

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 245 I www. orissapost.com

Star of 2024' on IMDb

LEISURE | P2

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | DECEMBER 6, 2024

INTERNATIONAL | P10

appoint a new PM

\$100,000 for the first time, a milestone hailed by all

BUSINESS | P11

IOC drops shooting, weightlifting and hockey from the roster of medal sports for the much-delayed 2026 Youth Olympics

> 8,890 drowning, snakebite deaths

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: A staggering 8,890 people died due to

drowning and snakebites in

the state between 2021-22 and

2023-24, Revenue and Disaster

Management (R&DM) Minister

Suresh Pujari told the Assem

Pujari said, "While drowning claimed 5,534 lives, 3,356 people

died due to snakebites during the

The state also reported six

deaths due to landslides and 26

due to floods and heavy rainfall the R&DM Minister said, while

replying to a query by BJD leg-

four cyclones-Yaas, Gulab Jawad, and Michaung-hit the

state during the period. 'Yaas

claimed three lives, while no

casualties were reported from the other three cyclones.

To mitigate the impact of such disasters, Pujari outlined

several initiatives by the state

These include the prepara-

tion of disaster management

action plans by all departments

and districts, strengthening

early warning systems, and the establishment of 24x7 con-

trol rooms at both the district

Pujari further said that

islator Souvic Biswal.

government

and state levels.

PNN & AGENCIES

bly, Thursday.

period."

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

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 Pravati 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.





1 . 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) The Opposition in the Rajya Sabha vociferously protested the nomenclature of Bharativa Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, a replacement for Aircraft Act, 1934, calling it an attempt to impose

on the 'Bharatiya Vayuyan Vid-

heyak, 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

"Why do so many laws have

Hindi names? This is imposi-

tion of Hindi. The mandate of

the people in 2024 was for diver-

sity, dividend, and the federal

principle but the government is

persisting in the 'Hindification'

change its name.

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.

Stringent cow slaughter law in state soon: Min

РТІ РНОТО

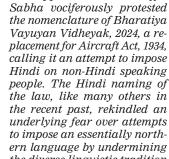
AGENCIES

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



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.

Oppn cries 'Hindification' of laws





had an illustrious career... a true specialist in knowing precisely when to recuse himself

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.

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

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 Vavuvan Vidhevak."

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.

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 Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu moved the Bill in Raiva Sabha. Tuesday. It was passed in the Upper House by a voice vote, Thursday. It was passed in the Lok Sabha in August this year.

ment 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

Reacting to the state govern ment'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 Cha ran 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 to the DCP. AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Dec 5: A 35-yearold 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

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.

n the realm of men's fashion, attention to detail is key, Land 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 bylaws 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 guvs. 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 elasti cated top and a ballet-slipper shape, these super-low socklets 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)















How to avoid criminally unattractive looks

MEN SOCK RULES



SUIFE



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



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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 later half of the day should see your worries abate somewhat, savs Ganesha

CANCER

nquisitive 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

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.

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 Bulbbul actress surpassed some of the biggest stars like Deepika Padukone, Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarva 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 hon-

our 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 firth 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 cept 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 vour bovfriend. not vour you hit that low, that real think right now exams just getting started. only person

Her words about

wedding.

Samantha divorced in 2021 after four years of marriage. They an nounced their separation via a post on social media.

INT'L THEATRE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE FESTIVAL: DAY-III



Members of drama troupe The Loo from Padampur (Bargarh) performed Sambalpuri play Rangabhoomi at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday, on the third evening of ongoing national theatre festival. Adapted from Munshi Premchand's original work, the play was directed by Jagannath Sethi. The play was based on a research made on British India.

Tiger's tips or 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, "Ye-

ah, 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. IANS

person will ever have is the one with themselves, emphasizing

> girlfriend, because when real low - and trust me all of you will - I know you is the biggest problem, but trust me you're And when you hit that lowest low, the

that no one will be there for them during their lowest moments ex-

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

self-love have resonated with many, especially in the wake of Naga Chaitanya's

Naga and

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

Chances are that your

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 Gane-sha. 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 n umber of them.

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.

