

Fadnavis takes oath as Maha CM; Shinde, Ajit deputies

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Dec 5: Scripting a powerful comeback, Devendra Fadnavis Thursday evening took oath as Maharashtra Chief Minister, while leaders of the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, were sworn in as Deputy CMs at a grand ceremony in south Mumbai’s sprawling Azad Maidan.

Immediately after the ceremony, the triumvirate drove together to Mantralaya, the Secretariat, also in south Mumbai, where Fadnavis, 54, chaired a Cabinet meeting and addressed a press conference.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers and CMs of various states besides thousands of supporters of the Mahayuti alliance were present at the ceremony, held almost a fortnight after results of the state Assembly elections were declared November 23.

No other ministers were sworn in. The ministry will be expanded next week, ahead of the winter session of state legislature in Nagpur, a BJP leader said.

Those present at the ceremony included Union Ministers Amit Shah, JP Nadda, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi and Deputy CM Pravatī Parida were also present. Also present were actors Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar and industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Odisha blames WB for potato crisis

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra Thursday blamed the West Bengal government for the ongoing potato crisis in Odisha, accusing it of creating an artificial scarcity to tarnish the reputation of the state’s BJP-led government.

“Artificial scarcity was created to bring disrepute to the Odisha government. West Bengal Chief Minister recently stopped supply of potatoes to Odisha, before agreeing to resume shipments,” he told reporters.

Amidst mounting criticism for his handling of the crisis, Patra remarked, “I don’t understand why they (West Bengal) are doing this. It’s obvious that prices will rise when there’s less supply in the market.”

Asked about the duration of the crisis, Patra reassured the public, “As of now, there is sufficient potato stock in Odisha, and prices will eventually come down on their own.”

However, BJD MLA Goutam Buddha Das criticised Patra’s comments, accusing him of deflecting responsibility.



INTO THE SKIES: ISRO’s launch vehicle PSLV-C59 carrying European Space Agency’s (ESA) Proba-3 spacecraft lifts off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Thursday (REPORT P9)

Oppn cries ‘Hindification’ of laws

The Opposition in the Rajya Sabha vociferously protested the nomenclature of Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, a replacement for Aircraft Act, 1934, calling it an attempt to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people. The Hindi naming of the law, like many others in the recent past, rekindled an underlying fear over attempts to impose an essentially northern language by undermining the diverse linguistic tradition of the country. Though such ill-conceived move could well serve some political purposes, it would further fuel the feeling of alienation by the non-Hindi speaking states - zealously preserving their languages for centuries – from the Indian Union

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Opposition members in Rajya Sabha Thursday accused the Centre of imposing Hindi by bringing new Bills with titles only in that language, a charge the treasury benches contested while alleging they were stuck with a colonial mindset.

Taking part in the discussion



on the ‘Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024’, a replacement for the 90-year-old Aircraft Act, 1934 that would boost the ease of doing business and attract investments in the aviation sector, TMC MP Sagarika Ghose opposed the Bill’s name while DMK’s Kanimozhi NVN Somu asked the government to change its name.

“Why do so many laws have Hindi names? This is imposition of Hindi. The mandate of the people in 2024 was for diversity, dividend, and the federal principle but the government is persisting in the ‘Hindification’

of laws. This is Hindi imposition,” Ghose asserted.

She further said, “The Indian Penal Code has been changed to Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Indian Aircraft Act is now being changed to Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak.”

Expressing similar sentiments, Somu said, “I would like the Union government to change the title of the Bill to Aircraft Bill, 2024. Don’t try to impose Hindi on people who don’t speak Hindi. I request the Centre to refrain from naming Bills in Hindi and Sanskrit.”

YSRCP’s S Niranjan Reddy also asked the government to reconsider the ‘nomenclature’ of the Bill. “I am trying to speak for 56 per cent of the Indian population which does not have Hindi as mother tongue... not to oppose (the Bill),” Reddy said.

CPI’s Sandosh Kumar P demanded that the title of the Bill needs to be amended, claiming that it is in contravention of an Article of the Constitution.

BJP’s Ghanshyam Tiwari refuted the charges of ‘Hindi imposition’ and pointed out that the Bill with title in Hindi has been presented to the House by a minister who is a Telugu.

He said the step has been taken up as per constitutional provision and the name coming in any language is not an effort to impose any language. “This shows their colonial era mindset,” he said, referring to the Opposition members’ objections to the Hindi titles.

Union Aviation Minister K. J. Somaiya refuted the charges of ‘Hindi imposition’ and pointed out that the Bill with title in Hindi has been presented to the House by a minister who is a Telugu.

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Stringent cow slaughter law in state soon: Min

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: A day after Assam imposed a ban on consumption of beef in public places, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Thursday said the Odisha government is contemplating to introduce ‘a stringent law’ against cow slaughter and trafficking of cattle.

Harichandan made the statement while replying to journalists’ queries on the Assam government’s decision to ban beef consumption in that state.

“Our government’s stand on cow slaughter is very clear and we are contemplating to bring a law in this regard. Some private Bills will be introduced in the Assembly during the ongoing session. One of those may be related to stringent law against cow slaughter,” the Minister said.

Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallick said the state government has been taking appropriate steps to check cow slaughter. “A high-level committee, under the chairmanship of Deputy CM KV



Singh Deo, has been constituted to look into the issue,” he said.

“The state government is making efforts to develop the dairy sector by checking the illegal transportation and slaughter of cows. Stern action will be taken against people involved in cow slaughter in Odisha,” Mallick said.

Reacting to the state government’s plan, Opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik said, “The BJP government should first ban the export of beef from the country and then bring stringent laws in this regard. Do not target a particular community.”

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi September 13 had said that the state government was planning to amend the Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1960, to make it more effective in reducing cruelty against animals.

Woman dies in Pushpa 2 stampede; Allu booked

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Dec 5: A 35-year-old woman died and her son was hospitalised due to asphyxiation as crowds jostled at a film theatre here during the premiere show of actor Allu Arjun’s ‘Pushpa 2: The Rule’, leading to a stampede, police said Thursday.

According to police, the victim was identified as Revathi, who hailed from Dilshuknagar. She was accompanied by her son Sreethej, 13.

Chikkadpally police registered a case against Allu, his security team and the theatre management, under Sections 105 and 118(1) of BNS, they said.

The incident took place Wednesday night when a large number of fans thronged the Sandhya theatre to have a glimpse of the actor, according

to the DCP.

After Allu came to the theatre along with his personal security, people tried to enter the cinema hall with him, police said. “His personal security team started pushing the public which further aggravated the situation as there was already huge gathering at the theatre,” they added.

A heavy crowd rushed ahead and the woman and her son, who were trying to enter the theatre, suffocated and fell unconscious, they said, adding that police personnel, who were on duty, pulled them out and conducted CPR on the woman and her son.

They were immediately shifted to the nearby Durgabai Deshmukh Hospital, where the woman died and her son was advised to be shifted to another hospital for better treatment.

MEN SOCK RULES

How to avoid criminally unattractive looks

In the realm of men’s fashion, attention to detail is key, and socks are no exception. Though socks may seem like a small accessory, they can make an outfit or be a major turnoff.

To master the art of sock-wearing, it is essential to understand the unspoken rules of sock etiquette. Here is a set of sock by-laws drafted with the help of stylish, and opinionated, folks.

No ankle socks, please. Carla de Maria, 35, a UX designer in London, said they look a bit dated. Carla prefers crew socks on guys. While Rory Millar, 30, a marketing executive in London, claimed ankle socks ruin the look of dressier shoes, Louis Kassam, 36, a Brooklyn photographer, said, “It is unforgivable to wear them with tailored pants as bare ankles in a boardroom is a no.”

Shun novelty socks. According to Alex Miller, 30, a law student in Milwaukee, Wis, novelty socks are more often bad than good. Millar said styles covered in oh-so-fun things like flamingos are just cringe. But there are loopholes. George Vlagos, owner of Chicago menswear store Independence, likes the tone-on-tone prints by Anonymous Ism. And Jacob Hurwitz, founder of menswear brand American Trench, touted artisanal tie-dye as acceptable for grown-ups.

Matching is a must. Wearing mismatched socks is just like sitting two single friends with nothing in common beside each other at a wedding, just because both are alone.

Okay to wear white crew socks. Marcel Peña, a stylist in Queens, NY, said, sporty,



mid-length white crew styles in chunky cotton are passable and work best with sneakers, Birkenstocks and other casual shoes.

Neutral shades are fine. Millar said black, gray, cream, dark brown, khaki and navy, especially in ribbed styles, work in most settings. “With formal shoes, such shades are preferable to white socks, which can look a bit Michael Jackson.”

Retro stripe socks shall be embraced. “A classic Americana style,” as Hurwitz put it, these feel both old-school and current. Usually cream with bold stripes at the top, these socks work for all ages, said Hurwitz, whose brand makes crew versions.

Red and royal-blue socks will add a little spice to outfits. Peña likes to enforce this one.

Avoid ‘no-show’ socks. Made of flimsy cotton with an elasticated top and a ballet-slipper shape, these super-low socks are often worn with loafers. However, they can inflict torture by peeking above the lip of the shoe, which looks awkward and defeats their purpose, and also by slipping, infuriatingly, underfoot. “It’s better to go sockless,” Vlagos said.

(WITH WSJ INPUTS)

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You have been too busy with work and social obligations. It is high time you took a break and did something for yourself. Your health may need attention. Ganesha says, everything else should take a backseat if you're stressed out.

TAURUS
You are going to be exceptionally intense in the way you communicate your emotions and feelings. You will, no doubt, succeed in making the impact, the impression you are striving to make, says Ganesha. You will be so involved in this that you are likely to get caught in the mysterious and magical web of relationships.

GEMINI
An occurrence from the past will become a cause of worry for you today. You will also be concerned owing to the deteriorating health of the elders in your family. You will encounter medical expenses. The latter half of the day should see your worries abate somewhat, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Chances are that your inquisitive nature will put in a difficulty. Others will be angry with you for keeping a secret a vital information. Ganesha counsels you to strengthen ties with friends and give up present attitude.

LEO
You will accomplish all your tasks with courage today. As a result of which, the efforts you have made in the last few months will now bear fruit. You need to make a schedule of the tasks you need to tackle today. You need to guard against over-stressing yourself, otherwise your health could suffer, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Don't procrastinate matters regarding your health, advises Ganesha. Today you are raring to take on some past wounds. However, peace and quietude are the dominant flavours today. Ganesha suggests that you go ahead and enjoy yourself, if only just to recharge your batteries.

LIBRA
Ganesha says your uniqueness will be the focus of attention and praise today. Your undertaking of various tough tasks and completing them today will showcase your business acumen. You will show your inclination to the finer arts like music and dance.

SCORPIO
Suddenly, you become conscious about your looks today, says Ganesha. How you look, how you dress-up and the way you walk, all becomes a matter of concern for you. All prim and proper, you imagine yourself to be the best. Besides makeover, splurging is another activity that you indulge in.

SAGITTARIUS
Your temper is as hot as a fireball today, foresees Ganesha. Not for nothing they say that anger may destroy the world. Don't axe your own feet by your aggressive behaviour. Cool down and think before you act. There are chances that you may experience financial crunch, handle it carefully, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You have taken your personal relationships for granted but some irregularities in them have caught your attention. Now, you will focus upon them and try to get to the heart of the matter, feels Ganesha. Communication is the key when it comes to solving misunderstandings, and with that you will be able to clear out a number of them.

AQUARIUS
You have done backbreaking work to come this far. Today, you will see your efforts come to fruition. But, you need to be aware about the presence of the green-eyed people around you, especially if you are in some kind of a business, warns Ganesha. Take care of your health.

PISCES
Today you will be attracted by the heart and not the mind. This is usual for your star sign. Attempt to understand your emotions today. Ganesha says today you might figure out the way to control both your heart and your mind.



