registrar of Cooperative Societies (DRCS) Jogamaya Sabat said the state government has identified 2,33,438 suspicious plots in the district, as communicated through an official letter.

Satellite surveys are being conducted for all doubtful plots, and about 95% of the survey work in the district has been completed so far. Data indicates that 1,71,619 plots have been identified as non-paddy agricultural land.

Officials said once the survey is completed, a large number of fake farmer registrations will be removed from the system.

During the current kharif season, 1,56,713 farmers have registered in the district, compared with 1,46,504 registrations during the previous year.

2-wheeler owner finds another bike with same reg num; issued challan

CHHATRAPUR: A vehicle owner, Satya Narayan Behera of Agasti Nuagaon under Chhatrapur

block was left baffled after two challans were issued against his vehicle which he claimed never went to the place mentioned in the challans. The issue came to the fore when Behera visited the pollution renewal centre Monday to comply with the government regulation. He was however denied PUCC renewal only to find out that a pending e-challan of ₹3500; for over-speeding and riding

without a helmet, was due on his vehicle since 23rd September this year issued by Kotinada police station near Aska. What was more interesting that as per his claims, he never took his bike to visit Kotinada. Moreover, while the challan was issued against Behera's two wheeler, a TVS Victor (OD076085), the picture of the bike on the challan is reportedly different. As per Behera, the challan has a picture of a bike with two exhaust pipes, while his bike has a single factory-fitted exhaust pipe ultimately revealing both the bikes have same registration number with one of them bearing a fake one.

Truck driver murdered over unpaid food bill; two held

POST NEWS NETWORK



Barbil, Dec 30: What was initially registered as an unnatural death case in Keonjhar district has now been confirmed as a murder, with police arresting two accused 56 days after the incident.

As per police reports, truck driver Sanjay Yadav of Kendua village under Barkatha police station in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district was killed following a dispute over an unpaid food bill at a roadside dhaba in the Barbil police limits.

According to investigators, Yadav had stopped at Shankar Dhaba near Jhagdaon November 5 and had food there. An argument broke out when he allegedly refused to pay the bill. Dhaba owner Shankar Prasad Mahato called his associate Mithun Munda to the spot. During the altercation, Mahato allegedly struck Yadav on the head with an iron rod, killing him on the spot.

Police said the accused dumped the body in a nearby

vacant area and concealed it with grass. The body was recovered November 23, about 18 days after the incident, and an unnatural death case was registered. However, the post-mortem report later confirmed homicidal death.

Following a complaint filed by the victim's wife, Debanti Devi, Barbil police registered a murder case (500/25) and intensified the investigation. During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to the crime. Keonjhar SDPO Debendra Nath Pingua said both accused Mahato and Munda have been arrested. One pistol, two revolvers, 35 rounds of live ammunition, forged arms licences allegedly issued from Nagaland and the ADM's office in Rourkela, and a mobile phone containing incriminating digital evidence were seized from their possession," he said.

The investigation is continuing to ascertain further details related to the case.

Maoist dump unearthed

Malkangiri: Security forces have busted a Maoist dump and recovered a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) in Bijuapur district of Chhattisgarh on the fringes of Malkangiri district, officials said. CRPF personnel, along with District Reserve Guard and local police, were conducting a search operation on the Kandalaipati road in Bijuapur district when they detected a 5-kg IED hidden along a foot trail, a short distance from Kandalaipati. A bomb disposal squad was called in, and the device was safely defused. The recovery is significant as people of Malkangiri and Chhattisgarh frequently travel to each other's place while the ultras often sneak into Malkangiri to take shelter after conducting and offensive in the neighbouring state. During further searches in the area, security personnel recovered a Maoist dump located close to the IED site. The cache included 20 detonator cords, wireless set batteries, mobile phone batteries and chargers, codex wire, pressure switches, Maoist fatigues, electric wires, Maoist literature, pamphlets and other materials.

To bring transparency to the paddy procurement process, the government has undertaken satellite surveys of suspicious plots. District Registrar of Cooperative Societies (DRCS) Jogamaya Sabat said the state government has identified 2,33,438 suspicious plots in the district, as communicated through an official letter.

Satellite surveys are being conducted for all doubtful plots, and about 95% of the survey work in the district has been completed so far. Data indicates that 1,71,619 plots have been identified as non-paddy agricultural land.

Officials said once the survey is completed, a large number of fake farmer registrations will be removed from the system.

During the current kharif season, 1,56,713 farmers have registered in the district, compared with 1,46,504 registrations during the previous year.

Further details are awaited as the search operations are still underway.

PEO lands in Vigilance net over DA case

HATADIHI/BAULA/BANCHO: The Vigilance Department Tuesday conducted raids at six locations linked to a panchayat executive officer (PEO) in Keonjhar district in connection with allegations of possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The searches were carried out at the residence of Bancho PEO Jitendra Jena at Basantia and at a business establishment registered in his wife's name. Officials said the raids began early in the morning and were continuing at multiple locations. Jena has been serving as a PEO in various panchayats of Hatadihi block for several years.

He is currently posted as PEO of Bancho and Balibarei gram panchayats. A Vigilance team comprising four DSPs and eight inspectors from the Keonjhar Vigilance division carried out the coordinated searches across Hatadihi block. The locations include Jena's house at Mareigaon, his residence at Basantia, a shop and godown at Jagannathpur, his ancestral house at Bantala, and the offices of Bancho and Balibarei gram panchayats. Officials said the raids are being conducted as part of an investigation into allegations that the officer accumulated assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Further details are awaited as the search operations are still underway.

Interstate firearms racket busted; 3 held

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Dec 30: Police busted an interstate firearm and arms licence racket and arrested three persons involved in the illegal trade.

"In its continued drive against possession of illegal arms, Rourkela police busted an interstate racket involved in procuring illegal arms licences from Nagaland through forged documents," Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Western Range, Brijesh Rai said.

Following credible intelligence inputs, raids were conducted across the city, leading to the arrest of three persons, including kingpin Ratan Kumar Shaw, 58, he said. Investigation revealed that the racket was operating across Rourkela, Kolkata and Nagaland. Culprits allured individuals by promising arms licences along with firearms for a sum of ₹5-10 lakh, Rai said.

Rourkela SP Nitesh Wadhwan said forged documents were used to obtain arms licences, which were later distributed among several persons in Rourkela. "One pistol, two revolvers, 35 rounds of live ammunition, forged arms licences allegedly issued from Nagaland and the ADM's office in Rourkela, and a mobile phone containing incriminating digital evidence were seized from their possession," he said.

The investigation is continuing to ascertain further details related to the case.

Hindu groups hold rally in Koraput

Koraput: Various Hindu organisations Tuesday held a rally in Koraput town, demanding the identification and eviction of alleged Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators from the district. The procession passed through key areas of the town before reaching the district collector's office.

Participants raised slogans and voiced concerns over what they termed illegal infiltration, claiming it could pose social and security challenges. A delegation

later submitted a memorandum to the additional district collector, urging the administration to initiate identification and eviction in accordance with the law. Organisation representatives demanded the process be completed within seven days, warning of intensified protests if no action is taken.

They also called for strict vigilance to protect local interests. Adequate police arrangements were made, and the rally concluded peacefully. District officials said the memorandum would be examined and appropriate action taken as per legal procedures.

Youth kills self over land acquisition dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Dec 30: A 25-year-old youth reportedly ended his life Tuesday after his family's ancestral land was allegedly acquired by a PSU despite their opposition, triggering tension in parts of Jharsuguda district, police and residents said.

The deceased has been identified as Sujit Disir, a resident of Ubuda village under Lakhanpur block. Following his death, family members and locals staged a protest by keeping the body at Lakhanpur MCL Hospital in Bandhabal for more than 17 hours, demanding justice.

The family alleged that Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) forcibly acquired their ancestral land with police support despite objections from the landowners. They claimed the



acquisition was carried out without providing promised employment and compensation, which they said forced Disir to take his own life.

"MCL proceeded with the acquisition despite our protests and without settling compensation or jobs," a family member alleged.

MCL, however, denied the accusations. General Manager AK Pandey said the company

follows due process and provides compensation and employment benefits in phases for land acquired for its projects. He rejected claims of coercion and said entitlements are extended in phases as per policy.

After discussions with MCL officials, the family called off the protest, officials said. Authorities said they are looking into the circumstances surrounding the death.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM to Tender Notice No.

e-Tender CAOCRSPBBS-30-2025, Dated : 04.12.2025

The following modification has been made in the Tender Notice which may please be noted.