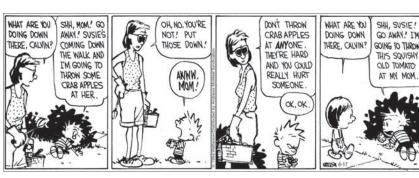
PISCES

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.

PEANUTS

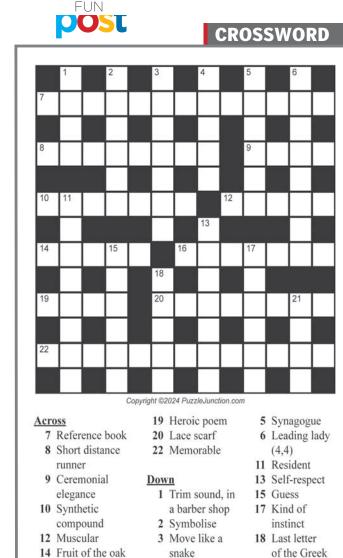


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY

I HAD A JOKE ABOUT TRYING TO FIND THE QUEUE FOR A FRUITY BEVERAGE, BUT I FORGOT IT.



4 "Lohengrin,"

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

e.g.

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

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6	9	3	5	1	7	V	Т		М	U	в	D]
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8	4	1	6	2	3	S	W		L		W	Т	
5	2	7	8	9	4	C T E D	NE	Ν	0	C	L	E	W
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1 T	7	9	4	3	8	U D Y	в	L	Ι	S	EN	T	U
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SUDOKU



5

2 9 3

1

7 4 3 2 1

7 8

4 5

6

9

8 9 6

4 5



WHERE'S THE

PUNCH LINE?



tree

16 Unconventional



alphabet

21 Be lazy





owntown

AGAINST PRICE RISE

Members of Communist Party of India (CPI) and Bharativa Khet Mazdoor Union (BKMU) stage a unique protest at Rai Mahal Square in Bhubaneswar. Thursday, over the spiraling prices of potato and onion



Murmu: Poor suffer due to adjournment culture



suffer due to this

Addressing the

gathering, Mur-

mu said, "If justice

is not delivered on

time, then it is equiv-

alent to denial of justice.

The poor suffer the most due

to the culture of adjournment.

They neither have the money

nor do they have the manpow-

er to visit the court frequent-

ly." She expressed confidence

that all stakeholders will give

priority to find a way to avoid

the culture of adjournment in

practice.

iustice.

The President was happy to note that the court judgements are now being translated into Odia and Santhali languages and these translated verdicts are available on the websites of the Supreme *Court and the Orissa* High Court

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: President Droupadi Murmu, while inaugurating the new Judicial Court Complex here Thursday, underscored the need for eradicating adjournment culture in judiciary and said that the poor

Youth ends life in City; online gaming addiction suspected POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: A 22-year-old youth allegedly hung himself at his house in Badu Sahi area of Old Town here Thursday. Police said Shashanka Shekhar Satpathy is suspected to have ended his life owing to the financial losses he had incurred over his online gaming addiction.

IIC of Lingaraj police station Purna Chandra Pradhan said at around 4 am Shashanka's family members found the door of his bedroom locked from inside. They grew suspicious when Shashanka did not respond to repeated knocks on the door. They then broke open the door to find Shashanka hanging from the ceiling fan by a cloth. Pradhan said an unnatural death case has been registered, while the postmortem reports are awaited.

Cobra rescued from judicial complex

A two-ft long cobra was rescued from the premises of the newly built iudicial complex here, hours pefore its inauguration by President Droupadi Murmu Thursday, an officia said. The snake was spotted by a driver near the main entrance of the ouilding, who then alerted others in the complex, he said. A team from the snake helpline rushed to the site and rescued the cobra. the official said. The team also searched the entire complex as a precautionary measure. The President inaugurated the new Judicial Court Complex in the Capital city in the evening

is making.

Murmu

happy to note that

the court judge-

ments are now

being translated

into Odia and San-

thali languages and

these translated ver-

dicts are available on the

websites of the Supreme Court

opment is being emphasised,"

said Murmu adding that like

in other fields, women's par-

ticipation should increase in

She noted that at present,

"Today, women-led devel-

and the Orissa High Court.

was

LEARNING THE ROPES: Students display their skills during the 32nd District Level Bharat Scouts and Guides Camporee at Capital High School in Bhubaneswar Thursday

Prez: Develop tech to deal with climate impact on agri

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: President Droupadi Murmu Thursday called on agriculture scientists to develop and disseminate technologies in a timely manner to deal with natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change and excessive exploitation of resources.