ESSIEDU TO PLAY SNAPE IN HARRY POTTER SERIES

British actor Paapa Essiedu is in negotiations to play the beloved character of Professor Severus Snape in HBO's series adaptation of *Harry Potter*. Essiedu broke out with his performance in the miniseries *I May Destroy You* in 2020

PETE DAVIDSON REVEALS HIS SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE SALARY

Actor-comedian Pete Davidson has revealed the paycheck of stars on the iconic American late-night live sketch comedy variety show *Saturday Night Live*, and it doesn't sound very exciting considering the show's legacy. Pete claimed that stars get paid \$3,000 per episode on the show



Triptii IMDb's Most Popular Indian Star'24

Mumbai: Actress Triptii Dimri, known for her versatile acting skills, emerged as the Most Popular Indian Stars of 2024 on IMDb. The *Bulbul* actress surpassed some of the biggest stars like Deepika Padukone, Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai and Alia Bhatt to claim the top spot.

Triptii, who shot to fame with her role in Ranbir Kapoor-led *Animal*, has appeared in several movies including *Qala*, *Laila Majnu* and *Poster Boys*. This year, she marked her presence in three films: *Bad Newz*, *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* to prove her mettle.

Triptii said, "It is indeed a huge honour to be ranked No. 1 on the list. This recognition is a testament to the incredible support of my fans and the hard work of everyone

I've had the privilege of collaborating with. From working on exciting projects to wrapping up 2024 with *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, it has been a memorable year for me. I'm looking forward to what's next as I continue to be part of this inspiring industry".

In the list, Deepika secured the second spot, while Ishaan Khatter was right behind her. Shah Rukh, with no big release this year was on the fourth spot. Sobhita Dhulipala took the fifth followed by Sharvari . Aishwarya Rai was on the seventh position, followed by Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Alia Bhatt. Prabhas was on the 10th position.



Samantha's words of wisdom

Mumbai: An old video of Samantha Ruth Prabhu offering relationship advice has resurfaced following Naga Chaitanya's recent wedding to Sobhita Dhulipala.

The video shows Samantha speaking candidly about the most important relationship a person will ever have is the one with themselves, emphasizing that no one will be there for them during their lowest moments except for themselves.

In the clip, the *Oo Antava* girl could be heard saying, "The greatest relationship you will ever have in this lifetime is a relationship with yourself. Not your parents, not your boyfriend, not your girlfriend, because when you hit that low, that real low - and trust me all of you will - I know you think right now exams is the biggest problem, but trust me you're just getting started. And when you hit that lowest low, the only person

who will be there for you is you. Be your best friend."

Her words about self-love have resonated with many, especially in the wake of Naga Chaitanya's wedding.

Naga and Samantha divorced in 2021 after four years of marriage. They announced their separation via a post on social media.

December 4, Naga got married to actress Sobhita Dhulipala in a beautiful Telugu ceremony at Annapurna Studios.



Tiger's tips for gym rats

Mumbai: Actor Tiger Shroff, known for his dedication to fitness, recently posted a hilarious yet motivational gym moment on social media.

In the video, he's seen lifting heavy weights with ease, accompanied by a playful caption: "If your face still looks pretty while lifting... you ain't going heavy enough." The War actor showcases his strength and commitment to pushing his limits; all while making goofy faces as he lifts.

In the clip, Tiger flaunts his chiselled abs and ripped muscles, with Ash King and Clinton Cerejo's song *I Love You* playing in the background. Shortly after Tiger shared the video, fans flooded the comments section, praising his dedication to fitness. One fan wrote, "The strongest man on earth," while another commented, "Yeah, a good indicator for knowing if we're training hard enough to progress."

The *Heropanti* actor has always been an advocate for maintaining a healthy lifestyle and staying fit as he often shares his intense workout routines and training tips with his fans.

On the professional front, the 34-year-old actor will next be seen in the upcoming action film *Baaghi 4*, the fourth installment of the action franchise.

Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the movie is slated to hit screens September 5, 2025.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

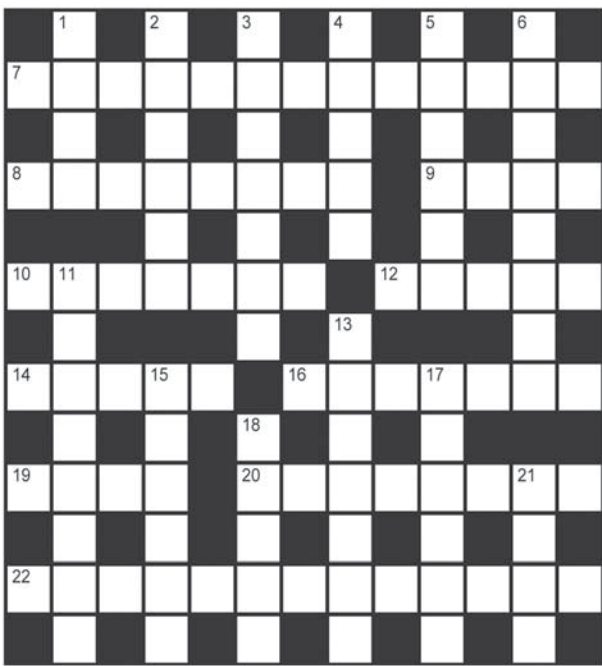


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Reference book
 - 8 Short distance runner
 - 9 Ceremonial elegance
 - 10 Synthetic compound
 - 12 Muscular
 - 14 Fruit of the oak tree
 - 16 Unconventional
 - 19 Heroic poem
 - 20 Lace scarf
 - 22 Memorable
 - Down**
 - 1 Trim sound, in a barber shop
 - 2 Symbolise
 - 3 Move like a snake
 - 4 "Lohengrin," e.g.
 - 5 Synagogue
 - 6 Leading lady (4,4)
 - 11 Resident
 - 13 Self-respect
 - 15 Guess
 - 17 Kind of instinct
 - 18 Last letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 21 Be lazy

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

B	W	U	B	H	S
D	E	T	E	S	T
T	L	E	S	L	U
B	A	W	L	N	A
C	S	C	H	M	
M	E	L	D	I	C
X	N	L	J	A	T
T	A	N	N	F	
M	E	B	S	T	
V	I	S	C	O	N
N	T	D	I	D	U
L	E	G	E	N	D
S	D	Y	E	Y	E

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

NAT'L PANCHAYAT AWARDS 2024

State gets recognition for grassroots development

The honour is a testament to the outstanding achievements of state's various gram panchayats, panchayat committees, and district panchayats



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha is set to be honoured with awards in seven categories at the upcoming National Panchayat Awards 2024, organised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj of the Central government. The special award ceremony will take place December 11 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

The recognition is a testament to the outstanding achievements of state's various gram panchayats, panchayat committees, and district panchayats, which have been identified as some of the best in the country.

This award underscores the state's commitment to enhancing rural development and strengthening local governance.

In the Deendayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar category, Ganjam district's Keluapalli Gram Panchayat will be awarded the Healthy Panchayat Award for its exem-

plary work in promoting health and wellness.

The self-sufficient infrastructure in Panchayats Award will go to Sahapur Gram Panchayat, also from Ganjam district, in recognition of its remarkable strides in building and maintaining sustainable infrastructure.

In the prestigious Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Puraskar category, Ganjam district's Chhatrapur Block Panchayat will be honoured with the best block Panchayat Award, reflecting its effective governance and development initiatives. Additionally, Koraput district will be recognised as the best district Panchayat for its impactful community-driven projects and development programmes.

Odisha's achievements extend to the Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Award category, where Kasira Gram Panchayat of Sundargarh district will receive the best Gram Panchayat award for its innovative

approaches to community empowerment and sustainable energy solutions.

In the Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar category, Kendrikela Gram Panchayat, also from Sundargarh, will be lauded for its commitment to eco-friendly practices and carbon neutrality.

Further, Odisha's State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD & PR) has been selected for the Best Panchayat Institution Award. This honor highlights the institute's excellence in capacity building and training programs for Panchayati Raj Institutions throughout the state, contributing significantly to the overall improvement of rural governance.

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik expressed his delight and pride in the state's achievements. He congratulated all the award-winning Panchayati Raj Institutions, the department of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, and the dedicated officers and staff of the SIRD & PR. Minister Naik emphasised that such recognitions serve as an encouragement for other Panchayat bodies to strive for excellence and innovation in their operations.

This series of accolades for Odisha at the National Panchayat Awards 2024 not only highlights the state's successful rural development programs but also reinforces its role as a leader in fostering sustainable growth and effective local governance.



IN SYNC: Artistes perform on the concluding day of 35th edition of Konark Festival against the backdrop of iconic Sun Temple for the cultural event, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Female leopard ‘Rani’ dies in Sambalpur Zoo

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, Dec 5: A seven-year-old female leopard named ‘Rani’ died at Sambalpur Zoo while undergoing treatment for a uterine infection, according to a forest officer Thursday.

The leopard began vomiting Wednesday evening, prompting immediate medical attention. Veterinarians discovered pus discharge from her reproductive organs and administered three anti-inflammatory and antibiotic injections.

Despite these efforts, Rani suffered respiratory distress and began bleeding from her mouth before passing away.



The post-mortem report suggested that the cause of death was likely closed pyometra (a uterine infection) leading to acute pyemia and cardiac arrest.

Seven-year-old female leopard passed away while being treated for a uterine infection, just weeks after mating with ‘Raja’, a male leopard recently introduced to the enclosure

Rani had recently made headlines for mating with ‘Raja’, an eight-year-old male leopard brought to the Sambalpur Zoo Rescue Centre

from Nuapada after killing two people. Raja had been quarantined and treated for eight months, and with permission from the Central Zoo Authority in New Delhi, was introduced to Rani in November 2024. The pair were seen mating in the second week of November after being released into the same enclosure.

The health of Raja, who remains in the enclosure with Rani's remains, is reportedly stable and being monitored closely. The zoo authorities have expressed their commitment to ensuring the well-being of Raja as he adjusts to the loss of his companion.

WEATHER

BBSR

CTC

Max Temp

32.7°

30.0°

Min Temp

19.2°

17.5°

Humidity

75%

68%

Rainfall

Nil

Nil

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

YUVA SANGAM PHASE V

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: A week-long exposure trip of 50 students from various educational institutions in Maharashtra to Odisha, organised under the Central government's ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Yuva Sangam’ programme, concluded here Thursday.

The programme, hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, aimed to promote cultural and educational exchange among youth from different states.

Speaking at the valedictory event, IIT Bhubaneswar director Shreepad Karmalkar appreciated the initiative of Yuva Sangam, which provided a platform for the youth of Maharashtra to gain knowledge about the culture, tradition and people of Odisha.

Dean of students' welfare Rajesh Roshan Dash welcomed the gathering, while programme coordinator Remya Neelancherry proposed the vote of thanks. Students shared their experiences from the trip and received certificates of partici-



pation from Karmalkar.

During their visit, the delegates interacted with Governor Raghuraj Das at the Raj Bhawan and met representatives from various industrial and corporate houses in Bhubaneswar. They explored cultural and historical sites, including the Sun Temple in Konark, Lingaraj Temple, Puri, Pipili, Khadagiri and Udayagiri caves, Dhauligiri, and the State Tribal Museum. The group also visited Chandrabhaga Beach, Chilika Lake, and the Odisha State Maritime Museum.

The delegation engaged with cutting-edge research and skill development institutions such as the ICMR-Regional Medical

Research Centre, the Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC), and the Skill Development Institute. Corporate visits included an interaction at Infosys Bhubaneswar. The students also toured villages adopted by IIT Bhubaneswar and interacted with start-ups incubated under the institute.

The activities during the programme were categorised into five key areas: tourism, traditions, development, people-to-people connect, and technology. The initiative provided an enriching experience for the students, showcasing Odisha's vibrant heritage and progress while strengthening cultural ties between Maharashtra and Odisha.

Vaishnaw to unveil new stn building at Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the new east-side station entrance at Cuttack Railway Station during his visit to state December 7.