Sl.	Particulars	Approved Value	Modified Value	For details please visit website: www.ireps.gov.in
1	Advertise Value	₹ 56,14,68,250.07	₹ 56,21,00,130.07	
2	EMD	₹ 29,57,400.00	₹ 29,60,500.00	Dy. Chief Engineer / CON / RSP / Bhubaneswar

PR-205/CI/25-26

Dy. Chief Engineer / CON / RSP / Bhubaneswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY

ADALAT FOR PENDING COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENT CASES

East Coast Railway, Headquarters, Bhubaneswar is going to organize an Adalat to address and clear pending Compassionate Appointment Cases. The Adalat will take place at the Headquarters level at 11.00 hrs. on 19.01.2026 (Monday) in the office of the Principal Chief Personnel Officer, East Coast Railway, 2nd Floor, South Block, Rail Sadan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751017.

Families of deceased, medically unfit or de-categorized employees (who were working only at East Coast Railway Headquarters in Bhubaneswar) are requested to submit the applications for pending Compassionate Ground Appointment cases. The applications with the following details will be addressed to The Principal Chief Personnel Officer, 2nd Floor, South Block, Rail Sadan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751017 by the 5th January, 2026.

(1) Name of the applicant, (2) Relationship with the ex-employee, (3) Educational qualification of the candidate, (4) Date of birth, (5) Date of submission of 1st application for Compassionate appointment (Copy to be enclosed), (6) Details of Ex-employee, (7) Grievance in details

Applicants should attend the Adalat on 19th January, 2026 with the following relevant original documents/testimonials:

(1) Death Certificate/Medical Unfit or de-categorization certificate, (2) FIR in case of missing Railway employee, (3) Legal Heir certificate, (4) Detailed family composition, (5) Application seeking Employment Assistance, (6) Certificates of Date of Birth/Educational Qualification of the candidate, (7) Settlement papers, if available, (8) Attested photos of the candidate (3 Nos), (9) Valid Adoption deed in case of adopted son/daughter, (10) No objection from elders if applicable is made in favour of the younger.

Applicants are advised to provide complete details along with supporting documents and should attend the Adalat in person or through a family representative with proper authorization.

PR-952/Q/25-26

Principal Chief Personnel Officer/ Bhubaneswar

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph: 978330922

AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLE

Sl. No.	Branch Name / Contact No.	Name of the Borrower	Movable Asset/Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	KHANDAGIRI / 9178286377	Mr. Harish Chandra Swain	MARUTI SUZUKI CIAZ SMART HYBRID DELTA SNOW WHITE Regd. No.: OD-02-BV-4456, Date of Purchase: 08.12.2021	₹4,12,000/- / ₹41,200/- / ₹10,000/-
2.	ARB CUTTACK / 8249067773	Mr. Bighneshwar Sahoo	SANY SY2051 EXCAVATOR NWTH 0.93 CUM BUCKET, 20300 KG, CUMMINS 6 BTS-C140 ENGINE, 140HP (140KW) M/C SLL NO.: 13SEY020602098	₹10,60,000/- / ₹1,06,000/- / ₹10,000/-

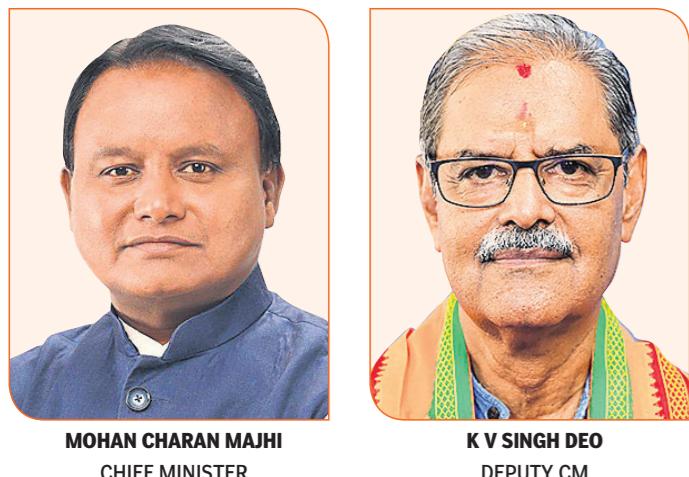
Date of Auction: 10.02.2026 from 11.00 AM, Auction Venue: For Sl. No. 1: Zonal Office, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015 & For Sl. No. 2: ARB Cuttack, 1st Floor, Plot No.: 293/1523, Infront of OSRTC Bus Stand, At: Kunheipara, Trisulia, Cuttack-754005

Parking Yard Address: For Sl. No. 1: Bank of India, Officer's Quarter, Toshali Apartment, Neela Block, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007 & For Sl. No. 2: At: Kalu Garage, Old Duhuria, Kendrapara

Terms and Conditions: Interested bidders can inspect the vehicles with prior appointment of the Concerned Authority at the parking yard as mentioned above. The bidders are informed to be present at the venue positively. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount within one day after bid is successful and the balance amount within 7 days failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership and statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any has to be borne by the successful purchaser. Vehicles will be auctioned on

"AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS" basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject/ cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. There will be bidding in the auction and the highest bidder will be declared as successful bidder. For

STATE

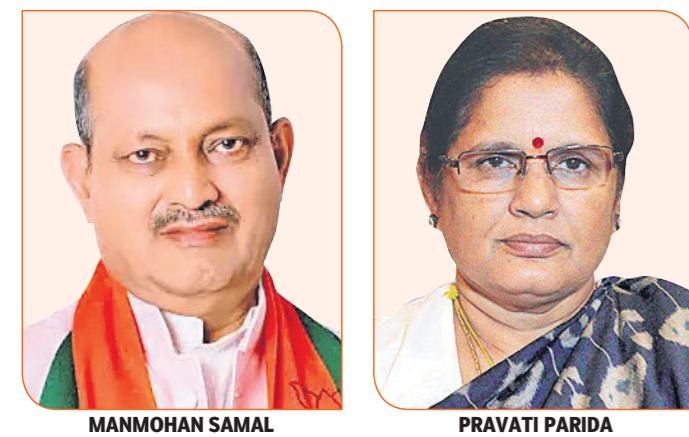


MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI

K V SINGH DEO

CHIEF MINISTER

DEPUTY CM

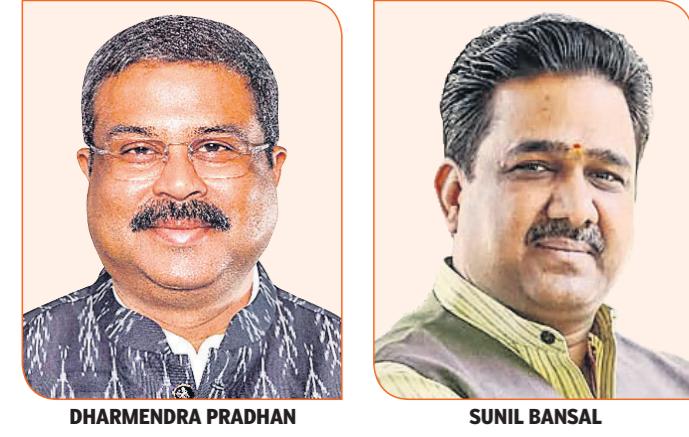


MANMOHAN SAMAL

PRAVATI PARIDA

BJP STATE PRESIDENT

DEPUTY CM



DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

SUNIL BANSAL

UNION MINISTER

BJP ODISHA IN-CHARGE



NITISH KUMAR

MUKESH MAHALING

BIHAR CM

HEALTH MINISTER



SURESH PUJARI

ANU GARG

REVENUE MINISTER

CHIEF SECRETARY (DESIGNATE)



BHAKTA CHARAN DAS

SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA

PRESIDENT, OPCC

KORAPUT MP



SOFIA FIRoud

B PRABHAKARAN

BARABATI-CUTTACK MLA

INDUSTRIALIST

POWER LIST 2025

Power doesn't always shout. Sometimes it builds quietly—through influence, innovation, and the ability to move ideas, industries, and people forward. The Power List 2025 celebrates those who are shaping the year ahead. From trailblazing leaders and cultural disruptors to behind-the-scenes operators and next-generation voices, this list reflects a changing definition of power. In a year marked by rapid technological shifts, global uncertainty, and renewed demands for accountability, the individuals featured here stand out for their ability to adapt and lead with intention. They are setting agendas, challenging norms, and opening doors for others along the way. The list is not just a snapshot of who matters now—it's a signal of where momentum is building, and who is helping define what comes next.