The President made the remarks while addressing the gathering at the 40th convocation of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) here.

She also urged the agriculture scientists to come up with ideas to protect soil, water and environment from the adverse impact of climate change.

'Agriculture is facing new challenges such as natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change, decreasing per capita farm size, and excessive exploitation of natural resourc-

es. To deal with these challenges, our scientists will have to develop and disseminate technologies timely. We have to emphasise on environmental protection, soil health protection, water and soil conservation, and better use of natural resources," Murmu said.

She noted that climate change-related issues such as rising temperatures and increase in greenhouse gases are affecting agricultural produc tion in the country.

"Agricultural scientists have an important responsibility to deal with all such issues," she said. adding, excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides has also emerged as new challenges for the sector.

'Their (fertiliser and pesticide) effect on soil, water and the environment are a matter of concern for all. Young scientists would find solutions to solve these problems," the

Doctorate for 'Millet Queen'

uring the 40th convocation D of OUAT here, President Droupadi Murmu conferred Honorary Doctorate on 'Mandia Rani' (Millet Queen) Raimati Gheuria, a triba farmer from Koraput district for her contribution towards preservation of the climateresilient grain. "Raimati has preserved 72 traditional paddy varieties and at least 30 varie ties of millets — including Kundra bati mandia, jasra, juana and iamkoli," said Murmu

She, however, expressed

satisfaction that over the past

decade, India has achieved ex-

traordinary success in agricul-

tural production and export of

farm goods to other countries.

to the guidance of our agricul-

tural scientists and the tireless

hard work of our farmers,"

"This has been possible due

President said.



Murmu said

Murmu said India's economy can be strengthened by development of agriculture, fishery production and livestock.

The President also urged the students to contribute to the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047, through their innovative ideas and dedicated actions

Assembly passes Appropriation Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Amid a walkout by Opposition BJD and Congress, the state Assembly Thursday passed the Appropriation Bill (two), 2024 allowing the state government to spend ₹12,156 crore from its consolidated fund during the remaining period of financial year 2024-25.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had presented the Supplementary Budget of ₹12,156 crore in the Assembly November 26, augmenting the annual outlay of ₹2.65 lakh crore presented in July. As Majhi, who holds the Finance department, is in Mumbai to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new government of Maharashtra, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan presented the Appropriation Bill in the House on behalf of the CM.



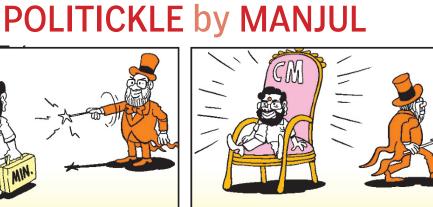
Speaking in favour of the Bill in the House, Harichandan said the supplementary provision includes an additional allocation of ₹10,155 crore for programme expenditure, under which ₹8,121 crore has been

partment, he said.

Similarly, the minister said, ₹125 crore has been allocated for organisation of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in the state capital in January 2025, ₹130 crore for establishment of a centre of excellence in 22 ITIs ₹26 crore for management of Srimandir Parikrama project and ₹5 crore for Ratna Bhandar of Srimandir in Puri.

Besides, ₹1,196 crore was allocated for the flagship Subhadra Yojana, a cash incentive scheme for women. The state government has already spent ₹4,180 crore by providing the first instalment of ₹5,000 to 80 lakh women, he added. Under the scheme, eligible women will receive ₹10,000 annually in two instalments for the next five years. The government plans to reach out to 1 crore women within this financial year to disburse the first instalment.

The President expressed her happiness over the design of new court complex that caters to the current and future



Odisha Judicial Service has the interest of common man. Murmu also said that new 48 per cent female officers. She technologies are being used expressed confidence that the to accelerate the process of number of female officers will increase in the coming days.

The President said language is a barrier for common people who do not understand what the lawyer is arguing for them or what observation the judge needs

judiciary too.