The new station entrance will facilitate seamless movement of passengers directly from the NH side. The development aims to streamline easy circulation, public amenities and improved passenger experience. “This marks a new chapter in the development of railway infrastructure in Odisha, aligning with the vision to build a world-class rail network,” said an official.

The minister's visit highlights the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and improving the ease of travel for citizens across the country, with a particular focus on the eastern region.



WORLD SOIL DAY 2024

Deputy CM advocates organic farming to boost productivity

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo emphasises the importance of using organic manure and fertilisers as alternatives to chemicals to enhance soil health



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: On the occasion of the state-level World Soil Day celebration held at the Krushi Bhavan auditorium Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo highlighted the importance of adopting organic manure and fertilisers as alternatives to chemical products to enhance productivity and soil health.

Addressing attendees on the 2024 theme, ‘Caring for Soil: Measure, Monitor, Manage’, Singh Deo emphasised that the excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides not only harms soil health but also poses long-term health risks, including cancer, for consumers.

“People often turn to these chemicals for higher productivity and profit. However, this practice is deteriorating soil health and reducing productivity over time, which impacts human well-being,” he stated.

The event also featured the release of a book titled ‘Odishara Murtika Samasya ebong

Tara Parichalana’, authored by agricultural scientists Subodh Kumar Sahu and Rabindra Kumar Nayak.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee underlined the significance of balanced fertiliser application and organic farming methods to maintain soil health. He recommended preventing soil erosion, reducing the unnecessary use of fertilisers, and embracing sustainable soil management practices.

Agriculture director Prem Chandra Choudhury, welcomed participants and discussed soil health management strategies, while director of Horticulture and Soil Conservation Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, addressed soil degradation and restoration efforts in Odisha.

The event concluded with the distribution of ‘Soil Health Cards’ to five farmers and a vote of thanks by Joint Director of Agriculture, Basanta Kumar Dey.

Odisha Pavilion shines at 9th Int’l Gita Mahotsav

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha's rich cultural heritage and artistic legacy took center stage with the unveiling of the Odisha Pavilion at the 9th International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra Thursday.

Haryana's Revenue Minister Vipul Goel and Odisha's Principal Resident Commissioner Vishal Gagan jointly inaugurated the pavilion. It features a stunning display of Odisha's famous Pattachitra paintings, intricate applique work, and



exquisite silver filigree. The exhibit also highlights the state's iconic handloom tradition, in-

cluding Sambalpuri Ikat, Pata sarees, and Tussar silk.

The pavilion delves into Odisha's spiritual essence by showcasing its architectural marvels, including the Jagannath Temple in Puri, the Sun Temple in Konark, and the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar. Visitors are captivated by daily cultural performances featuring classical Odissi dance and folk forms such as Sambalpuri, Kandhei Nacha, Chhau, and Ghumura.

Adding to the experience, the pavilion presents Odisha's signature culinary offerings like

Rasagola, Chhenapoda, and Dalma, drawing rave reviews from attendees.

Odia Language, Literature & Culture Minister Surjyabanshi Suraj expressed pride in the state's participation as a partner at the Mahotsav, saying, “This platform not only highlights Odisha's heritage and art but also educates a global audience about our culture.”

The International Gita Mahotsav, which has grown globally since its inception in 2016, runs until December 15, with Tanzania as this year's partner nation.

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Strategic acumen pays off for Fadnavis

From serving as an obscure corporator to becoming the youngest mayor of Nagpur, Fadnavis has strengthened his status as a prominent leader within his party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: Devendra Fadnavis, the political stalwart who rose from humble beginnings to become a key figure in Maharashtra politics, is set to become chief minister – a position he has held twice before.

The 54-year-old leader, whose career has been marked by a blend of resilience and strategic manoeuvring, is positioned to lead the state for the third time following a decisive showing of the BJP in the November 20 Assembly polls, and his election as leader of the state BJP legislature party Wednesday.

Fadnavis' political journey has been nothing short of remarkable. From serving as an obscure corporator to becoming the youngest mayor of Nagpur, he has strengthened his status as a prominent leader within his party. Notably, he is only the second Brahmin to serve as Chief Minister of Maharashtra, following the Shiv Sena's Manohar Joshi.

His ascent began in earnest ahead of the 2014 Assembly elections, where he garnered significant support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior BJP leader Amit Shah. Modi famously referred to him as "Nagpur's gift to the country" during a campaign rally, underscoring the confidence placed in Fadnavis.

Though Modi had launched a campaign blitzkrieg in the 2014 Lok Sabha and Maharashtra



Assembly polls, a portion of the credit also went to Fadnavis, then state BJP president, for the party's unprecedented victories in the elections.

Son of Jan Sangh and later BJP leader late Gangadhar Fadnavis, whom his fellow Nagpur politician and former BJP chief Nitin Gadkari calls his "political guru", Devendra cut his teeth in politics at a young age when he joined Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the students wing of RSS, in 1989.

At 22, he became a corporator in the Nagpur civic body and its youngest Mayor in 1997 at

the age of 27.

Fadnavis contested his first Assembly election in 1999 and won. There was no looking back for him as he won three subsequent Assembly elections. He retained his Nagpur South West seat comfortably in the last month's election.

Unlike many leaders across the political spectrum in Maharashtra, Fadnavis has remained untainted by accusations of corruption.

Among the most articulate Maharashtra politicians, Fadnavis is also credited with pushing the previous Con-

gress-NCP government into a corner over the alleged irrigation scam.

Fadnavis experienced a setback in the aftermath of the 2019 Assembly elections as the then united Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray pulled out of the pre-poll alliance over sharing of CM's post, shattering the BJP leader's much-hyped "mee punha yein" (I will come back again) slogan. Fadnavis was sworn in as the chief minister for the second time November 23, 2019, and Ajit Pawar was sworn in as the deputy chief minister. However, before a Supreme Court-ordered no confidence motion could take place, Fadnavis quit November 26, three days after taking oath as the CM.

Uddhav Thackeray, propped up by Sharad Pawar-led NCP, later became the CM, but quit after senior Sena leader Eknath Shinde split the party in June 2022 and later became the CM.

After Thackeray demitted office following the large-scale desertions in the Sena, many political observers thought that Fadnavis, who they knew was behind the episode, would become the CM. However, the BJP leadership had other plans and a reluctant Fadnavis was asked to occupy the deputy CM's post.

His tenure in the last two-and-a-half years as Deputy Chief Minister saw a marked resurgence, and the Assembly elections results of November 23 came as the much-awaited cherry on the cake.

Day after attack, Badal performs 'sewa' at Takht Kesgarh Sahib

Badal is undergoing religious punishment pronounced by the Akal Takht, the highest temporal body of Sikhs, for "mistakes" committed by the Shiromani Akali Dal and its government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 5: A day after he survived a bid on his life, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal Thursday performed the duty of 'sewadar' outside Takht Kesgarh Sahib in Punjab's Rupnagar district amid tight security.

The former deputy chief minister, a Z+ protectee, arrived at the Anandpur Sahib shrine surrounded by security personnel. Dressed in blue 'sewadar' uniform, Badal sat at the entrance of the gurdwara with a spear in one hand for an hour from 9 am.

The wheelchair-bound SAD leader later listened to 'kirtan' and also washed dishes in the community kitchen.

Badal (62) is undergoing religious punishment pronounced by the Akal Takht, the highest temporal body of Sikhs, for "mistakes" committed by the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and its government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017.



Besides the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Akal Takht has asked Badal to perform the service of 'sewadar' at Takht Kesgarh Sahib, Takht Damdama Sahib, and Darbar Sahib in Muktsar and Fatehgarh Sahib for two days each.

On the second day of his penance at the Golden Temple Wednesday, Badal had a narrow escape as former Khalistani terrorist Narain Singh Chaura fired at him from a close range but missed as he was overpowered by plainclothes policemen.

On Thursday, police made elaborate security arrangements ahead of Badal's visit to Takht Kesgarh Sahib.

Rupnagar Senior Superintendent of Police Gulneet Singh Khurana said foolproof security arrangements have

been made.

Plainclothes policemen have also been deployed, officials said. Task force members of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) have also been deployed.

Metal detectors were erected outside the gurdwara as part of the security measures.

SAD leaders Bikram Singh Majithia, Daljit Singh Cheema, Balwinder Singh Bhundar and Hira Singh Gabira, among others, who are also doing penance were also present at the gurdwara.

Badal's wife and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, son Anantbir Singh Badal and daughters Harkirat Kaur Badal and Gurleen Kaur Badal also offered prayers at the gurdwara. They also cleaned dishes in the community kitchen.

At 37.3 degrees Celsius, Mumbai logs hottest Dec day in 16 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: Mumbai Wednesday recorded a maximum temperature of 37.3 degrees Celsius, its hottest day in December in the last 16 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The Santacruz observatory, which monitors temperature for the suburbs, recorded 37.3 degree Celsius, while the Colaba weather station for the island city logged 35 degrees Celsius.

The Kalina observatory had recorded 37.7 degrees Celsius December 5, 2008, Sushma Nair, scientist with IMD Mumbai, said. It was just last week - November 29 - that Mumbai recorded a minimum temperature of 16.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest in November in the last eight years.

Mumbai and parts of Maharashtra witnessed light rains Wednesday morning, with the city clocking a minimum temperature of over 25 degrees Celsius. The skies over the city have been cloudy since Tuesday.

The Colaba observatory in south Mumbai recorded a minimum temperature of 25.8 degrees Celsius, while the one in Santacruz in the western suburbs logged 25.5 degrees Celsius, the IMD said.

Farmers' 'jatha' plans Delhi march

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 5: A 'jatha' of 101 farmers will embark on a march to Delhi at 1 pm Friday from the Shambhu border protest site, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher has said.

Addressing a press conference at Shambhu border Thursday, Pandher said, "The jatha will march towards Delhi. What the government will do, it is for them to think. We will begin our march towards Delhi at 1 pm from the Shambhu border."

The jatha will march towards Delhi. What the government will do, it is for them to think. We will begin our march towards Delhi at 1 pm from the Shambhu border

SARWAN SINGH PANDHER | FARMER LEADER

He said that even now if the government stop them from carrying out their march, it will be a "moral victory" for them. "Because their leaders have been saying if farmers do not bring tractor trolleys then there should be no objection," he said.

Ambala Police in Haryana flagged a high alert following farmers plan of a Delhi march and sent senior officers including Ambala district police



Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher and others at Shambhu border, a day before commencement of farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march, in Patiala district, Punjab, Thursday

chief to the border to assess security.

Central paramilitary forces have also been deployed on the Haryana side of the border.

Ambala had Wednesday asked farmers to reconsider their march and contemplate any action only after getting permission from the Delhi Police.

The administration has already imposed Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, restricting assembly of five or more persons in the district and issued notices at the protest site.

"It does not look like a Punjab-Haryana border, but an international territory. If they have their way they will not allow even a bird to cross it," Pandher told reporters.

He also said there was no plan yet of a march from Khanauri border in Haryana.

"We have no announcement to march (to Delhi) from Khanauri border point, despite that there is heavy deployment of police," he said.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Inspector General of Police Mandeep Singh Sidhu (Patiala Range) and Senior Superinten-

dent of Police Patiala Nanak Singh met Pandher and Surjit Singh Phul at Shambhu border.

Farmers, gathered under the banner of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, had earlier announced a foot march to the national capital seeking a legal guarantee for minimum support price of crops, and over their several other demands.

Sidhu said the farmer assured police that they will be peaceful and will not take tractor-trolleys in the march. "They will go on foot," he said about the marchers.

IIT Bombay launches impart app for lake temp monitoring

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) Wednesday said it has developed an open-source web-based application, IMPART, that allows researchers to track changing water surface temperatures helping them to track climate change.

IMPART calculates the temperature of lake water surfaces considering the dynamic changes in its areas. Factors such as growing urbanisation, seasonal variations and rising temperatures alter lake surface areas and volumes from time-to-time, necessitating a more nuanced approach, IIT Bombay said in a statement.