NB: THIS IS A NON-SEQUENTIAL LIST

NATIONAL



INTERNATIONAL



DONALD J. TRUMP

PRESIDENT, US



XI JINPING

PRESIDENT, CHINA



VLADIMIR PUTIN

PRESIDENT, RUSSIA



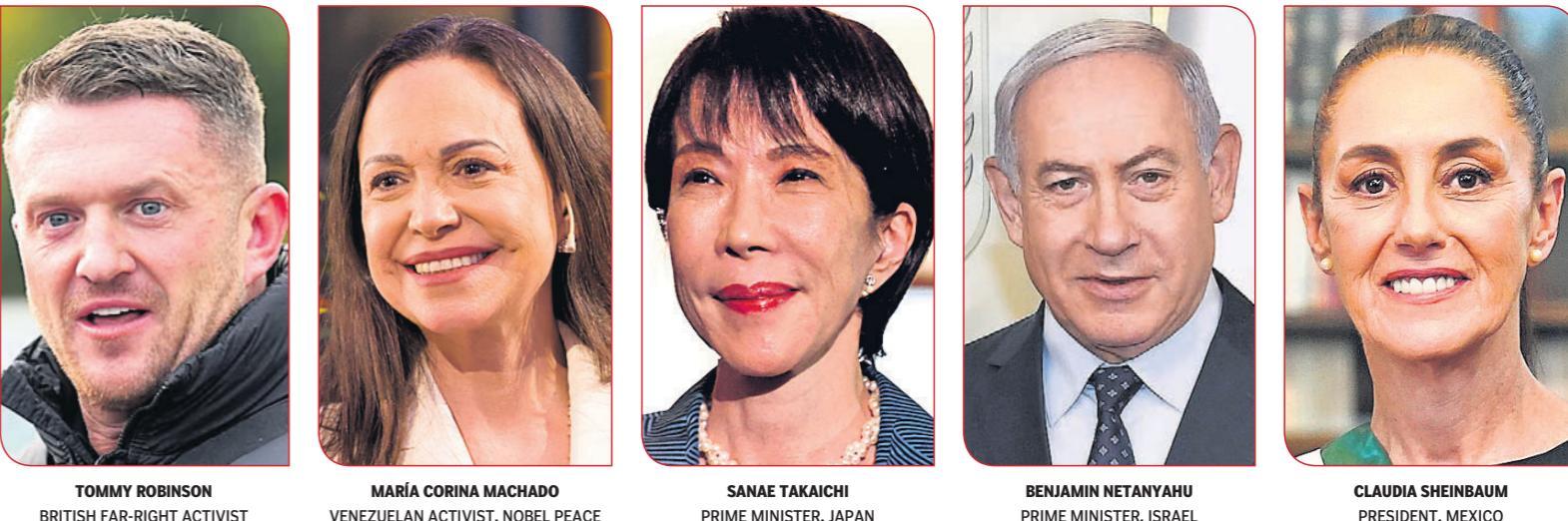
ELON MUSK

BUSINESS TYCOON



MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN AL SAUD

PRIME MINISTER OF SAUDI ARABIA



TOMMY ROBINSON

BRITISH FAR-RIGHT ACTIVIST



MARIA CORINA MACHADO

VENEZUELAN ACTIVIST, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER



SANAe TAKAICHI

PRIME MINISTER, JAPAN



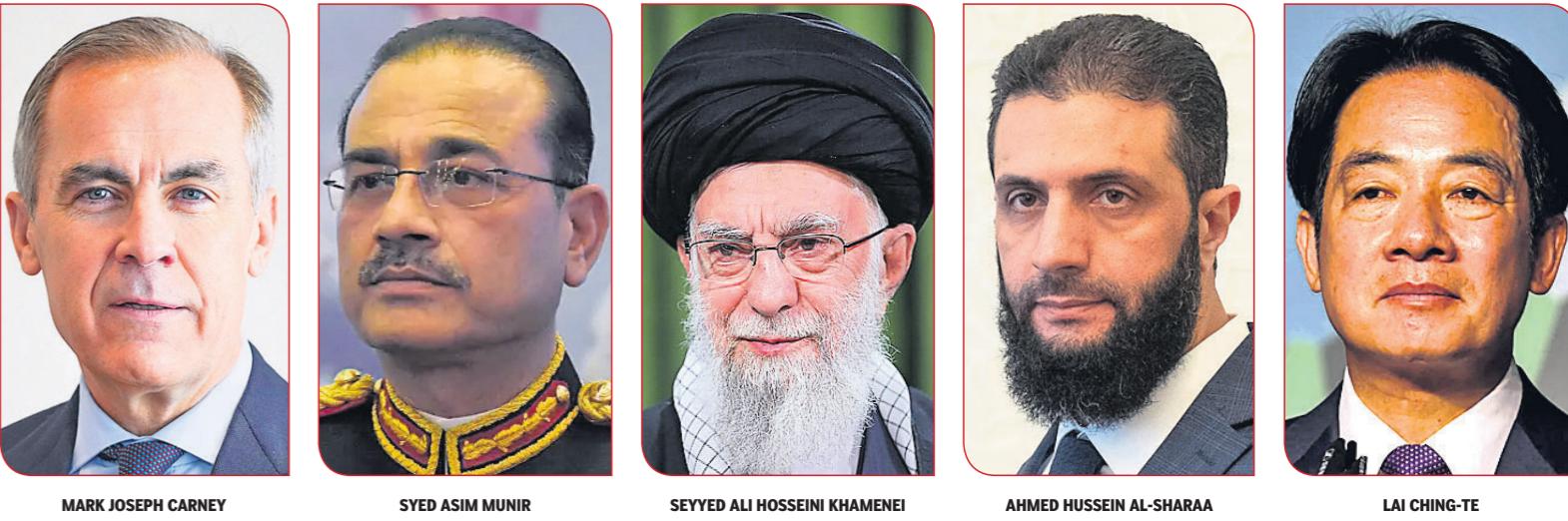
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL



CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM

PRESIDENT, MEXICO



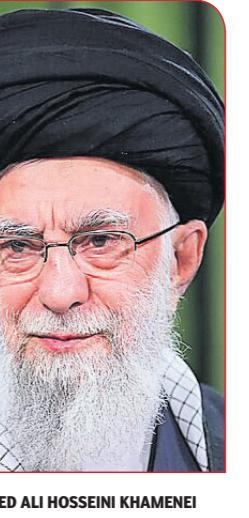
MARK JOSEPH CARNEY

PRIME MINISTER, CANADA



SYED ASIM MUNIR

CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCES, PAKISTAN



SEYYED ALI HOSEINI KHAMENEI

SUPREME LEADER, IRAN



AHMED HUSSEIN AL-SHARAa

PRESIDENT, SYRIA



LAI CHING-TE

PRESIDENT, TAIWAN



GABRIEL BORIC

PRESIDENT, CHILE



MEITAMEI OLOQ

INDIGENOUS LEADER, KENYA



VOLODYMYR ZELENKY

PRESIDENT, UKRAINE



GIORGIA MELONI

PRIME MINISTER, ITALY



FRIEDRICH MERZ

CHANCELLOR, GERMANY



KEIR STARMER

PRIME MINISTER, UK



MUHAMMAD YUNUS

CHIEF ADVISER OF BANGLADESH GOVT



REcep Tayyip Erdogan

PRESIDENT, TURKEY



J D VANCE

VICE PRESIDENT, US



ZOHRAN MAMDANI

MAYOR ELECT, NEW YORK CITY



LUIZ INÁCIO LULA DA SILVA

PRESIDENT, BRAZIL



TIM COOK

CEO, APPLE



MARK ZUCKERBERG

CEO, META



SAM ALTMAN

CEO, OPENAI



FÁTIMA BOSCH FERNÁNDEZ

MISS UNIVERSE 2025

national

of the day quote

I wish to draw your kind attention to the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RamG) Act and the consequent repeal of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

SIDDARAMAIAH | K'ATA CM

It was decided to have a third district in Goa, comprising Dharbandra, Sanguem, Quepem and Canacona talukas (all from the current South Goa district)

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

The flagship rural employment scheme, enacted during the UPA government, under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2005, had worked as a legal protection shield and helped pull millions of families out of poverty

ASHOK GEHLOT | CONG LEADER

SHORT TAKE

Congress leader Adhir meets PM

New Delhi: Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and raised the issue of "attacks" on Bengali-speaking people, especially in BJP-ruled states, and the problems faced by the backward Matua community in West Bengal. Talking to reporters after the meeting, the former five-time MP said he raised the issue of migrant workers and also the problems being faced by the Matua community.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Padmaja Pattanaik, W/o.- Bhabani Prasanna Pattanaik, resident of Sriram Nagar, P.O.- Arunodaya Market, P.S.- Badambadi, Town/ Dist.- Cuttack, PIN- 753012, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 9319, dtd.- 15.11.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Padmaja Jagati for all future purposes.