JUDICIAL

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An officer at the police station said preliminary investigation revealed that Shashanka's paternal aunt reprimanded him Wednesday night for playing online games till late hours, and asked him to sleep. However, Shashanka did not pay heed to her scolding and continued to be hooked to his smartphone.

The family members have allegedly told the police that the deceased would be busy playing online games for hours together. He would often stay awake till late hours, caring little for the warnings and reprimands.

Pradhan said some of Shashanka's friends have told the police that the latter was in the habit of borrowing money from them on various pretexts. They said it could be possibly for footing his gaming bills. "However, they are all shocked at Shashanka's decision to end life," Pradhan added.





earmarked for state sector schemes, ₹2,011 crore for centrally sponsored schemes and ₹23 crore for central sector schemes

In the Supplementary Budget, a provision of ₹92 crore was made for new scheme -Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), and ₹142 crore for Constituency Wise Allocation (CWA) under Rural Development de-

Halt Polavaram, **BJD tells Centre**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Thursday asked the Central government to halt the con struction of the multi-purpose Polavaram project in neigh bouring Andhra Pradesh till issues related to the safety and well-being of the tribal people of Malkangiri district are resolved.

The regional party, which has been opposing the project for alleged violation of sever al norms, made such demand after its delegation met Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil top officials of Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, chairperson of ST Commission and secre tary of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry in New Delhi.

While emphasising on the safety and well-being of the tribal people of Malkangiri district, former minister and BJD delegation head Debi Prasad Mishra urged the Cen tral government to intervene and halt the construction of the dam until all issues are addressed.

Soumya to attend 1st int'l mangrove conference in UAE POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Prominent vouth climate advocate from Odisha. Soumya Ranjan Biswal, will attend the International Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Conference (IMCRC) in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from December 10-12 this year.

The IMCRC, organised by the 'Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi' under the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative, will bring together over 468 specialists and 96 speakers from 82 countries. The conference will focus on bridging gap between science and mangrove restoration, promoting global best practices, and engaging communities in conservation efforts. For over 12 years, Soumya, the managing trustee of Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA) Trust, has been a key figure in popularising mangrove ecosystem conservation across the state. As one of the six United Nations India Yuwaah Advocates (2022-24), he has been working tirelessly to achieve

SDG2030 goals For over a decade, Biswal has been at the forefront of mangrove conservation in Odisha. a region significantly affected by

climate change. He has worked ceaselessly with vulnerable mangrove-user communities along the Devi River Mouth and across the state's tsunami-prone coastal districts, including Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, and Ganjam, to restore and conserve existing natural mangroves.

Through various educational and public outreach initiatives. and collaborations with local fishermen, women, youth, students, intellectuals and politicians, Biswal has led a growing movement for mangrove protection and turning this cause into a grassroots movement that continues to grow across Odisha. Biswal's inclusion in the in-

ternational mangrove conference marks a significant milestone in his mission to globally advocate for the restoration of mangrove ecosystems.

Waqf panel writes to Odisha over 53 disputed properties

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 5: The parliamentary panel on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has written to state governments, including Odisha, seeking details of the disputed Waqf properties within their jurisdiction.

This was disclosed by Jagdambika Pal, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill, after a meeting of the panel here Thursday.

Odisha has 53 such disputed properties, 316 in Delhi, 60 in Rajasthan, 42 in Karnataka, 53 in Madhya Pradesh and 60 in Uttar Pradesh that were reported to the Sachar Committee in 2005-06. Pal said the parliamentary panel has decided to get an update on the points made by the

Sachar Committee on the Waof properties that are allegedly in unauthorised occupation of state governments or their official agencies

The Sachar Committee was informed by various state Waof boards during 2005-06 about the alleged unauthorised occupa-



tion. Thursday's meeting was the first after the panel was granted an extension of tenure till the last week of the Budget Session next year.