"Accounting for dynamic changes in lake water surface extent significantly improves the accuracy of lake water surface temperature estimations," said Prof J Indu from the Department of Civil Engineering and Interdisciplinary Centre for Climate Studies at IIT Bombay

and lead researcher of the study. The IMPART toolkit calculated both static and dynamic lake water surface temperatures for 342 lakes worldwide, including 115 lakes in India.

For its static module, the software used the same water extent indicated in the databases from where monthly surface temperatures were obtained.

In the dynamic module, the IMPART toolkit estimated how the water area changed for each monthly measurement of surface temperature in the database.

"Dynamic considerations have now become feasible thanks to the advancements in remote sensing, cloud-based platforms (such as Google Earth Engine), and algorithms capable of incorporating reflectance data with dynamic lake extents, thus enabling a more accurate and comprehensive analysis," explained Prof Kumar Nitish and Prof J Indu from the premier institute's Department of Civil Engineering and Interdisciplinary Centre for Climate Studies.

Bhagat's birthplace being developed into tourist attraction

Khatkar Kalan, with an enduring connect to India's freedom struggle, will forever be associated with Bhagat Singh as his ancestral place

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Khatkar Kalan, Dec 5: The birthplace of revolutionary Bhagat Singh, just outside Banga town in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district of Punjab is being developed as an iconic tourist destination of global standards.

This development is being done as part of the Special Assistance to States/ Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme, under which the government of India, has approved 40 projects across 23 states to develop them as iconic tourist centres of global standards.

The Heritage Street which will be developed in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar seeks to amplify the tribute to the Indian hero and to Indian freedom. The street will connect the museum of Bhagat Singh to his ancestral home.

Khatkar Kalan, with an enduring connect to India's freedom struggle, will forever be associated with Bhagat Singh as his ancestral place. The Khatkar Kalan house, which today stands as a protected monument, was built by Bhagat Singh's great-grandfather Sardar Fateh Singh in 1858.

It was declared a monument under the 'Punjab Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act' (1964) in 1982.

The proposed heritage street will connect the museum of Bhagat Singh to his ancestral home, featuring immersive experiences, live performances, and historical recreations.

This ini-



tiative will vividly portray Bhagat Singh's bravery and the nation's fight for Independence, inspiring patriotism and national pride. Experiences like live fire portraying the legendary

flame of freedom, voice of valour, 3D-set creation with live performances, a 1900's setup of a village in Punjab, infographics, sitting spaces, and signages. Along with these, facade lighting on the ancestral house of Bhagat Singh, lighting sculptures, freedom sculptures, and the Indian flag will be installed. A musical fountain show will be created to provide a delightful experience to the visitors.

A museum has already been developed for the public near his ancestral house. To amplify this tribute to the freedom

« The Khatkar Kalan house, which today stands as a protected monument, was built by Bhagat Singh's great-grandfather Sardar Fateh Singh in 1858

« It was declared a monument under the 'Punjab Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act' (1964) in 1982

« The proposed heritage street will connect the museum of Bhagat Singh to his ancestral home, featuring immersive experiences, live performances, and historical recreations

fighter, a Heritage Street is being proposed, beginning from the museum to the ancestral house witnessing an expansive experience of valour, courage and culture. The street will offer varied experiences to the visitors who will pass by from immersive spaces to live performances.

The 40 projects in 23 states, worth ₹3,295.76 crore will foster local economies and create employment through sustainable tourism.


of the day quote

No other government has done as much for farmers as the Modi government has done. We have helped them in every sector




KAMLESH PASWAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

This time, the people have given an unbelievable mandate to the Mahayuti, more so to the leadership of Devendra Fadnavis. I hope this is rightly used for the state, the Marathi people, the language and culture



RAJ THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA NAVNIRMAN SENA PRESIDENT

Whether it's developing renewable energy systems, building smart cities, or innovating in agriculture, our efforts must reflect both excellence and responsibility



LT GEN K T PARNAIK (RETD) | ARUNACHAL PRADESH GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Top court sets aside Manipur HC order

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday set aside an order of the Manipur High Court directing the CBI to locate and produce a rape convict on the run. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh relieved the agency of the task saying the order passed by the high court was unnecessary.

Delhi HC grants interim bail to Kuldeep Sengar

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday granted a two-week interim bail on medical grounds to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar, currently serving life term for raping a minor in UP's Unnao in 2017. A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma suspended the sentence in the meantime and directed Sengar's medical evaluation in AIIMS, Delhi, besides ordering him to remain in the capital.

NIA searches multiple locations in TN, K'taka

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Thursday conducted searches at multiple locations in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in connection with its probe into the murder case of BJP leader Praveen Nettaru, an official statement said. The BJP Yuva Morcha district executive committee member was hacked to death by two motorcycle-borne assailants in Bellare village of Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka by members of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) July 26, 2022, it said.


Three houses in J&K attached in terror case

Srinagar: Authorities here attached three houses in Shopian and Baramulla districts Thursday under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in separate terror cases, police said. According to a police spokesperson, the houses attached in Shopian are registered in the names of Mohd Shafi Dar, the father of terrorist Adnan Shafi Dar, and Abdul Majeed Koka.

Seven bovines found dead

Durg: Seven bovines were found dead in a 'gauthan' in Godhi village in Chhattisgarh's Durg district allegedly of starvation, an official said Thursday. An FIR was lodged Wednesday night under Chhattisgarh Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act.

The way crime is spreading in Delhi today, law and order has broken down. Violence, murder and firing have become common. This is affecting children as well. It is very worrying



ATISHI | DELHI CM

MOBILE INTERNET BAN EXTENDED IN MANIPUR

The Manipur government Thursday extended the suspension of mobile internet for two days in nine districts of the state till December 7



INDIA bloc MPs protest over Adani issue in Parl

Congress MPs, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and lawmakers from several other Opposition parties like the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Left, participated in the protest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: In an unusual protest, leaders of some INDIA bloc parties Thursday wore black jackets with stickers reading "Modi Adani Ek Hai" and "Adani Safe Hai" on those and raised slogans on the Parliament premises to demand a joint parliamentary probe into the Adani issue.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who put the sticker on his trademark white T-shirt, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi cannot order an investigation against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani as it would amount to announcing a probe against himself.

Congress MPs, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and law-

makers from several other Opposition parties like the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Left, participated in the protest. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Samajwadi Party (SP), however, did not participate in the agitation, in what the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) described as "divisions" in the Opposition bloc. Both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi demanded that a discussion on Adani's indictment in a US court on bribery and fraud charges must take place in Parliament and the Prime Minister must speak on the issue in the House. The protest took place in front of the steps of Parliament's Makar Dwar and not on the steps leading to it as an advisory issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and

Speaker Om Birla had flagged the issue. A little later, the protesting MPs lined up in front of the Samvidhan Sadan and raised slogans against Modi and Adani.

"Modiji cannot order an investigation against Adaniji because if he does so, it will mean his own investigation. Modi and Adani are one," Rahul Gandhi said during the protest. Congress leader K C Venugopal said, "The entire wealth of this country is going to only one man. That man is actually in total corruption. An American court has given a summons to him and said corruption happened in India. However, Parliament is not ready to discuss (the matter)." Asked about any differences within the Opposition camp, TMC MP Sagarika Ghosh said there is no such problem and the Opposition is together in raising people's issues.

"There are no differences of opinion among the opposition parties. The government is trying to spread false news. The Opposition is strong and united.... There may be differences in our strategies and approaches like we are raising the issues of Bengal, unemployment and they are raising the Adani issue, but we are united and fighting the BJP unitedly," she said. SP leader Ramoji Lal Suman said though his party is part of the INDIA Opposition bloc, there was some miscommunication. He said the SP leadership was not informed about the protest and thus, the party did not take part in it. "We are part of the INDIA Opposition bloc," he asserted.



Tourists on an elephant safari at the Kaziranga National Park, in Golaghat district of Assam

PTI PHOTO

Assam Cabinet expansion Dec 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Dec 5: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Thursday said he will expand the Cabinet December 7 by inducting four ministers.

"Happy to share that the following colleagues will be sworn in as ministers in our cabinet on 7th December at 12 PM. "(They are) 1. Shri Prasanta Phookan, MLA 2. Shri Kaushik Rai, MLA 3. Shri Krishnendu Paul, MLA 4. Shri Rupesh Goala, MLA. My best wishes to each of them!" Sarma wrote on X.

All of them are BJP legislators with two - Kaushik Rai and Rupesh Goala - being first-time MLAs.

The expansion will increase the strength of the council of ministers to 20. The Assam Assembly has a total strength of 126 MLAs, and as such, 19 ministers can function at a time.

Meanwhile, Tea Welfare and Labour Minister Sanjoy Kishan resigned from office, according to an official.

Out of the new ministers to be inducted, Sarma has selected two of them from the tea belt constituencies of Dibrugarh and Doom Dooma in Upper Assam, while the two others are from the Barak Valley constituencies of Lakhimpur and Patharkandi.

Phookan, 70, is a BJP veteran and has represented the Dibrugarh constituency for four consecutive terms since 2006. Goala, a former student leader belonging to the tea tribe, had joined the BJP prior to the 2021 assembly elections.

The 46-year-old was given the party's ticket from Doom Dooma constituency in Tinsukia district, and emerged winner in his maiden outing at the hustings.

LS adjourned amid protests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day Thursday over BJP member Nishikant Dubey's remarks targeting Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and seeking to link him to a US-based multi-billionaire.

After two earlier adjournments, the House resumed at 3 pm to pass the the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, amid noisy protests by members of the Opposition. Jagdambika Pal, who was in the Chair, tried to calm the Opposition and asked Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to reply to the debate on the Bill.

However, the protest by the opposition did not allow the House to function.

As the uproar continued, Pal adjourned the House for the day. During Zero Hour at noon, Dubey claimed the Congress-led Opposition had tried to derail Parliament proceedings following reports in a publication based on findings of the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) which had alleged links to the billionaire investor.

Congress members strongly objected to Dubey's remarks leading to an uproar in the House.

As the protests continued, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. Similar scenes were witnessed when the House re-assembled at 2 pm. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Opposition's behaviour was not acceptable.

"They (Opposition) came into Parliament wearing colourful clothes, and outside Parliament, they have started a fashion show wearing those colourful clothes. This lowers the dignity of Parliament and I condemn it. Such disruptions will achieve nothing; it won't fetch votes," Rijiju said.

India slams developed nations for climate crisis at ICJ hearing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: India slammed developed countries for causing the climate crisis during a landmark hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Thursday, saying they exploited the global carbon budget, failed to honour climate-finance promises and are now demanding that developing countries restrict their resource use.

The court is examining what legal obligations countries have to address climate change and the consequences if they fail. Making submissions on behalf of India, Luther M Rangrej, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said, "If the contribution to degradation is unequal, the responsibility must also be unequal."

India said developing nations are the hardest hit by climate change, despite contributing the least to it. "The developed world, which historically contributed the most, is ironically the best equipped with the technological and economic means to address this challenge," Rangrej said.

He criticised rich countries for enjoying the benefits of fossil fuels while discouraging developing nations from using their own energy resources. "Countries which have reaped development benefits from exploiting fossil fuels demand developing countries to not utilise the national energy resources available to them," he said.

India also slammed the lack of action on climate-finance commitments. "The USD 100 billion pledged at the Copenhagen COP in 2009 by developed country parties and the doubling of the contribution to the



Adaptation Fund have not yet been translated into any concrete actions," India noted. It called the new climate finance package for the Global South agreed at COP29 in Azerbaijan's Baku "too little, too distant" to meet the urgent needs of developing countries.

India stressed the principle of fairness, saying, "If the contribution to global environmental degradation is unequal, the responsibility should also be unequal." India also reaffirmed its commitment to its climate targets under the Paris Agreement, but warned against overburdening its citizens.