LOST

I am Jogendra Nayak, S/o-Uddhaba Nayak, resident of Gobardhan Prasad, Police Station- Fatehgarh, District- Nayagarh. Details of the property are: Khata No.557/79, Plot No.2865/3089, Area 0.02 decimals, Mouza Gobardhan Prasad, Tahasil- Khandapada, Police Station-Fatehgarh, District-Nayagarh, Odisha-752063. While my younger brother Rabinayak alias Rabindra Nayak and I were going to the Tahasil Office for some urgent work, the sale deed (Kabala) of the said property bearing No.841, dated- 26.04.1999, has been lost somewhere. If any kind-hearted person finds the said sale deed, they are kindly requested to contact my advocate, Prabhakar Pattnaik, at mobile number:

9778070590.



Our Constitution provides us with rights, but equally reminds us of our fundamental duties, respect for diversity, promotion of scientific temper, and commitment to the unity and integrity of India. These duties must guide your actions as citizens of a vibrant democracy

C P RADHAKRISHNAN | VICE PRESIDENT

BENGAL POLLS 2026

Shah, Mamata trade barbs

AMIT SHAH AND MAMATA BANERJEE TRADED SHARP ACCUSATIONS IN BENGAL, CLASHING OVER CORRUPTION & INFILTRATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 30: Setting the tone for the high-stakes West Bengal Assembly polls, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday launched a broadside against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accusing her government of "dangerously altering" the state's demography by abetting the infiltration of Bangladeshis for electoral gains and indulging in widespread corruption.

Shah's remarks evoked a sharp response from Banerjee, who cited the Pahalgam attack and terror blast in the national capital to question the Centre's handling of national security.

"Does infiltration happen only in Bengal? Does it not happen in Kashmir? An incident took place in Delhi some days ago. Are infiltrators present nowhere except Bengal? So, was it you who did it?" she said, and demanded Shah's resignation as the country's Home Minister.

With the polls for the 294-member state assembly less than six months away, battle-lines have been drawn between Banerjee-led Trinamool and the BJP, the main Opposition party in the state, with Shah declaring that the issue of "driving infiltrators out" would be one of the key poll issues for his party in the upcoming electoral contest. Addressing a press conference here, Shah said the BJP will restore the state's lost glory, and "after April 15, 2026, when a BJP government is formed in Bengal, the party under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

will begin the revival of the state's pride, culture, and renaissance." The coming months ahead of the Assembly polls



are "crucial" for the state, he said, and added that West Bengal has witnessed "fear, corruption, and misgovernance" under 15 years of the Trinamool Congress.

Asserting that infiltration has created a sense of insecurity and anxiety among the people in the state, the Union Home Minister said the issue of "driving infiltrators out of the country" would be his party's key poll issue.

Meanwhile, addressing a public meeting at Barjora in Bankura district, Banerjee, without naming anyone, said: "Today, Dushasan has come to Bengal. Whenever elections are around, Duryodhan and Dushasan arrive here."

Banerjee said, "Why is this state being blamed all the time for infiltration when a terror attack happened in Jammu and Kashmir, and a blast took place in New Delhi?"

Dushasan, the younger brother of Duryodhana, is a key figure in the Mahabharata and infamous for his attempt to disrobe Draupadi, though his name literally means difficult to govern, not inherently bad governance.

The Chief Minister, who

provided a point-by-point rebuttal, also claimed that land was provided at Petrapole and Changrabandha.

Banerjee also claimed that the SIR was a huge "scam" being conducted with the help of artificial intelligence (AI), but asserted that her party would return to power in West Bengal and take on the BJP at the national level through democratic means.

Accusing the TMC of backing a "syndicate raj" to perpetuate corruption, Shah claimed that West Bengal's economy has witnessed an unprecedented slide, with more than 7000 industries fleeing from the state. "There was a time before the Communists came to power when the state's per capita income was 27 percent higher than the national average."

"Now, it has dwindled to 27 per cent below the national figure. Industries are exiting on account of the fledgling corruption, infiltration, and 'toll-bazi' (extortion racket) here. Mamata Banerjee is answerable for this," he said. Shah appealed to the voters, who have given Congress, Left, TMC opportunities to govern, to provide the BJP a chance.

These youths were at loggerheads for some time over the issue of "popularity" in social media, as both the groups claimed to be more famous than the other on social media platforms, Jat said.

"Following the altercation, nearly 60 persons from both the communities came face-to-face and hurled stones at each other Monday night. They engaged in stone-pelting again Tuesday morning. Police force reached the spot and took control of the situation," the SP said.

Based on the complaints given by both the sides, the police registered two separate FIRs of rioting and detained 30 suspects for questioning. A combing operation is underway to nab the culprits involved in the violence, he said.

TECHIE KILLED IN CYLINDER BLAST

A 23-year-old software professional was killed and three others were injured following a commercial gas cylinder explosion at a paying guest (PG) accommodation in Kundalalhalli here, police said Tuesday. The blast occurred at around 6.15 pm Monday evening at Seven Hills Sai Co-Living PG, located within the HAL Police Station limits, police said



30 detained after clash between two communities in Guj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Dec 30: Police have detained at least 30 persons after members of two communities clashed and hurled stones at each other after an altercation over a small issue near Sanand town in Gujarat's Ahmedabad district, an official said Tuesday.

The violence took place at Kalana village Monday night and again Tuesday morning, he said. "People belonging to two communities came face-to-face after an altercation between some youths, and later engaged in stone pelting," district Superintendent of Police Om Prakash Jat said. Adequate police force has been deployed in the village following the incident and the situation is under control, he said.

Providing details of the incident, the SP said, "When two youths from a community were passing by a village pond on their motorcycle Monday evening, some youngsters from another community, who were sitting there, picked up a fight with the duo and asked why they were looking at them."

These youths were at loggerheads for some time over the issue of "popularity" in social media, as both the groups claimed to be more famous than the other on social media platforms, Jat said.

"Following the altercation, nearly 60 persons from both the communities came face-to-face and hurled stones at each other Monday night. They engaged in stone-pelting again Tuesday morning. Police force reached the spot and took control of the situation," the SP said.

Based on the complaints given by both the sides, the police registered two separate FIRs of rioting and detained 30 suspects for questioning. A combing operation is underway to nab the culprits involved in the violence, he said.

PM holds key Budget meet with economists



Interacting with a group of eminent economists and experts at NITI Aayog ahead of Union Budget for 2026-27, Modi made a case for building world-class capabilities and attaining global integration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday called for mission-mode reforms across diverse sectors to sustain long-term growth to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Interacting with a group of eminent economists and experts at NITI Aayog ahead of Union Budget for 2026-27, Modi also made a case for building world-class capabilities and attaining global integration.

The theme of the interaction was 'Aatmanirbharata and Structural Transformation: Agenda for Viksit Bharat'. He stressed that India's policy making and budgeting must remain anchored with the vision for 2047.

The Prime Minister spoke about the need to ensure that the nation remains a vital hub for the global workforce and international markets. Speaking about Viksit Bharat as a national aspiration, he noted that the vision of a developed India by 2047 has transcended government policy to become a genuine mass aspiration. During the interaction, the economists shared strategic insights on enhancing productivity and competitiveness across the manufacturing and services sectors.