Pal said the committee would also call chief secretaries of state governments to appear before it, if required. The chairman said officials from the Ministry of Minority Affairs and Ministry of Law and Justice appeared before the committee Thursday and submitted responses to queries posed by various members of the panel. "The replies run into 887 pages and will be scrutinised over the next few days," Pal said, adding

to get an update on the points made by the **Sachar Committee on** the Waqf properties that are allegedly in unauthorised occupation

The panel has decided

that the next round of meetings will be held December 11 and December 12

A member of the panel claimed that the responses submitted by the ministries were drafted poorly and that the Opposition would seek clarifications over those in the next few days.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill has faced flak from Opposition parties and Muslim groups for its alleged attempts to interfere in religious matters.

Meanwhile, states have also been urged to share details of the cases where their agencies are involved in a legal dispute with Waqf boards.

OrissaPOS

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 6, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

owntown



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

plary work in promoting health

The self-sufficient infrastruc-

ture in Panchavats Award will

go to Sahapur Gram Panchayat,

also from Ganjam district, in rec-

ognition of its remarkable strides

in building and maintaining sus-

In the prestigious Nanaji

Deshmukh Sarvottam Pancha-

yat Puraskar category, Ganjam

district's Chhatrapur Block

Panchavat will be honoured

with the best block Panchayat

Award, reflecting its effective

governance and development

initiatives. Additionally, Kora-

put district will be recognised

as the best district Panchavat

for its impactful communi-

ty-driven projects and devel-

opment programmes.

tainable infrastructure.

and wellness



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha is set to be honoued with awards in seven categories at the upcoming National Panchavat Awards 2024. organised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj of the Central government. The special award ceremony will take place December 11 at Vigvan 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 Panchavat Satat Vikas Puraskar category, Ganjam district's Keluapalli Gram Panchayat will be awarded the Healthy Panchayat Award for its exemapproaches to community empowerment and sustainable energy solutions.

In the Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchavat 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.

Thursday

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

The leopard began vomiting

Wednesday evening, prompting

immediate medical attention.

discharge from her reproduc-

tive organs and administered

three anti-inflammatory and

suffered respiratory distress

and began bleeding from her

mouth before passing away.

Despite these efforts, Rani

antibiotic injections.

Veterinarians discovered pus

a forest officer Thursday.

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's achievements ex-Odisha at the National Panchavat Awards 2024 not only high lights the state's successful rural development programs but also reinforces its role as a leader in fostering sustainable growth and effective local governance.



The post-mortem report suggest ed that the cause of death was likely closed pyometra (a uterine infection) leading to acute

Seven-vear-old female leopard passed away while being treated for a uterine infection, iust weeks after mating with 'Raja', a male leopard recently introduced to the enclosure

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 per mission from the Central Zoo Authority in New Delhi, was introduced to Rani in Novem ber 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 commit ment to ensuring the well-being of Raja as he adjusts to the loss of his companion.

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





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11	NDEX	VARIATIO	ON	The second secon
SES	SENSEX	81765.86	4	809.53
BOUI	NIFTY	24708.40	4	240.95
ENCY	DOLLAR	84.82	¥	0.05
CURRI	EURO	89.35	4	0.11
SES	GOLD	₹ 76,698	¥	₹394
BOUR	SILVER	₹ 92,708	¥	₹585

tend 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

YUVA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: A weeklong 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 educa tional 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-

Maha delegates' Odisha SANGAM exposure trip concludes **PHASE V**



pation from Karmalkar. During their visit, the dele-

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 kev 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, align-

pyemia and cardiac arrest.

Rani had recently made

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, Female leopard 'Rani' dies in Sambalpur Zoo

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I Tapan kumar Pani (36), S/o- Bairagi Charan Pani of Sindol, Pirhat, Bhadrak declare that Tapan Kumar Bairagi Charan & Tapan Kumar Pani is one and same person, Sabitri Bairagi Charan Pani and Sabitri Pani is one and same person and Sasmita Tapan Kumar Pani & Sasmita Pani is one & same person for all future purposes.

gates interacted with Governor Raghubar 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, Khandagiri 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

ing 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.



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 production 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 Samasva 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 fer tiliser 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 Dev.