Polluted Ganga water can affect pilgrims' health: NGT

The green body was hearing a plea claiming 50 drains were discharging sewage directly into river Ganga, in an eight-km stretch from Rasulabad in the city to the Sangam (confluence of river Ganga and Yamuna)

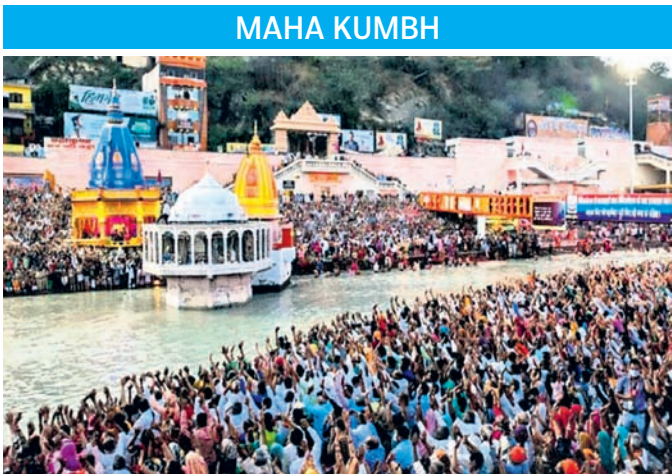
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The National Green Tribunal has observed that the health of crores of pilgrims visiting the Maha Kumbh fair will be impacted if effective steps are not taken to prevent the discharge of sewage into the Ganga in Prayagraj.

The 40-day Maha Kumbh Mela, expected to draw millions of devotees from across the globe, is scheduled to commence Jan-

uary 14 with the Makar Sankranti 'snan' (holy bath) and will conclude February 26 with the Mahashivratri snan. The green body was hearing a plea claiming 50 drains were discharging sewage directly into river Ganga, in an eight-km stretch from Rasulabad in the city to the Sangam (confluence of river Ganga and Yamuna).

In September this year, the tribunal had formed a high-powered committee (HPC) under the Uttar Pradesh chief



secretary and directed it to submit a report about the preventive measures by November 23. In an order dated November 29, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava

said, "The HPC has filed no such report nor any written request has been received from it expressing any difficulty in filing the report or seeking extension of time."

fore the commencement of the Kumbh Mela. Crores of persons will be visiting the mela and their health and well-being will be affected if no effective steps are taken to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage in the river. We expect the HPC to be sensitive to this issue," the tribunal said.

It expressed dissatisfaction with the government counsel's request seeking 15 days to submit the report. "Counsel for the state of UP has submitted that the report has already been prepared and it has been placed before the chief secretary for appraisal and signature. If that is so, we failed to understand why 15 days have been sought for filing the report," the tribunal said. The matter has been posted December 9 for further proceedings.

of the day quote

Let's drive away the rule of evil forces, and re-establish Amma's rule

EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI
| AIADMK GENERAL SECRETARY

There has been a BJP MLA here for the last 10 years. A lot of work has been done by the AAP in Delhi but there is no mohalla clinic here. CCTV cameras have not been installed and no elderly person from here has gone on free pilgrimage

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP SUPREMO

The state government is also prioritising the rehabilitation of surrendered Maoists and families affected by Naxal violence

VISHNUDEV SAI | CH'GARH CM

POST OF THE DAY

The next economic crisis is already here. Governments have borrowed money at crazy scale post 2020.

5 years, after: we are all being made to pay very high visible and invisible taxes. Because the debt needs to be repaid. [1] Visible tax: GST, STT, Income tax etc [2] Invisible tax: erosion of buying power of money. USD depreciated in terms of buying power compared to Gold, Land. INR depreciated 5% faster than USD each year. High taxes are simply an outcome for the government to preserve its spending power. Smart investors are already re-structuring their portfolios. Rest are doing excel spreadsheet: how 30K SIPs will get them to 999 Cr by 2090.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Jitender Singh Shunty joins AAP

New Delhi: In a boost to the Aam Aadmi Party ahead of next year's Assembly elections in Delhi, Padma Shri awardee social worker Jitender Singh Shunty joined the party in the presence of its national convenor Arvind Kejriwal Thursday. Shunty, the president of Shaheed Bhagat Singh (SBS) Foundation, received the Padma Shri in 2021 for his services during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also founded the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Seva Dal, an NGO known for cremating unclaimed bodies and performing post-cremation rites in accordance with Hindu and Sikh traditions.

3 cops injured in stone-pelting

Thane: An officer and two constables of the Mumbai police were injured after some members of the notorious Irani gang, including women, hurled stones at a team of security personnel in Maharashtra's Thane district, officials said Thursday. The incident took place Wednesday night in Ambivili, around 30 km from Thane city, following which police registered a case against around 35 persons and detained four of them, they said.

MBBS student dies

Kochi: One of the MBBS students critically injured in the accident that claimed five lives in Alappuzha, has succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital, police said Thursday. Albin George (19), passed away following severe injuries sustained in the collision that occurred on the night of December 2 near Kalarcode in Alappuzha district.

We are continuously creating awareness regarding environmental protection
M K STALIN | TN CM

SUKHBIR BADAL ATTACKER SENT TO POLICE REMAND

A court in Amritsar Thursday sent former Khalistani terrorist Narain Singh Chaura, who opened fire at Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal outside the Golden Temple Wednesday, to three-day police remand, officials said



ISRO's PSLV successfully places two European satellites into orbit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

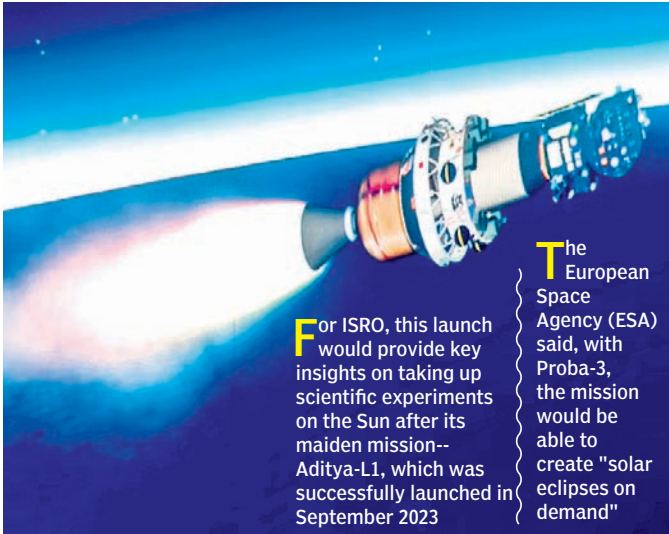
Sriharikota, (Andhra Pradesh), Dec 5: The ISRO Thursday successfully launched the PSLV-C59 rocket with the European Space Agency's Proba-3 satellites from here, in a first-of-its-kind initiative involving precision formation flying of two satellites.

"Mission Success! The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 Mission has successfully achieved its launch objectives, deploying ESA's satellites into their designated orbit with precision," ISRO said in a post on X.

Addressing the scientists at the Mission Control Centre after the launch, ISRO Chairman S Somnath said the two satellites were placed into the 'right orbit' around 18 minutes after the lift-off.

The Proba-3 (Project for Onboard Autonomy) mission consists of twin satellites in which two spacecraft (placed inside the satellites) would fly together as one, maintaining a precise formation down to a single milli-metre to study the Sun's outer atmosphere.

For ISRO, this launch would provide key insights on taking up scientific experiments on the Sun after its maiden mission-Aditya-L1, which was successfully launched in September 2023. The European Space Agency (ESA) said, with Proba-3, the mission would be able to create "solar eclipses on demand." The launch, which took place at 4.04 pm from the Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh, was postponed by 24 hours after an "anomaly" was detected in the satellite propulsion system minutes before the lift-off Wednesday.



Congratulating ISRO, ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher said: "Thank you to ISRO for giving Proba 3 a superb boost to space! The latest member of ESA's family of in-orbit demonstration missions, Proba-3 comprises two spacecraft launched together which, once safely in orbit, will separate to begin performing precise formation flying."

"Almost instantaneously after separation, Yatharagga station in Australia started to receive the spacecraft's signal. Telemetry is flowing to ESA's mission control centre in Belgium! Go Proba, go!" He posted on X.

Somanath said, "The satellites have been placed in the right orbit which is a very high elliptical orbit of almost 600 km perigee, that is the closest point to the Earth and 60,000 km at its apogee, that is the farthest point with an inclination of 59 degrees."

In a series of posts on X, ISRO said: "Celebrating success!

The PSLV-C59-Proba-3 mission reflects the dedication of NSIL, ISRO and ESA teams. This achievement highlights India's critical role in enabling global space innovation. Together we continue building bridges in international space collaboration." NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO has bagged the order from ESA for the launch.

NSIL Chairman and Managing Director D Radhakrishnan extended his greetings to team ISRO for giving the customer (ESA) a 'beautiful launch' and said, "...this is the first time that the PSLV has gone into such an elliptical orbit (of about 60,000 km)."

"I have seen PSLV missions going to GTO (Geostationary Transfer Orbit) or sub-GTO, but reaching a 60,000 km orbit for ESA is really special. As you have heard, the Proba-3 satellite is a single stack which has two spacecraft onboard which will get separated in the coming months," he said.

RG Kar horror: Victim's parents 'unhappy' with BJP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 5: The parents of the doctor, who was raped and murdered at state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital about four months back, Thursday expressed unhappiness over the role of the Opposition BJP in demanding justice for their daughter.

They also said that they would hit the street over the issue. "It seems that the torture and murder of our daughter have been forgotten by the principal Opposition party of West Bengal. But we cannot forget our daughter. We will protest on the road. Common people are with us. Junior doctors are with us. "We will participate in a rally to (health department

headquarters) Swastha Bhavan called by Junior Doctors Front tomorrow," the father of the deceased said.

Her mother said the re-statement of some of the junior doctors, who are accused of patronising a threat culture in state medical colleges, in the West Bengal Medical Council, raised doubt about the intent to bring to book all those responsible for the incident. "But we will not sit indoors. Even if someone is under the impression that the movement for Abhaya (the symbolic name given to the deceased R G Kar medic) will fizzle out, we will not let that happen. Our friends will not let that happen," she said.

The parents had visited BJP MLAs including Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari in the Assembly November 26. "We must keep political interests aside and seek the truth behind the incident. We demand exemplary punishment for those behind the crime," Adhikari had said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck during a meeting in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Wish men menstruate: SC slams MP HC for sacking women judges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Wish men have menstruation, the Supreme Court has remarked, censuring the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision to sack a woman judge in the state based on performance and not considering her predicament due to a miscarriage.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh sought a clarification from the high court on the criteria for the termination of civil judges. "I hope such criteria is also imposed on male judges. I have no hesitation in saying this. The lady, she has got pregnant and she had miscarriage. The mental and physical trauma of a lady who has undergone a miscarriage. What is this? I wish men have menstruation. Then they will know what it is," remarked Justice Nagarathna, question-

ing the assessment of the woman judicial officer which had ignored the mental and physical trauma endured by her due to the miscarriage.

The top court November 11, 2023 took a suo motu (on its own) cognisance of the termination of six women civil judges by the state government over their alleged unsatisfactory performance. However, a full court of the MP high court re-considered its earlier resolutions August 1, and decided to reinstate four officers, namely, Jyoti Varkade, Sushri Sonakshi Joshi, Sushri Priya Sharma and Rachna Atulkar Joshi on certain terms and conditions leaving out the other two Aditi Kumar Sharma and Sarita Chaudhary from the exercise.

The top court was considering the cases of the judges, who joined Madhya Pradesh judicial service in 2018 and 2017, respectively. According to a



report submitted by the high court, Sharma's performance dropped from "very good" and "good" ratings during 2019-20 to "average" and "poor" in the subsequent years.

In 2022, she had about 1,500 pending cases with disposal rate below 200, it was stated. The judge, on the other hand,

informed the high court about suffering a miscarriage in 2021, followed by her brother's cancer diagnosis.