The participants also noted

that the unprecedented flurry of cross sectoral reforms in 2025, and their further consolidation in the coming year, will ensure that India continues to chart its path as one of the fastest growing global economies by strengthening its foundations and unlocking newer opportunities. The discussion focused on accelerating structural transformation through increased household savings, robust infrastructure development, and the adoption of cutting-edge technology.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Principal Secretaries to Prime Minister P K Mishra and Shaktikanta Das, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nagayash, Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, and other members of the Aayog were present in the meeting. Besides, several renowned economists and experts were part of the discussion, including former CEA Shankar Acharya, Ashok K Bhattacharya, N R Bhanumurthy, former RBI MPC member Ashima Goyal, Dharmakirti Joshi, Umakanth Dash, Pinali Chakraborty, Indranil Sen Gupta, Samiran Chakraborty, Abhiman Das, Rahul Bajaria, Monika Halan and Siddhartha Sanyal.

Nagpur civic polls: Congress vs NCP (SP), BJP-Sena join hands

NAGPUR: A multi-cornered contest is on the cards in the Nagpur municipal corporation elections, with the main battle lying between the traditional rivals, the BJP and Congress. The political dynamics forced contests between the BJP-Shiv Sena combine and their Mahayati ally, NCP, led by Deputy CM Ajit Pawar. In the opposition camp, allies Congress and NCP (SP) are ranged against each other. The Congress has fielded candidates in all 151 seats, a party leader said Tuesday after the deadline for filing nomination forms closed. The status of the Shiv Sena (UBT) remains unclear. Nagpur city (district) president Vikas Thakre said the Congress has nominated grassroots workers who rushed to citizens' aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistently supported patients and the poor people, and who have worked with dedication for all sections of society. He said the Congress has set a target to win 100 seats.



A train travels amid low visibility on a foggy winter morning, in Ranchi, Jharkhand

PTI PHOTO

350 activists, others write open letter to Centre

The open letter signed by around 350 academicians, researchers and field functionaries said there were several gaps in the reasoning provided to repeal the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and replace it with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act (VB-G RAM G)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Several scientists, academicians, civil society organisations and others Tuesday wrote an open letter to the central government to fix issues with the implementation of MGNREGA instead of repealing it.

The open letter signed by around 350 academicians, researchers and field functionaries said there were several gaps in the reasoning provided to repeal the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and replace it with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act (VB-G RAM G).

The open letter said the demand-driven nature of the



equity from the local elite and mutual respect and consensus from the community. "This will get lost with a normative design," it said.

It called for preserving the "open-ended demand-driven" nature of MGNREGA.

the new Act aims to add on to existing mechanisms like the NREGA Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app and geotagging of structures with biometric-based authentication.

It said communities in need of livelihood and resilience assets often do not understand the complex guidelines they need to follow to demand funds for such assets and are unable to follow through with placing their demands in the gram sabhas.

Introducing digital technology and putting rigid processes in place to reduce leakages is neither an effective solution nor does it address the underlying causes -- empowering communities who require MGNREGA to be able to avail its benefits is the right approach

to have MGNREGA live up to its potential of addressing rural resilience and equity, it said.

Counting the notion that MGNREGA creates challenges to the availability of labour in the peak agriculture season, the open letter said MGNREGA wage rates are significantly lower than prevailing agricultural wages, often by as much as 40-50 per cent.

On the budget of the scheme being shared between the Centre and the state, and the burden of extra expenditure being on the states, it said these clauses might lead to political favouritism towards some states. To be fiscally prudent, states are likely to stifle work demand leading to increased unemployment and distress migration, it said.

national



Construction work on nearly 400 km of roads across the national capital will commence as soon as the restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) are lifted

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

RAGHUBAR DAS DEMANDS PESA RULES BE MADE PUBLIC

Senior BJP leader Raghubar Das Tuesday demanded that the Jharkhand government make the Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) rules public at the earliest. The former CM said he suspected that the rules, recently passed by the state cabinet, might have ignored many core provisions proposed in the PESA Act, 1996



WATER CONTAMINATION

Three dead, over 100 hospitalised



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

charged after treatment.

"The patients said they suffered from vomiting, diarrhoea and dehydration after drinking contaminated water," Hasani said. According to him, several medical teams, along with four ambulances, have been deployed in the Bhagirathpura area to tackle the outbreak.

Local residents, however, claimed that five persons, including four women, have died so far after falling ill due to contaminated water.

According to the local councilor, the residents complained that the water supplied December 25 had an unusual smell and people may have fallen ill after consuming it.

"We have urged Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to provide appropriate financial assistance to the bereaved families. All patients are being treated at the government's expense," the mayor said.

While the water sample test reports are awaited, prima facie it appears that drainage water may have mixed with drinking water supply lines, contaminating the water. Strict action will be taken against the officials for negligence, he added.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, KOLNORA	
DIST.- RAYAGADA, PIN CODE - 765017, ODISHA	
E-mail ID: ori-kolnara@nic.in	
INVITATION FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)	
e-Procurement Notice	
IDENTIFICATION NO. PS-KOL No.04 of 2025-26	
Tender Notice No. 4999 Dated 28.12.25	
No.i-443:- The Block Development Officer, Kolnora, Rayagada invites Percentage Rate bid in Single cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Gram Panchayat level Federation (GPLF) Building work (Civil) as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N.) from the eligible class of contractors.	
1) No. of works	: 09 (Nine) No.
2) Estimated Cost	: Rs.24.81 lakhs to Rs.25.23 lakhs
3) Cost of Tender paper	: Rs.600/- (Rupees Six Thousand) only for each work
4) Class of Contractor	: 'D & C' CLASS
5) Date of Time of available in website & receipt online	: 11.00 Hrs. of 01.01.2026 to 17.00 Hrs. of 15.01.2026
6) Date of opening of	: 11.30 hrs. of 16.01.2026
Technical Bid	
The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website https://tendersodisha.gov.in .	
Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in only.	
OIFR-19053/11/0004/2526 Sd/- Block Development Officer, Kolnora	

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-894	
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PARALAKHEMUNDI (R&B) DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI	
Tel. Ph. No.: 06815-222542, E-mail ID: ererbparala@yahoo.com	
e-Procurement Notice	
Bid Identification No. S.E., PKD. R&B DIVN.-17/2025-26	
No. 10178 Dated 23.12.25	
The Superintending Engineer, Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha Invites Percentage rate bid in Single Cover System to be received in on ONLINE MODE only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:	
1. Nature of works	: Roads & Buildings Works
2. No. of Works	: 06 (Six) Nos. of works
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs 47.14 lakhs to Rs.2.24 lakhs
4. Cost of Tender paper	: Rs 6,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand) only for each work
5. Bid Cost	: Rs 6,000/- & Rs. 2,000/-
6. Class of Contractor	: 'B' & 'C' & 'D' CLASS
7. Availability of Bid Documents in the website	: 10.00 hrs. of 03.01.2026 to 17.00 hrs. of Dt.15.01.2026
8. Date of opening of the website	: 12.00 hrs. of Dt.16.01.2026
9. Date of opening of	: 12.00 hrs. of Dt.16.01.2026
The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website http://tendersorissa.gov.in . Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.	
Sd/- Superintending Engineer Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division	
OIPR-34186/11/0012/2526	

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-894	
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PARALAKHEMUNDI (R&B) DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI	
Tel. Ph. No.: 06815-222542, E-mail ID: ererbparala@yahoo.com	
e-Procurement Notice	
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Sd/- Superintending Engineer Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division	
OIPR-34186/11/0012/2526	

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. C-1889	
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR	
Phone: 0680-2291405, E-Mail: erew_gm1@yahoo.co.in	
Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice	
Bid Identification No. Online Tender // 22 // SERWDG-I / 2025-26	
1 Name of the Work : To Road Works	
2 Estimated Cost : Rs.35.29 lakhs	
3 Period of Completion : As per Annexure Culum No. 06	
4 Date & Time of Availability of Bid Documents in the Portal : From 31.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 08.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	
5 Last Date/Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal : 08.01.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	
6 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Ganjam, Berhampur	
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in .	
Sd/- Executive Engineer R.W. Division-I, Ganjam, Berhampur	
OIPR-25085/11/0045/2526	

LINKS TO BANGLADESHI EXTREMISTS

11 arrested in Assam, Tripura



without sharing details.

Mahanta said Bangladeshi nationals Umar and Khalid were assigned to coordinate with the Assam cell, the head of which was Tamim of Barpeta Road.

Mahanta claimed that among the people targeted were individuals possessing Indian passports who had visited Bangladesh, as well as known former members of proscribed groups.

After his release, recruitment and mobilisation activities of the outfit intensified and several meetings were held in parts of Assam, Tripura and West Bengal, he added.