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 Prin-

cipal 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, including Sambalpuri Ikat, Pata sarees, and Tussar silk.

casing its architectural marvels,

including the Jagannath Tem-

ple in Puri, the Sun Temple in

Konark, and the Lingaraj Tem-

ple in Bhubaneswar. Visitors

are captivated by daily cultural

performances featuring classi-

cal Odissi dance and folk forms

such as Sambalpuri, Kandhei

Nacha, Chhau, and Ghumura.

pavilion presents Odisha's sig-

nature culinary offerings like

Adding to the experience, the

Rasagola, Chhenapoda, and Dalma, drawing rave reviews The pavilion delves into Odifrom attendees. Odia Language, Literature sha's spiritual essence by show-

& Culture Minister Surjyabanshi Suraj expressed pride in the state's participation as a part ner 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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Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347. Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



state



TRADITIONAL SPORTS: A still from a knockout match of the East Zone Inter-University Men's Kho- Kho tournament being played at the Fakir Mohan University ground in Balasore, Thursday

Leopard found dead Jajang iron ore mine to shut down in Rengali reservoir

OST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Dec 5: The carcass of a male leopard was seized Thursday from the Rengali reservoir near Kanthimala under the Nuadihi forest section of Riamal forest range in Deogarh Forest Division.

Forest officials confirmed that the animal was approximately 2 years old. The carcass was recovered around 5pm from the reservoir.

On being informed, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Deogarh, Magar Dha-

naji Raoso, along with senior officials of the Forest department, reached the site and launched an investigation. While the exact cause of the death remains unclear, locals suspect that the animal may have accidentally gotten caught in fishing nets set up in

the area. The deputy director of the Deogarh veterinary department also arrived at the scene to oversee the process of post-mortem examination. Preliminary observations suggest that the animal had been dead for nearly a day as the carcass was bloated, emitting foul odour.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Dec 5: Jajang iron ore mine in the Joda mining circle of Keonjhar district is set to shut down reportedly due to depletion of mineral reserves. The company managing the mine has communicated this to the government via an official letter citing insufficient deposits. In response, transportation operations have been halted and truck owners associated with the mine have been notified. Reports suggest that other mines that had been taken on lease by the company are also under consideration for suspension.

This development has left

a large number of trucks idle,

causing significant distress

among truck owners and oth-

ers involved in the iron ore

transportation sector. This

has sparked concerns as many

fear that their livelihood will be

affected. Besides, government

revenue will also bear a sub-

stantial loss. Stakeholders are

calling for clear policy guide-

lines from the state government

According to the Mining de-

partment, while 34 mines in the

Joda circle remain operational,

56 are currently inactive due to

various legal and procedural

to address these issues.



issues. Some companies have expressed their inability to pay the required premium amounts and have sought to relinquish their rights to certain mines, citing the declining demand for

iron ore in the market. Jajang mine is among the auctioned mines experiencing a drop in transport activity. This decline has affected several revenue streams, including mining royalties, auction premiums, the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund, and payments to the National

Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). The reduced activity impacts not only local and state revenues but also the financial contributions to the Central government.

An official from Jajang mine, speaking on the condition of anonymity, revealed that during the auction, they were told that the mine contained sufficient iron ores. However, after just three years of mining, the estimated reserves have signifi-

cantly decreased. As a result, the company operating the mine has written to the government, requesting its transfer.

Industry insiders emphasise the need for immediate governmental intervention to stabilise the situation and minimise economic losses.

Jajang iron ore mine began operations in 2020 after being auctioned at 110 per cent of the base price. Recognised as a major mine, it stands out even among industry leaders like Tata, Kasvi, and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). The mine produced approximately 7 lakh tonne of iron ore per month, transported using about 900 trucks daily.

However, the company has reportedly decided to shut down operations, citing insufficient mineral reserves contrary to initial claims during the auction. As a result, stakeholders were notified in advance November 29, and by November 30, both mining and transport

activities were halted, with only the remaining stock being lifted.

On the other hand, iron ore export to foreign countries from this mining circle has significantly declined. While export constituted 7.83 per cent of total production during the 2023-24 fiscal, it plummeted to just 5.14 per cent in the first nine months of the current fiscal vear (2024-25). This steep decline in export has raised concerns about reduced revenue. Additionally, experts fear that if such mines shut down, it could severely impact both the state-level and national steel industries.

Truck owners engaged in the transportation of minerals are facing the threat of unemployment. They have urged the state government to adopt a clear mining policy to address the situation and bring stability before things go out of hand.