While taking cognisance of the termination, the bench issued notices to the high court registry and the judicial officers who had not approached it against the termination.

The judges were terminated despite the fact that a quantitative assessment of their work could not be done on account of the Covid outbreak, the court noted.

"The officers along with three other women officers were appointed in judicial services in the state of Madhya Pradesh. They are alleged to be terminated from service primarily on account of disposal not being up to the standards set," the office report stated.

The termination orders were passed in June, 2023 by the state law department after an administrative committee and a full court meeting found their performance during the

probation period "unsatisfactory". An impleadment plea of one of the judges, filed through advocate Charu Mathur, argued despite a four-

year unblemished service record and no adverse remarks, she was terminated without following any due process of law.

She alleged her termination from service was a violation of her fundamental rights under Articles 14 (right to equality before law) and 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution.

In her application, she said if the period of her maternity and child care leave was taken into consideration in the quantitative work assessment, it would be a grave injustice to her.

India, China hold diplomatic talks



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: In their first diplomatic talks under a key dialogue mechanism since withdrawing troops from two face-off points, India and China Thursday reflected on the lessons learnt from the eastern Ladakh border row in order to prevent such face-offs in future.

At the meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs in New Delhi, the two sides agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity in border areas in line with bilateral pacts and protocols.

The two sides also prepared for the next meeting of the Special Representatives on the boundary question. "The two sides positively affirmed the implementation of the most recent disengagement agreement which completed the resolution of the issues that emerged in 2020," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The eastern Ladakh military standoff between India and China began in May 2020 and a deadly clash at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted in a severe strain in ties between the two neighbours.

The face-off effectively ended following completion of

The two sides positively affirmed the implementation of the most recent disengagement agreement which completed the resolution of the issues that emerged in 2020

MEA

the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised October 21.

Two days after the pact was signed up, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the sidelines of the Brics Summit in the Russian city of Kazan. In the meeting, the two sides agreed to revive several dialogue mechanisms including the Special Representatives dialogue on boundary questions.

India's Special Representative for the dialogue is NSA Ajit Doval while the Chinese side is headed at the talks by Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

"They also prepared for the next meeting of the Special Representatives, which is to be held in accordance with the decision of the two leaders in their meeting in Kazan October 23," the MEA said on the WMCC talks.

It said "both sides reviewed the situation in border areas, and reflected on the lessons learnt from the events of 2020 in order to prevent their recurrence." "In this context, they highlighted the importance of regular exchanges and contacts at diplomatic and military level through established mechanisms."

of the day quote

Nepal-China relations have further deepened after my visit. This will certainly benefit Nepal



KP SHARMA OLI | PRIME MINISTER, NEPAL

Poland's resolve in protecting its border with Belarus from migrant pressure is gaining wider support and the need for protecting its borders is becoming Europe's shared approach



DONALD TUSK | PM, POLAND

It has been ensured that Hindu pilgrims coming from all over the world, including India, can stay at Katas Raj Temple complex with all the facilities



CHAUDHRY SALIK HUSSAIN | FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY

SHORT TAKES

Mystery flu-like disease kills dozens

Kinshasa: Congo's health minister said Thursday the government is on alert over a mystery flu-like disease that in recent weeks killed dozens of people, nearly half of which were children. Authorities have so far confirmed 71 deaths, including 27 people who died in hospitals and 44 in the community in the southern Kwango province, health minister Roger Kamba said. "The Congolese government is on general alert regarding this disease," Kamba said, without providing more details. Of the victims at the hospitals, 10 died due to lack of blood transfusion and 17 as a result of respiratory problems, he said.

Army HQ attack: Khan indicted

Islamabad: A court in Pakistan Thursday indicted former prime minister Imran Khan, along with several other leaders and workers of his party, in the General Headquarters (GHQ) attack case. Khan pleaded not guilty after the charges were read out to him. The jailed founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was among the 143 accused named in the case registered at R A Bazar police station in Rawalpindi following the attack at the army's headquarters May 9, 2023. Fourteen cases were filed against former premier Imran Khan in Islamabad after the violent protest by his supporters last week, taking the total cases against him in the national capital to 76, according to a report submitted to a Pakistani court.

14 Indian fishermen arrested by SL Navy

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy has said it has arrested 14 more Indian fishermen for allegedly fishing in the island nation's territorial waters and seized two fishing trawlers. The arrests took place Wednesday off the coast of the northeastern district of Mannar. With this arrest, so far this year 529 Indian fishermen have been arrested and 68 trawlers confiscated, the navy said.

Trump picks Iraq War vet as Army secretary

Washington: President-elect Donald Trump said Wednesday that he has selected a former soldier and Iraq War veteran to serve as his secretary of the Army. Daniel P. Driscoll, who is from North Carolina, had been serving as a senior advisor to Vice President-elect JD Vance, whom he met when both were attending Yale Law School.



The form of warfare has evolved rapidly, along with the swift unfolding of a new round of technology and military revolution

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

JAPAN'S FAMOUS SAKE JOINS UNESCO'S CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST

Sake is perhaps more Japanese than the world-famous sushi. It's brewed in centuries-old mountaintop warehouses, savoured in the country's pub-like izakayas, poured during weddings and served slightly chilled for special toasts



FRESH BLOW TO ASSAD

Syria rebels capture central city of Hama



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, Dec 5: Syrian insurgents entered the central city of Hama Thursday after days of intense clashes with government forces as they push forward with their week-long offensive that brought large parts of Syria under their control.

The Syrian army said it has withdrawn from Hama after insurgents broke through its defences marking another setback for President Bashar Assad, days after losing the country's largest city.

The Syrian army said it re-deployed from Hama and took positions outside the city to protect the lives of civilians.

The insurgents' next target

is likely to be the central city of Homs, the country's third largest. Homs, which is about 40 kilometres south of Hama, is the gate to the capital Damascus, President Bashar Assad's seat of power as well as the coastal region that is a base of support for him.

Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the de facto leader of the Syrian insurgency announced in a video message that the insurgency reached the city of Hama in a "conquering that is not vengeful, but one of mercy and compassion."

The capture of Hama, Syria's fourth largest city, is another blow to Assad days after insurgents captured much of the northern city of Aleppo, the country's largest city.

Macron seeks new PM

Poised to be contemporary France's shortest-serving premier, Barnier met Macron at the Elysee Palace to submit his resignation, after the defeat in parliament Wednesday forced his government to step down



- Barnier's resignation follows no-confidence vote
- Macron's standing weakened amid calls for his resignation
- France faces political uncertainty, unnerving markets
- There can be no new parliamentary election before July

REUTERS

Paris, Dec 5: French President Emmanuel Macron met allies and parliament leaders Thursday as he sought to swiftly appoint a new prime minister to replace Michel Barnier, who officially resigned a day after Opposition lawmakers voted to topple his government.

Barnier, a veteran conservative whom Macron appointed prime minister barely three months ago, became the shortest-serving prime minister in modern French history after he failed to find enough support for a budget aimed at taming a wide deficit.

The Elysee Palace said Macron had asked Barnier and

his government to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new government is formed.

Three sources told Reuters Wednesday that Macron aimed to appoint a replacement swiftly, with one saying he wanted to do so before a ceremony Saturday to reopen Notre-Dame Cathedral - renovated after a devastating fire. US President-elect Donald Trump is among world leaders expected to attend.

Allies in Macron's own camp

joined the chorus urging swift action. After the late June and early July snap elections, it took Macron nearly two months to appoint Barnier.

"I recommend that he proceed quickly to the appointment of a prime minister, it's important, we must not leave things up in the air," National Assembly president Yael Braun-Pivet told France Inter radio before meeting Macron around noon.

Amnesty 'genocide' declaration comes too late: Palestinians



REUTERS

Cairo/Gaza, Dec 5: The Israeli military killed at least 39 Palestinians in strikes across the Gaza Strip overnight, medics said Thursday, including at least 20 in an attack that set ablaze tents sheltering displaced families in a crowded camp.

Residents carried a body wrapped in carpets out of the charred wreckage of the makeshift shelters in Mawasi, near the beach west of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, where tens of thousands of people have sheltered for months. Israel calls the area a humanitarian zone and has long told people to go there

for their safety.

Mourners said the latest attacks demonstrated that a new declaration from international human rights group Amnesty International that Israel was guilty of genocide in Gaza - strongly rejected by Israel - had come too late. Gaza medics said the 20 confirmed dead in the Israeli strike there included women and children. Israel said the strike targeted senior Hamas operatives, whom it did not identify.

The strike set several large tents ablaze, and the fire was worsened by the explosion of cooking gas canisters and burning furniture of the displaced people. The area was strewn with charred clothing mattresses and other belongings among the twisted frames of burnt-out shelters Thursday.

"We don't see anyone from the whole world standing by us or helping us in this situation. Let them stop this crazy war that's against us. Let them stop the war," said Abu Kamal Al-As-sar, a witness at the site.



South Korean marine veterans get their heads shaved during a rally against President Yoon Suk Yeol in front of the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

35K-yr-old cat mummy still has fur

The mummy of a newborn sabre-toothed cat was discovered along the banks of the Badyarikha River in Yakutia, Russia

Woolly mammoths, giant sloths and saber-toothed cats were a fact of life for early humans. But today's researchers can only hope to find fossils that will shed more light on the existence of these fascinating prehistoric mega-creatures — and why they went extinct.

New clues found in Earth's northernmost regions are helping piece together portraits of these animals like never before as ice age remains surface from thawing permafrost.

FANTASTIC CREATURES

Paleontologists excavating in Russia's Yakutia region uncovered the first known mummy of a saber-toothed cat. The cub was only about 3 weeks old when it died around 35,000 years ago.

The well-preserved remains, uncovered in Siberian permafrost, are nearly intact, including surprisingly soft fur and even the "toe beans" — as cat lovers call feline footpads — on its front paws.

It's the first evidence from Asia of Homotherium latidens, and the specimen's genetic information will help researchers better understand how the species lived and hunted.



When compared with modern lion cubs, the baby cat mummy's anatomy revealed striking differences, including darker fur, smaller ears and peculiar adaptations to accommodate massive incisors it never had a chance to grow.

The findings from this well-preserved feline indicate that Homotherium Latidens survived longer than previously thought, extending its range into the Late Pleistocene, which spans from 1,26,000 to 11,700 years ago. "This finding is the second evidence of the presence of H. latidens in the Late Pleistocene of Eurasia and the first described find from Asia," the study states.

THE FINDINGS

While the mummy retained sharp claws and whiskers (or vibrissae), researchers observed that "the mummy's eyelashes were not preserved". "We focused on the analysis of the cranial (head) and dental features of the mummy to determine its taxonomic position. Among the postcranial elements, we analysed here only the most striking morphological peculiarities determined visually," said the study.

ABOUT A SABRE-TOOTHED CAT

Meanwhile, radiocarbon dating — decay of a radioactive isotope of carbon to determine the age of organic materials —

of the mummy's fur indicates that it has been entombed in permafrost for at least 35,000 years, with estimates suggesting it could be as old as 37,000 years.

The findings regarding the juvenile development of the skull and limbs provide insights into the unique "early postnatal growth of Homotherium".

Sabre-toothed cats, particularly those from the extinct genus Homotherium, were large carnivorous mammals that roamed various parts of the world during the Pliocene and early Pleistocene age. This genus thrived approximately between 5.3 million and 11,700 years ago, showcasing adaptation to their environments with distinctive physical features.

According to researchers, these cats are most famously recognised for their elongated, blade-like canine teeth, which extend from their mouths when closed, giving them their distinctive appearance. Fossil evidence indicates that they inhabited regions in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa during their prime.

AGENCIES

Bangladesh set to wipe Mujibur Rahman's image off banknotes

Bangladesh Bank is printing new notes, including in them features of the July uprising, as per reports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Dec 5: Months after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as prime minister, Bangladesh has begun the process of erasing the image of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — her father and the iconic figure behind the founding of the country — from its currency notes.