This has resulted in revival of their ideological influence and Indian networks, including through IMK-linked platforms, which disseminate extremist propaganda advocating violent jihad and armed conquest of India, he added.

IMK also exploits social and religious gatherings and several clandestine meetings have been held at local mosques since December 2024, advocating violent armed struggle in India to stop "atrocities on Muslims", he added.

Talking about their funding pattern, the police commissioner said IMK's operations are bankrolled through a combination of Hawala and small account transactions.

Punjab Assembly passes resolution against G RAM G

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 30: The Punjab Assembly Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution against the VB-G RAM G Act in the Vidhan Sabha, accusing the BJP-led Centre of "taking away" the livelihoods of the poor and Dalit labourers by scrapping MGNREGA under a "deliberate conspiracy".

The House recommended that the Punjab government seek from the Centre to immediately restore the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to its original right-based form. The House also took note that Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) (SAD) has maintained "silence" on this entire issue in the hope of re-establishing an alliance with the BJP for the 2027 assembly polls. The AAP government had called a one-day special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha to oppose the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act (VB-G RAM G).

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international

of the day quote



Zia, the longtime chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a three-time prime minister, died early Tuesday in Dhaka after a prolonged illness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Dec 30: Khaleda Zia, the first woman prime minister of Bangladesh and the second in the Muslim world, dominated the country's politics for decades alongside her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina.

Zia, the longtime chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a three-time prime minister, died early Tuesday in Dhaka after a prolonged illness. She was 80.

She is admired by her supporters for her role in restoring democracy in the country following military or quasi-military rule since 1975. Zia largely dominated Bangladesh's politics in the 1990s as well as in the early 2000s.

Her political journey, spanning over four decades, was one of tremendous highs and lows: from leading a major party and governing the country to being convicted on corruption charges and later receiving a presidential pardon.

Zia's rise as a public figure is widely viewed as accidental. A decade after becoming a widow at the age of 35, she assumed the role of prime minister, but

her entry into politics was not planned.

She was largely unfamiliar with the political world until she was seemingly dragged into it following the assassination of her husband, President Ziaur Rahman, a military强人 turned politician, in an abortive army coup May 30, 1981.

Before this, she was merely regarded as the wife of a general and later the First Lady. However, she quickly made her mark as the top leader of the BNP, the party her husband had founded in 1978.

She was enrolled as a primary member January 3, 1982. By March of the following year, she became the party's vice president, and in May 1984, BNP's Chairperson - a position she held until her death. Her main rival throughout this period was Sheikh Hasina, the chief of the Awami League.

After the 1982 military coup by the then Army chief Gen HM Ershad, Zia initiated a movement for restoring democracy.

In 1986, Ershad announced a presidential election amid simultaneous campaigns by Zia's BNP-led alliance and Hasina's Awami League-led 15-party coalition.

Both alliances initially decided to boycott the polls, but the Awami League, along with the Communist Party and other parties, eventually participated. Zia's alliance stuck to the boycott, and Ershad placed Hasina under house arrest before the

widely believed rigged March election, securing his position as president as a nominee of the Jatiya Party.

"Her (Zia's) popularity soared after she boycotted the polls in 1986," wrote Professor Howher Rizvi, who later became international affairs adviser of Hasina's government. After the fall of the Ershad regime in December 1990, a caretaker government headed by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed conducted the elections in February 1991.

BNP emerged as the party with majority to the surprise of many who believed the Awami League would win the polls. The new parliament amended the constitution, switching to a parliamentary system from a presidential form of government, and Zia became the first woman prime minister in

ter in</p

of the
day quote

Investors' wealth surges by ₹30.20L-cr in 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Dalal Street investors became richer by Rs 30.20 lakh crore this year, helped by over 8 per cent surge in the BSE benchmark Sensex, despite facing multiple headwinds in the form of foreign fund exodus, tariff-related uncertainties, elevated valuations and a weakening rupee.

Analysts said despite the headwinds, stock markets demonstrated resilience, helped by strong domestic investor support and macroeconomic stability, which was marked by strong GDP growth.

"Despite outflows continuing to be an issue for foreign investors, the resilience of the market was demonstrated. One of the key drivers for the Indian market in 2025 has been the presence of robust domestic investor support," Nitin Rao, CEO, InCred Wealth, said.

Till December 29, this year, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 6,556.53 points, or 8.39 per cent. The benchmark hit its record high of 86,159.02 on December 1.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms surged by Rs 30,20,376.68 crore to Rs 4,72,15,483.12 crore (USD 5.25 trillion) so far this year.

The mcap of BSE-listed companies had hit the coveted Rs 400-lakh crore mark for the first time in April last year.

The year 2025 can be best de-



scribed as a year of consolidation and transition for Indian equities, Ponnudi R, CEO, Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

"After several years of strong double-digit returns, benchmark indices delivered more moderate gains, with Sensex and Nifty rising around 8-10 per cent. While these returns may appear modest compared to previous years, they came amid global headwinds, foreign fund outflows, and valuation corrections," he noted.

On the domestic front, markets grappled with muted corporate earnings growth, elevated valuations, a weakening rupee, and persistent FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) outflows, Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investment, said.

These factors kept sentiment

cautious despite a stable macro backdrop, he said.

Globally, markets were influenced by geopolitical tensions, tariff-related uncertainties, and evolving US Federal Reserve interest rate expectations, Meena added.

In 2025, foreign investors pulled out a record Rs 1.6 lakh crore (USD 18 billion) from the stock market.

Pranay Aggarwal, Director and CEO of Stoxkart, a discount brokerage firm, said, Indian markets were supported by resilient economic growth, strong government capital expenditure, and sustained domestic investor inflows.

However, bouts of volatility emerged due to foreign fund outflows, elevated valuations, and global risk-off phases linked to interest rates, geopolitics, and currency movements,

he said.

A record number of initial public offerings (IPOs) this year also helped markets log gains.

Among the year's largest main-board IPOs, Tata Capital's Rs 15,512 crore issue topped the list, followed by HDB Financial Services (Rs 12,500 crore), LG Electronics India (Rs 11,607 crore), Hexaware Technologies (Rs 8,750 crore), Lenskart Solutions (Rs 7,278 crore) and Billionbrains Garage Ventures (Rs 6,632 crore).

In India, consistent SIP inflows, increased retail participation, and confidence in the long-term growth story have provided stability even during global volatility, Pranay Aggarwal of Stoxkart, said.

Reliance Industries is the country's most-valued firm in terms of market valuation. The company has a market capitalisation of Rs 20,91,173 crore, followed by HDFC Bank (Rs 15,25,457.75 crore), Bharti Airtel (Rs 11,86,978.75 crore), Tata Consultancy Services (Rs 11,77,199.05 crore), and ICICI Bank (Rs 9,60,478.36 crore) in the top-five order.

The Sensex had jumped 5,898.75 points or 8.16 per cent last year. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms had surged Rs 77.66 lakh crore to Rs 4,41,95,106.44 crore in 2024.

In 2023, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies climbed sharply by Rs 81.90 lakh crore.

RUPEE RISES 23 PAISE

The rupee rose 23 paise to close at 89.75 against the greenback Tuesday primarily on account of dollar selling by the Reserve Bank. Strong industrial output numbers supported the local unit, but a stronger greenback, higher global crude oil prices, and foreign fund outflows prevented sharper gains, forex traders said.



Silver hits fresh record of ₹2.41 lakh per kg



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"Despite near-term volatility, silver continues to find support from structural supply constraints and strong industrial demand, particularly from solar, electronics, and data center infrastructure. However, strict margin rules may keep price gains measured in the short term. MCX Silver March may appreciate to Rs. 226,000/kg as the undertone is bullish in the international markets," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

However, gold of 99.9 per cent purity extended its losses for the second straight day, declining Rs 2,800 to Rs 1,39,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from the previous close of Rs 14,800 per 10 grams Monday.

In the international markets, spot silver was trading higher by USD 3.72, or 5.15 per cent, to USD 75.85 per ounce, while gold rose USD 69.61, or 1.61 per cent, to USD 4,401.59 per ounce.

Strong industrial demand and firm global prices boosted the white metal in local markets, marketmen said.

India's Russian crude imports dip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: India's imports of Russian crude oil are set to register a sharp pullback in December, but the decline reflects short-term disruptions rather than a structural shift in sourcing patterns.

According to real-time data analytics company Kpler, Russian crude imports into India are expected to fall to around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in December, down from 1.84 million bpd in November, marking the lowest level since December 2022.