Bangladesh Bank is printing new notes, including in them features of the July uprising, the Dhaka Tribune reported Thursday, referring to the student-led protests that forced Hasina to flee to India August 5. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge as Chief Adviser, the head of an interim government.

According to the central bank, banknotes of Taka 20, 100, 500, and 1,000 are being printed on the instructions of the interim government.

"The new notes will not include image of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the paper reported,



quoting the bank.

Religious structures, Bengali traditions, and "graffiti" drawn during the July uprising will be included, it said.

"I hope the new note could be released in the market within the next six months," it quoted Bangladesh Bank executive director Husnara Shikha as saying.

According to the paper, officials from the bank and the Ministry of Finance said the leader's image will be removed from the current notes. Initially, the design of the four notes is being changed, and the others will be redesigned in phases, they said.

The Finance Ministry's Finance Institute Division submitted a detailed design proposal for the new notes in September.

Quote of the day

India remains a top priority for us globally, and we continue to strive to earn the trust and affection of our Indian community

ROBIN LIU | CEO, ONEPLUS INDIA

As the demand for flexible workspaces continues to rise, we aim to empower businesses to scale, and achieve sustained growth with our comprehensive suite of services

ARNAV S GUSAIN | CHIEF OF SUPPLY, WEWORK INDIA

This agri stack and the FPO collectivization is today, at about 1,600 and our ambition is to take it to 4,000 and 10 million farmers in next 4 to 5 years

S GANESH | CEO (AGRI BUSINESS DIVISION), ITC

SHORT TAKES

Hyundai to hike prices by up to ₹25,000

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd Thursday said it will increase prices of its vehicles across model range by up to Rs 25,000 from January 1, 2025. The price increase has been necessitated owing to an increase in input costs, adverse exchange rate and increase in logistics costs, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMITL) said in a statement. "... with the sustained increase in input cost, it has now become imperative to pass on a part of this cost escalation through a minor price adjustment," HMITL Whole-time Director and Chief Operating Officer Tarun Garg said. The price increase will impact all the 2025 models.

Vishal Mega Mart to float ₹8,000cr IPO

New Delhi: Supermart major Vishal Mega Mart is set to launch its 8,000 crore initial share-sale December 11 for public subscription. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) will conclude December 13 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day December 10, the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP) showed Thursday. The proposed IPO is entirely an Offer For Sale (OFS) of shares by promoter Samayat Services LLP, with no fresh issue of equity shares, according to the Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP).

YouTube releases 2024 wrap-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The big fat Indian wedding of Radhika-Anant Ambani, cricket lovers' festival IPL, gamer Ajju bhai -- whose amusing commentary entertained audiences -- and 'moye moye', a catchy melody by a Serbian artist that internet users widely used to take a funny take on adversities, grabbed spots in the chart of most-trending topics on YouTube in 2024.

Indian creators and fans on YouTube didn't just break the internet, but rebuilt it with their unique voice and brand of creativity, YouTube said in its India blog Thursday, which revealed the top trending take-aways of the year.

Videos featuring "Ambani" and "wedding" in their titles amassed over 6.5 billion views in India, as fans analysed every aspect of the event, including international performances, stunning outfits, and a guest list filled with celebrities, according to the blog.

"From armchair fashion crit-

CRYPTO EUPHORIA

In a first, Bitcoin rises above \$100K

Bitcoin touches fresh milestone as the election of Republican Donald Trump as president fuelled bets that his administration will create a friendly regulatory environment for cryptocurrencies

REUTERS

Washington, Dec 5: Bitcoin catapulted above \$100,000 for the first time Thursday, a milestone hailed even by sceptics as a coming-of-age for digital assets as investors bet on a friendly US administration to cement the place of cryptocurrencies in financial markets.

Once it broke \$100,000 in Thursday's Asian morning, boosted by US President-elect Trump's nomination of pro-crypto Paul Atkins to run the Securities and Exchange Commission, it was soon at an all-time high of \$103,619, a surge of about 6% on the day. It was last fetching \$102,650.

The total value of the cryptocurrency market has almost doubled over the year so far to hit a record just shy of \$3.8 trillion, according to data provider CoinGecko. By comparison, Apple alone is worth about \$3.7 trillion.

Bitcoin's march from the libertarian fringe to Wall Street has minted millionaires, a new asset class and popularised the concept of "decentralised finance" in a volatile and often controversial period since its creation 16 years ago.

Bitcoin has more than doubled in value this year and is up more than 50% in the four weeks since Donald Trump's sweeping election victory, which also saw a slew of pro-crypto lawmakers being elected to Congress.

Trump embraced digital assets during his campaign, promising to make the United States the "crypto capital of the planet" and to accumulate a national stockpile of bitcoin.



Total value of the cryptocurrency market has almost doubled over the year so far to hit a record just shy of \$3.8 trillion. By comparison, Apple alone is worth about \$3.7 trillion

We're witnessing a paradigm shift. Bitcoin and the entire digital asset ecosystem are on the brink of entering the financial mainstream - this momentum is fuelled by institutional adoption, advancements in tokenisation and payments, and a clearer regulatory path

MIKE NOVOGRATZ | FOUNDER AND CEO, GALAXY DIGITAL

"We were trading basically sideways for about seven months, then immediately after November 5, US investors resumed buying hand-over-fist," said Joe McCann, CEO and founder of Asymmetric, a Miami digital assets hedge fund. Bitcoin's proponents cheered

If you want to increase female workforce participation then the focus has to be on the plumbing of deregulation has to happen in state and local governance

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

M-NOW: MYNTRA TAPS INTO QUICK COMMERCE

Fashion and lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra on Thursday announced the launch of its quick commerce service 'M-Now', which promises delivery within 30 minutes. Currently operational in Bangalore, M-Now is set to expand to a mix of metro and non-metro cities across the country in the coming months, according to Myntra CEO Nandita Sinha



LOOMING THREAT

Steel imports from China hit record high

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 5: India's finished steel imports from China reached an all-time high during the first seven months of the current financial year from April, according to provisional government data reviewed by Reuters, rattling hundreds of small Indian steel producers. China, the world's biggest steel producer, shipped 1.7 million metric tons of finished steel to India during April-October, a 35.4% increase year-on-year, the data showed.

This has exacerbated the deteriorating financial health of Indian steel producers struggling with cheap Chinese imports and falling domestic prices despite robust demand driven by rapid economic growth and rising infrastructure spending in the world's fastest growing major economy.

China, the world's biggest steel producer, mostly shipped stainless steel, hot-rolled coils, galvanised sheets, plates and electrical sheets, among other grades during the period.

India's overall finished steel imports surged to a seven-year high of 5.7 million metric tons during the April-October period.

Finished steel imports from Japan and Vietnam more than doubled during the period, the data showed. China, South Korea and Japan accounted for 79% of total finished steel imports between April and October.

India's steel ministry has sought a 25% safeguard duty or a temporary tax for two years on flat-steel products to curb cheap Chinese imports.

"There is a looming threat of huge increase in cheap imports from China," Sandeep Poundrik, the most senior civil servant at the Ministry of Steel said in a letter to his counterpart in the trade ministry. The letter was dated November 27.

The steel ministry did not respond to a email seeking comments.

During April-October, hot-rolled coils were the largest imported grade, while bars and rods topped the imported grades in the non-flat product category, the data showed.

Indices maintain winning streak

BENCHMARKS SURGE AHEAD OF RBI POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT, IT SHARES LEAD GAINS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: Rising for the fifth straight day, benchmark BSE Sensex spurted by 809 points in a choppy trade on Thursday a day ahead of the announcement of the RBI policy review.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 809.53 points, or 1 per cent, to settle at 81,765.86. During the day, it soared 1,361.41 points, or 1.68 per cent, to 82,317.74 but pared gains in the pre-close session on profit-taking by investors.

The NSE Nifty surged 240.95 points, or 0.98 per cent, to 24,708.40.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, and Tech Mahindra were the biggest gainers. NTPC and Asian Paints were the laggards.

"Dow moving past 45,000 for the first time is an indicator of the strength of the US market

IN PAST FIVE TRADING DAYS, BSE UP 2,722.12 POINTS OR 3.44%

FIIs BOUGHT EQUITIES WORTH ₹1,797.60 CRORE WEDNESDAY

Five days of rally: Investors richer by ₹15.18 lakh crore

rally. The macro construct in the US -- strong growth and declining inflation support this rally. The Fed chief Powell's remark yesterday that the 'economy is in remarkably good shape' is a shot in the arm for the US bulls," VK Vijaya kumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The BSE mid-cap gauge climbed 0.27 per cent and the smallcap index went up by 0.16 per cent.

As many as 2,141 stocks advanced while 1,825 declined and 117 remained unchanged on the BSE.

FIIs turning buyers is positive for markets, particularly for largecaps, analysts said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹1,797.60 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das will announce its policy review Friday.

OPEC+ delays oil output hike



REUTERS

London, Dec 5: OPEC+ Thursday pushed back the start of oil output rises by three months until April and extended the full unwinding of cuts by a year until the end of 2026 due to weak demand and booming

production outside the group. OPEC+, which pumps about half the world's oil, had been planning to start unwinding cuts from October 2024 but a slowdown in global demand and rising output elsewhere forced it to postpone the plans on several occasions.

OPEC+ groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies such as Russia.

Despite the group's supply cuts, global oil benchmark Brent crude has mostly stayed in a \$70 to \$80 per barrel range this year. On Thursday it traded near \$72 a barrel, having hit a 2024 low below \$69 in September.

RBI adds 27tn gold to country's reserve in Oct

India added 27 tonne of gold in Oct, bringing total gold purchases to 77 tonne from Jan to Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: Gold buying by central banks surged to 60 tonne in October, mainly led by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which added 27 tonne of the precious metal to its reserves, the World Gold Council (WGC) said Thursday.

India added 27 tonne of gold in October, bringing its total gold purchases to 77 tonne from



January to October, according WGC data based on reported monthly data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This buying by RBI represents a five-fold increase as compared to the same period of 2023, said WGC.

According to the data, with this purchase the total gold

TOTAL GOLD RESERVE OF INDIA IS NOW AT 882 TONNE, OF WHICH 510 TONNE ARE HELD IN INDIA

THIS BUYING BY RBI REPRESENTS A FIVE-FOLD INCREASE AS COMPARED TO SAME PERIOD OF 2023

reserve of India is now at 882 tonne, of which 510 tonne are held in India.

WGC further stated that emerging market central banks continued to dominate the market with Turkey and Poland adding 72 tonne and 69 tonne from January-October 2024, to their gold reserves, respectively.

These three central banks

alone accounted for 60 per cent of total global net purchases reported this year, it added.

Meanwhile, the data further revealed that the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey added 17 tonnes, making October the 17th consecutive month of net purchases and the highest reported monthly figure on record since December 2023.

October's figures have surpassed the quarterly total of April-June and July-September quarters, it said.

Further, it revealed that the National Bank of Poland recorded net buying of 8 tonnes during October, its seventh consecutive month of net buying.

Investments in India profitable: Putin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Dec 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin has hailed 'Make in India' initiative and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's policies, saying companies are eager to set up manufacturing facilities in India as investments are profitable.

Speaking at the 15th VTB Investment Forum in Moscow Wednesday, Putin said that the initiative, which is aimed at boosting manufacturing and attracting foreign investment, has played a key role in strengthening India's position in the global economy.

The 'Make in India' initiative was launched September 25, 2014, to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build world-class infrastructure, and make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation.