Indian refiners continue to buy Russian crude from non-sanctioned entities.

The drop, flagged by analysts as early as October, has been driven by disruptions resulting from US action on top Russian exporters, Rosneft and Lukoil, as well as due to the impact of EU sanctions on Russian-linked product flows.

"India's appetite for Russian crude cooled sharply in December, with imports falling to their lowest levels since 2022 as major refiners cut intake following sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil. This appears to be a near-term adjustment, with Russian crude imports into India expected to recover gradually from January as new intermediaries step in and supply chains re-establish," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling, Kpler.



India, the world's third-largest oil importer, became the largest buyer of discounted Russian crude after Western countries shunned Moscow following its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Traditionally reliant on the Middle Eastern oil, India sharply ramped up Russian imports as sanctions and reduced European demand made barrels available at steep discounts, pushing its share from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of total crude imports.

In December, Russia remained the country's top supplier but its share fell to less than a quarter of all oil imports from about a third in November.

Following US sanctions on Rosneft, Lukoil and their majority-owned subsidiaries taking effect on November 21, refiners including Reliance Industries, Hindustan Petroleum, HPCL-Mittal Energy and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals temporarily halted Russian imports. The only exception is Rosneft-backed Nayaara Energy, which continues to rely heavily on Russian crude after EU sanctions curtailed alternative supplies.

"Russian crude oil imports to India are retreating sharply in December, with volumes forecast to fall to around 1.2 million bpd (25 per cent of India's total import) - down from 1.84 million bpd in November," Ritolia said.

Sensex, Nifty close marginally lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 30: Stock markets ended marginally lower Tuesday amid thin year-end trading as persistent foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in global equities weighed on investors' sentiment.

Falling for the fifth consecutive day, the 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 20.46 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 84,675.08. During the day, it hit a high of 84,806.99 and a low of 84,470.94, gyrating 336.05 points.

Ending the day on a flat note, the 50-share NSE Nifty slipped 3.25 points or 0.01 per cent to 25,938.85.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Eterna, Infosys, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, HCL Tech and Titan were among the biggest laggards.

However, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv and Axis Bank were among the biggest gainers.

Indian equity markets ended flat in a lacklustre session amid mixed global cues, overshadowing strong November IIP data showing 6.7 per cent growth—the highest in 25 months. Muted year-end activity and persistent concerns over FII outflows kept investors on the sidelines," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

The platform was unveiled in the presence of Babu Singh, MLA, Ekamra Constituency, and Saktimay Mahapatra, Cluster Director - South East, Manipal Hospital, along with senior clinicians and key stakeholders.

Highlighting the need for preventive care, industry estimates show India's preventive health market is expected to cross Rs 16,000 crore by 2026, while post-COVID trends indicate a sharp rise in health awareness and early screening. MAHI has been positioned as a consumer-friendly

preventive healthcare companion, offering customised health check packages across life stages and conditions. These include profile-based packages for teens, men, women and seniors; condition-based packages for diabetes, PCOS, thyroid, cardiac risk and cancer markers; and organ-based packages for heart, liver, kidney, lung, eye and bone health.

Speaking on the occasion, Babu Singh said, "Preventive healthcare is essential for building a healthier society. Initiatives like MAHI promote early diagnosis and regular health check-ups, encouraging people to prioritise health before illness."

Commenting on the launch, Saktimay Mahapatra said, "With MAHI, we aim to empower individuals and families to adopt preventive care as a part of everyday life and reduce the burden of chronic diseases through early intervention."

POST NEWS NETWORK

inflation under 1 per cent.

He also made it clear that growth will soften going ahead, and inflation will inch up closer to the RBI's target of 4 per cent.

Amid concerns on the nominal GDP growth remaining low, Malhotra said the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) actions are dictated by the real GDP arrived at after subtracting the inflation levels.

Actual inflation outcomes came much lower than the RBI's projections on price rise, leading to some voices of concern on the central bank's forecasting, and Poonam Gupta, an academic who got induced during the year, said there are no systemic biases in the estimation.

The RBI's actions on rates, accompanied with explicit expectations of borrowing costs going down, came as a jolt for banks, which were impacted

by narrowing in the net interest margins (NIMs) and a subsequent dent to core incomes.

Tempering the impact were central bank's moves on ensuring adequate liquidity in the system and more importantly, regulatory relaxations.

At his maiden press outing in February after announcing a 0.25 per cent cut in rates, Mal-

hotra underlined that while financial stability is important, the "cost of regulations" should also be taken on board and committed to lessen the impact of RBI's moves.

What followed through the year was a slew of relaxations. The crescendo was the October policy announcement with 22 regulatory measures, including

some initiatives uncharacteristic of an otherwise conservative institution.

Some, like allowing banks to fund India Inc's global acquisitions or going back on the "forms of business" regulation draft under which the RBI had mulled preventing banks from having other entities engaged in same activities or tweaks on the infra finance front, led to the obvious questions on financial stability.

However, Malhotra justified this and affirmed that financial stability is the foremost priority for the central bank and spoke of the need to ensure that regulations are not impeding economic growth and added that sufficient precautions have been built into the new relaxations.

Interestingly, the announcement on acquisition finance came within weeks of SBI Chairman C S Setty publicly

After 125 bps cut, all eyes on rupee mgmt from RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 30: The Reserve Bank cut its key rates at four of the six monetary policy reviews of 2025 by a cumulative 1.25 per cent, courtesy inflation touching record lows, in what the newly appointed Governor Sanjay Malhotra called as a "rare Goldilocks period" for the economy.

Malhotra cut the key rates right from his first policy announcement in February to support growth, and also slashed key rates by 0.50 per cent in June as it saw the space created by lower inflation.

Completing a year in office, the career bureaucrat-turned-central banker termed it as a "rare goldilocks period" for India, with growth exceeding 8 per cent despite headwinds like the US tariffs and geopolitical changes, and



by narrowing in the net interest margins (NIMs) and a subsequent dent to core incomes. Tempering the impact were central bank's moves on ensuring adequate liquidity in the system and more importantly, regulatory relaxations.

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WORLD RAPID AND BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

Erigaisi's double bronze feat

At 22, Arjun Erigaisi returns with rare world bronze medals in both rapid and blitz, highlighting his elite rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, Dec 30: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi suffered a shattering semifinal loss to top Uzbek player Nodirbek Abdusattorov as the ace Indian settled for a bronze medal on a day when defending champion Magnus Carlsen stormed into the final from an unviable situation, in the World Blitz Championship here Tuesday.

Eight-time world blitz champion Carlsen set up a title showdown with Abdusattorov after defeating American Fabiano Caruana 3-1 in the other semifinal.

Erigaisi, 22, can take heart in the fact that he will return home two World bronze medals - in rapid and blitz - a feat which very few players in the world have achieved.

The Indian ace was on song on day two of the qual-

In the rapid Swiss event, Erigaisi finished the 13-round with 9.5/13 points. On tie-breaks he ended third behind Magnus Carlsen (gold) and Vladislav Artemiev (silver) to claim the bronze medal. He had notable wins, including a victory over world No 1 Magnus Carlsen in a rapid game earlier in the tournament, contributing to his strong score.

In the blitz event, after the Swiss rounds and entering the knockout stage (top 4), Erigaisi lost in the semifinals to Nodirbek Abdusattorov (2.5-0.5), which placed him in the bronze position. Along the way, he had impressive individual wins in the blitz Swiss portion, including defeating Magnus Carlsen and other top grandmasters

ification rounds.

After stunning the likes of global icon Carlsen and his nemesis in the semifinal, Abdusattorov, on the opening day Monday to emerge sole leader on 10 points from 13 games, Erigaisi went through the remaining six rounds on day two with steely resolve.

He won four rounds and drew two to remain sole leader with

15 points and securing a place in the knockouts.

Erigaisi was drawn against 2021 World Rapid champion Abdusattorov, who secured a place in the last-four by the skin of the teeth, barely managing to nudge Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to fifth spot on 'best tie-break' rule after both ended on 13 points.

With Erigaisi in a stunning form and the advantage of beating Abdusattorov on day one of the competition, the Indian was expected to go full steam.

But things took a different and difficult turn for Erigaisi who lost the semifinal 2.5-0.5. He could not convert the advantage with white in the opening game in the knockout, losing in 47 moves to be 0-1 down.