Putin said that India has created stable conditions for



INDIA, RUSSIA IN JULY THIS YEAR AGREED TO BOOST BILATERAL TRADE TO OVER \$100BN BY 2030

BILATERAL TRADE HAS INCREASED TO \$65.42BN IN 2023-24 AS AGAINST \$49.4BN IN 2022-23

FROM A MARKET SHARE OF LESS THAN ONE PER CENT IN INDIA'S IMPORT BASKET BEFORE THE START OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT, RUSSIA'S SHARE OF INDIA'S OIL IMPORTS ROSE TO OVER 40%

small and medium-sized enterprises while expressing

We would be ready to place our manufacturing site in India. Also, the biggest investment in India in the economy to the tune of \$20 billion by Rosneft happened not long ago

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

Russia's willingness to establish manufacturing operations in India as investments in India are profitable.

"The Prime Minister of India and the Government of India have been creating stable conditions and this is because the Indian leadership has been pursuing India comes first policy and we believe that investments in India are profitable," the Russian President said.

He mentioned that Russia's import substitution programme is similar to India's 'Make in India' initiative and noted that India's leadership focused on a policy of prioritising its interests.

Buoyant India aim to prove a point

Playing Australia in Australia tends to bring the best out of the visiting Indian team which defied all expectations to boss the series-opener in Perth, handing Australia their first loss at the Optus stadium, and registering Men in Blue's biggest overseas win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Dec 5: Rohit Sharma will take a step back to lead from the front as India look for the perfect combination to drive home the advantage against a wounded but famously resilient Australia in the day/night Test starting here Friday.

Rohit, returning to the side from a brief paternity break, has taken the tough call of pushing himself down the order to accommodate K L Rahul at the top alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal. Both Rahul and Jaiswal excelled in Perth and had a big part in India's biggest overseas win.

Shubman Gill has recovered from a thumb injury and will be back in the side alongside Rohit.

The resourceful side would be happy to have the headache of having to shuffle the side than being under-strength, which was the case when they last toured and beat all expectations to come out trumps.

Ahead of the second Test, Rohit said he decided to change his batting position keeping the team's interests in mind.

"We want result, we want success. Those two guys at the top they batted brilliantly in Perth. I was watching from home. Rahul was brilliant to watch. He deserves that place at this point in time. There is no need to change that now, may be things will be different in future. Personally not easy for me (to move down) but for



PINK BALL TEST

the team it made a lot of sense," said Rohit adding that he will bat somewhere in the middle.

In their last trip Down Under, India made a comeback for the ages following the 36 all out debacle at the Adelaide Oval but the visitors are placed much better this time around, following the resounding result in the opening Test.

However, the day-night game presents a different challenge for the visiting team batters, who will have to be at their best to negate the extra seam movement generated by the pink ball, especially in the twilight phase.

Australia, who have lost only one out of their 12 day-night Tests at home, will be hurting from the hiding in Perth and having got a 10-day breather, they will be under pressure to make a comeback in the series.

Rohit, whose Test career got a second wind after he started opening in 2019, will bat in the middle order at least for for the time being.

The captain would want to be back among the runs after a lean home series against New Zealand.

His record in Australia is nothing to write home about and he would want to change

that on probably his last tour Down Under.

Rohit and Gill will bolster the playing eleven at the expense of Devdutt Padikkal and Dhruv Jurel. Having recovered from a thumb injury, Gill looked

good in the practice match and will carry the confidence of his past performances in Australia when he walks in to bat the at the hallowed ground.

The biggest positives with the bat in Perth were Virat Kohli regaining his rhythm and Jaiswal's coming of age hundred in his debut Test in Australia. Both will look to build on those significant gains here.

No changes are expected in the bowling department though traditionally, the Adelaide pitch has aided the spinners, bringing R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja into discussion.

Australia, on the other hand, have plenty to worry about as they aim to level the series. Their best bowler in Perth, Josh Hazlewood, has been ruled out of the game due to injury.

The usually accurate Scott Boland will replace him in the side and can trouble the Indian batters with his relentless off-stump channel bowling. It will be Boland's first Test in almost 18 months.

The pressure is mounting on the fragile batting line-up, which will need to step up against Jasprit Bumrah and Co.

SQUADS:

India: Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah, Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Devdutt Padikkal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar.

Australia XI: Pat Cummins (C), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitch Marsh, Nathan McSweeney, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc.

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Gukesh, Liren draw deadlock continues



9th game between Gukesh and Liren ends without any winner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Dec 5: Stalemate continued in the World Chess Championship as the ninth game between Indian challenger D Gukesh and defending champion Ding Liren of China ended in yet another draw to still level on points here Thursday.

The sixth consecutive draw -- and seventh of the match -- left both players on an identical tally of 4.5 points each, still shy of 3 points in order to win the championship.

The two players signed peace after 54 moves. Friday is a rest day and they will resume the battle Saturday.

Just five more classical games are left to be played in the \$2.5 million prize money championship and if a tied result happens after 14 rounds, there will be

games under faster time control to determine the winner.

The 32-year-old Liren had won the opening game while the 18-year-old Gukesh had emerged victorious in the third game.

The second, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth games had ended in draws.

The Catalan opening has featured in top level games for many decades now and Gukesh chose it this time to test Liren's preparation. The Chinese yet again sank in to a long thought in the opening and found some creative ideas to keep the white forces at bay. The first exchange took place on the 14th turn with Gukesh using just 15 minutes of his allotted two hours in the first time-control while Liren had used over 50 minutes.

Gukesh probably got his only chance to exert some pressure on his 20th turn but the Indian went for what optically looked better for white only to find Liren surprising him with some well-disguised tricks.

SHORT TAKES

Highest T20 score; Abhishek's record ton

Indore: Records tumbled in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Thursday when Baroda smashed the highest score in T20 history and Punjab's Abhishek Sharma slammed a blazing 28-ball hundred, equalling the fastest such knock by an Indian in the format. Both those records came against weaker teams in domestic cricket. Baroda hammered 349 for five in 20 overs against Sikkim in Indore while Sharma's blitzkrieg came against Meghalaya in Rajkot, equalling the record of fastest hundred by an Indian. Gujarat's Urvil Patel too has a 28-ball hundred to his credit and it also came during a Syed Mushtaq Ali match, against Tripura. Sharma remained not out on 106 off 29 balls as Punjab chased down the 143-run target in just 9.3 overs. The southpaw hit as many as 11 sixes and six fours in his ballistic innings. The record for the fastest T20 hundred is held by Estonia's Sahil Chauhan, who smashed a 27-ball ton against Cyprus earlier this year.

Guwahati Masters: Shuttlers storm ahead

Guwahati: M Tharun and Ravi topped higher-seeded opponents to storm into the men's singles quarterfinals of the Guwahati Masters Super 100 badminton tournament here Thursday. Tharun, the runner-up at the Senior National Championships, showcased nerves of steel, saving two game points in the opening game before overcoming top seed Priyanshu Rajawat 24-22, 15-21, 21-13 in a gruelling one-hour and 10-minute battle. Ravi displayed remarkable grit to defeat Denmark's fifth seed Mads Christophersen 21-23, 21-17, 21-14, setting up a last-eight clash against Chinese qualifier Zhu Xuan Chen.

Equestrian champion banned for a year

Lausanne: Three-time Olympic equestrian gold medalist Charlotte Dujardin was suspended from all competition for one year Thursday following a horse-whipping scandal that saw her withdraw from the Paris Games in July. Dujardin was provisionally suspended by the International Federation for Equestrian Sports July 23 as the governing body launched an investigation into a video from four years ago showing her repeatedly whipping a horse while coaching another rider. A complaint was made to the FEI by Dutch equine lawyer Stephan Wensing on behalf of an unnamed client.

Oz steamroll India in Women's ODI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brisbane, Dec 5: India put up a dismal show with the bat as Australia stamped their superiority over the visitors with a five-wicket win in the first Women's ODI here Thursday.

Opting to bat, India collapsed to 100 all out in 34.2 overs with Australia pacer Megan Schutt returning an impressive five-wicket haul.

Australia did experience a minor stutter in the run

chase, when Renuka Thakur struck twice in the same over, before coasting to victory in 16.2 overs.

Debutant opener Georgia Vull (46 not out off 42 balls) produced a measured knock to ensure a comfortable win. Her effort included a six off Renuka in the cow corner region.

Her opening partner Phoebe Litchfield (35 off 29 balls) was the aggressor in their 48-run stand, smashing six fours in a

row, four of those coming off Renuka and two off debutant pacer Titas Sadhu.

The second ODI will be played at the Allan Border Field here December 8.

Jemimah Rodrigues, who batted at number five, top-scored for India with a 23 off 42 balls.

Opting to bat, India failed to get off the blocks, losing the openers in the first seven overs. Priya Punia (3 off 17), playing in place of the dropped Shafali Verma, looked totally out of sorts in her comeback game.

Smriti Mandha (8 off 9) was caught behind, chasing a wide outswinger from Schutt. Punia, in her attempt to break the shackles, was caught at backward point off Schutt.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (23 off 42) was trapped in front by pacer Annabel Sutherland. Rodrigues looked comfortable in the middle until she was bowled by Kim Grath as she tried to run a delivery down to the third man.

From 62 for three, India were all out for 100 in 34.2 overs. Their last three batters got out with the score reading 100 on the board. Schutt completed her maiden five wicket haul by casting Priya Mishra. It was a batting performance to forget for India.

OFC's home scoring streak ends



Goalless draw against Mumbai City FC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha FC and Mumbai City FC played out a goalless draw in the Indian Super League here Thursday as the Juggernauts were unable to find the back of the net for the first time in a home game after 10 matches.

The game began on a positive note for the Juggernauts, as they stepped on the offensive right from the onset to assert their gameplay into the proceedings.

Their dynamic frontline means that Odisha FC can often put together multiple gameplays that break the backbone of their adversaries, and Diego Mauricio was pretty inventive in one such approach of his in

the ninth minute.

The fleet-footed Brazilian received the ball with his back on the goal, but showed great agility in turning around and finding sufficient space to take an effort at finding the back of the net.

However, Mauricio didn't find any of his teammates in a promising position near to the goal, and hence backed his instincts to unleash a cracking effort from distance, which had some venom in it but whisked past the target. Though it didn't open the scoring, the shot surely did alert the Mumbai City FC defence.

Mumbai City FC attacked at the other end with some stellar efforts, particularly in the first few minutes of the second half. They threw their entire attacking unit at the Odisha FC defence to outnumber the home side and catch them off-guard.

Shooting, hockey out of 2026 Youth Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: In a big blow to India's medal prospects, the executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has dropped shooting, weightlifting and hockey from the roster of medal sports for the much-delayed 2026 Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal.

Shooting, weightlifting and hockey have been named among 10 non-medal sports, which will be part of the "engagement programme" in the YOG.

In the 2018 Youth Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, India had won 13 medals (3 gold, 9 silver and 1 bronze), out of which shooting had given 4 medals (2 gold and 2 silver), while hockey's share was 2 silver and weightlifting's contribution was one gold.

Paris Olympics double-medalist star shooter Manu Bhaker had won a gold in the girls' 10m air pistol and a silver in mixed 10m air pistol.

In its meeting in Lausanne

December 3, the IOC executive board has confirmed the events and athlete quotas for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) to be held from October 31 to November 13, 2026. The Youth Olympics are to be competed among athletes aged between 15 and 18.

"...it was decided to maintain the official involvement of all 35 International Federations (IFs) in Dakar 2026, with 25 sports featuring on the competition programme and 10 to be part of the engagement programme. Dakar 2026 will showcase one discipline from each of the 25 sports on the competition programme. Additionally, Dakar 2026 will feature an engagement programme that will showcase 10 sports," the IOC said on its website.

The 25 sports in which medals will be given are athletics (track and field), aquatics (swimming), archery, badminton, baseball (baseball 5), basketball (3x3), boxing, breaking,

BIG BLOW TO INDIA



cycling (road cycling), equestrian (jumping), fencing, football (futsal), gymnastics (artistic), handball (beach handball), judo, rowing (coastal rowing), rugby (rugby sevens), sailing, skateboarding (street), table

tennis, taekwondo, triathlon, volleyball (beach volleyball), wrestling (beach wrestling), and wushu.

The 10 non-medal sports which will feature in the engagement programme are ca-