A resurgent Abdusattorov turned things decisively his way in the second game by played 'Rc5' on the 75th move, ending the game in 83 moves.

With the Uzbek needing only half-a-point to seal his place in the final, Abdusattorov settled for a quick draw with black pieces after 33 moves despite being in a winning position, rendering the fourth game pointless.



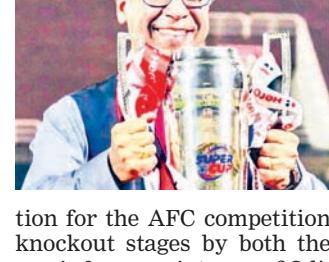
OFCE CEO Raj Athwal quits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 30: Top domestic football club, Odisha FC, is undergoing a period of transition at the top, with CEO Raj Athwal stepping down from his role just four days after the club mutually parted ways with head coach Sergio Lobera.

The club confirmed Athwal's departure in an official statement, noting that the decision was communicated by the CEO and accepted by the management.

"Odisha FC can confirm that CEO Raj Athwal has informed the club management of his decision to move on, and the club has accepted the same. The club would like to thank Raj for his leadership, professionalism, and contributions during his tenure with the club. Under his stewardship, Odisha FC secured its first-ever silverware with the Super Cup triumph, followed by the Indian Women's League 2023-24 and achieved qualifica-



tion for the AFC competition knockout stages by both the men's & women's teams of Odisha FC," the statement, shared on X, read. The club also outlined interim administrative arrangements as it navigates the transition period.

Reacting to Athwal's exit, club owner Rohan Sharma expressed his appreciation for the outgoing CEO's contributions over the past five years. Athwal's departure comes shortly after Odisha FC announced the end of their association with head coach Lobera December 26, with both parties agreeing to part ways.

INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Nita FA's unbeaten run continues

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Dec 30: Nita Football Academy continued their unbeaten streak in the Indian Women's League 2025-26 after edging past Garhwal United FC 1-0 in a closely contested match at the National Centre of Excellence here Tuesday.

A seventh-minute goal by Pyari Xaxa turned out to be the difference, helping the table-toppers strengthen their hold on first place.

With this victory, Nita FA moved to 10 points from four matches, having registered three wins and one draw so far. Garhwal United, on the other hand, endured a second consecutive loss and stay on six points after four games.

Even before Garhwal could



settle into their defensive shape, the breakthrough arrived in the seventh minute. Neha showed excellent determination down the left flank, shrugging off the challenge of Alka Indwar before delivering a teasing cross across the face of goal. Pyari, completely unmarked inside the box, met it

with a crisp first-time volley to give the goalkeeper no chance.

Despite conceding early, Garhwal struggled to find rhythm in their build-up play. The match settled into a scrappy pattern, with both sides prioritising defensive solidity over attacking adventure. Nita FA were content to control the tempo, while

Garghwal focused on limiting the damage rather than committing bodies forward.

Clear-cut chances were rare for the remainder of the first half, with neither goalkeeper significantly tested. Garhwal's best moment arrived just before the break when Sanida Nongrum was picked out at the edge of the box. The midfielder struck a fierce right-footed effort that beat the goalkeeper but crashed back off the cross-piece, much to Nita FA's relief.

The second half followed a similar script, with the contest evenly balanced but lacking penetration in the final third. The final whistle confirmed another disciplined and efficient display from Nita FA, who once again found a way to grind out a result.

Bindra-led Task Force highlights deficits in Indian sports administration

The panel noted lack of a professional cadre of sports administrators, and outdated training opportunities for them with "limited focus on competencies or continuous professional development"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: An Abhinav Bindra-led Task Force set up by the Sports Ministry has pointed out "systemic deficits" in India's sports administration, including "inadequate and ill-equipped" athletes for governance roles, and recommended the setting up of an autonomous statutory body to train a specialised cadre that would also feature IAS officers.

The 170-page report of the Task Force has been submitted to Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who Tuesday said "all its recommendations will be implemented".

To address the current "gaps" that ail the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the National Sports Federations (NSFs) and the state depart-

ments, the committee has recommended that a National Council for Sports Education and Capacity Building (NCSECB) be set up under the Ministry "to regulate, accredit, and certify sports administration training." The nine-member Task Force was set up in August this year and featured, among others Adil Sumariwala and former Target Olympic Podium Scheme's CEO Cdr. Rajesh Rajagopal.

The panel highlighted lack of a professional cadre of sports administrators, and outdated training opportunities for them with "limited focus on competencies or continuous professional development." It also said that most athletes are "ill-equipped" when it comes to skills needed to transition from their sporting careers into administrative roles.

"This report is both diagnostic and prescriptive. It identifies the structural, functional, and systemic gaps that currently constrain sports governance, but more importantly, it charts a roadmap for transformation," said Bindra in its preface.

The Task Force was entrusted with a wide-ranging mandate and it included evaluation of the current administrative framework across institutions such as SAI, NSFs and state associations.

"We engaged deeply with the sporting ecosystem. We consulted athletes, government officials, SAI administrators, NSF representatives, state functionaries, academic experts, and international

institutions," Bindra said in the report.

The SAI, which has also

This report is both diagnostic and prescriptive. It identifies the structural, functional, and systemic gaps that currently constrain sports governance, but more importantly, it charts a roadmap for transformation

ABHINAV BINDRA

been deemed understaffed by the parliamentary standing committee on sports, came in for some heavy scrutiny even from the Task Force along with the state sports departments.

Describing the two as the "backbone" of India's sports administration, the panel concluded that "both institutions face deep systemic and capacity challenges that hinder professionalism, efficiency, and governance effectiveness."

No clear pathway for athletes in governance

The panel noted that while the soon-to-be-implemented National Sports Governance Act makes athlete representation in NSF Executive Committees mandatory, there is no system in place to train them for the job.

"India does not yet have a structured Dual Athlete Career Pathway integrated with the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model, which supports athletes in combining elite performance with education, leadership,

and governance skills," it said.

"...the real gap lies in athlete preparedness to take up these governance and leadership roles effectively. Most athletes retire without the relevant skills in administration, leadership, or governance, leaving them underprepared for the responsibilities such positions demand," it added. The panel cited international success stories to state that proper training is a must for making competent administrators out of athletes.

Governance Gaps in NSFs

Over-centralisation of authority in NSFs was cited as a major governance concern by the Task Force.

Civil Service Integration

The panel recommended that IAS and state cadre officers must be trained in structured sports governance modules at both induction and advanced stages, given their central role in implementation.

SPORTS

Women in Blue dominate SL

Harmanpreet leads India's 15-run win over SL in 5th T20I, 5-0 series triumph for eve



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to clear the ropes during their 56-ball association also meant that Sri Lanka remained slightly behind the asking rate.

Sri Lanka No 3 Dulani cracked eight fours in her 39-ball innings and Perera held one end strongly with her 42-ball knock, but a slip-up in the form of wickets in cluster saw the required run rate moving past 13 per over.

Sri Lanka needed a big finish in the second half which they could not produce, as Indian spinners Deepi Sharma (1/28) and Vaishnavi Sharma (1/33) bowled stifling spells.

Amanjot Kaur (1/17) dismissed Dulani in the 12th over to give India the opening and Deepi capitalised on it.

Deepi trapped Nilakshika Silva leg-before in the 14th over to become the leading wicket-taker in women's T20Is with her 152nd dismissal in 134 matches at 18.62, going past Australia's Megan Schutt (151 wickets in 123 matches at 16.57).

Perera's fall in the 17th over shut the doors on the Islanders.

Earlier, a resolute knock from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (68) and a late assault

from Arundhati Reddy (27 not out) took India to a competitive 175 for seven.

India were left tottering at 77 for five after 10 overs, but Harmanpreet stood tall with her first impactful knock of the series.

Later, Arundhati smacked four fours and a six to make a vital 11-ball 27 not out to push the hosts past the 150-mark.

Harmanpreet struck nine fours and a six in her 43-balls knock and dazzled with some powerful hits on both sides of the wicket, while her 61-run sixth wicket stand with Amanjot Kaur (21) was equally important.

For the large part of her knock, Harmanpreet kept losing partners which also dented India's hopes for a bigger total but with Amanjot, the Indian skipper ensured her bowlers had a total on board to defend.

Using the long handle to a good effect, Harmanpreet also pierced the field deftly on the off-side for a few boundaries.

It wasn't an ideal start for India with the new opening pair of debutant G Kamalini and Shafali Verma falling cheaply after