Sushanta Kumar Barik, secretary of the Joda Truck Owners' Association, stated that there are over 10.000 registered trucks under various vehicle owners' associations in the Joda mining region. He noted that if large-scale mining operations are shut down, more than 50,000 people will be directly and indirectly affected.

Khurda-Bolangir rail route project faces land hurdle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daspalla, Dec 5: With land acquisition and tunnel construction emerging as major hurdles. the much-awaited Khurda-Bolangir rail route project has now encountered significant resistance from villagers over land. With the 2,600-metre-long tun-

nel between Munduli Nuagaon and Patharganda (Jamusahi) nearing completion, the project is set to overcome a major obstacle. However, the residents of Buguda village under Takara panchayat in this block have strongly opposed the project over land acquisition issues.

More than a hundred tribal villagers, armed with traditional weapons, gathered near the project site and marked their opposition by erecting red flags along their village boundary, Wednesday. They warned



that the rail route construction would not be allowed to proceed unless they were compensated for the land they were losing with equal land.

The villagers issued a stern warning, asserting that if the government proceeds with the project forcefully, they will continue their protest and put up a fight to the last drop of blood. They emphasised that the government must not displace their families and livestock without providing adequate land for resettlement.

Some residents expressed their anguish, saying, "The government settled us here in 1956. If they take away our land now, how will we survive? What will we eat?" When contacted, Daspalla tehsildar Sm ruti Ranjan Satapathy assured that all affected individuals would receive appropriate compensation. He mentioned that discussions have already been initiated with some of the villagers in the last two to three days to resolve the issue.

EXCLUSION FROM SUBHADRA YOJANA Village women tie up AWČ worker to pole

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Dec 5: Irate women caught an Anganwadi worker and tied her to a utility pole following their exclusion from Subhadra Yojana at Hatibadi village under Rayagad block in Gajapati district, Thursday. The victim Anganwadi worker was identified as Jambubati Devi.

Later, the women also staged a road blockade while the Anganwadi worker was tied to the pole. On being informed, police and Rayagad block officials rescued her after placating the agitating women and villagers. Reports said some women

and girls had applied under Subhadra Yojana but their applications were rejected due to wrong submission of details. This enraged the village women as they suspected foul play by the Anganwadi worker. They ganged up and tied Jambubati Devi to a utility pole.

The village men also supported them and staged a road blockade at the site. On being apprised by the BDO Sudhir Singh, the police along with



block officials reached the spot and intervened. CDPO B Kamalangi also held discussions with the agitating villagers on the issue and rescued the Anganwadi worker. The BDO has condemned the development stating that the village women should have applied once again instead of harassing the Anganwadi worker.

Odia girl wins Canada's 'Little Miss' contest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Simulia, Dec 5: Seven-year-old Sanjisha Panda of Ramakrishnapur village under Abajhuna panchayat in this block of Balasore district has been crowned 'Little Miss Northern Alberta Canada 2025'.

By winning this prestigious title, Sanjisha has brought immense pride to both Odisha and India

Sanjisha is the daughter of bankers Isha and Sanjib Panda, who are residing in Canada's Edmonton. A bright and talented student, she showcased exceptional skills in dance, music, and presentations on Indian culture and heritage during the competition. Her outstanding performance earned her the top spot among many contestants.

Sanjisha aspires to become a doctor in the future and serve society. Her remarkable achievement has brought



joy and pride not only to her immediate family but also to her grandparents, retired Indian Air Force officer Nandakishore Panda and Jyotshna Panda. Community members and intellectuals from Simulia have extended their heartfelt congratulations to the family.

Man with 60kg silver Forest officials arrest 3 poachers from STR detained in Rourkela

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Dec 5: A man from Jharkhand was detained in Rourkela Thursday for possessing over 60 kg of silver items, officials said.

Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel first caught the man identified as Baban Soni at Rourkela railway station around 9am when he was waiting to catch a train to Ranchi, they said. GRP personnel said the per-

son failed to give any satisfactory answer or produce any document supporting his possession of the silver goods. The GRP team then informed GST officials about the incident and handed over the man to them.

Jagadish Chandra Saha, deputy commissioner, Rourkela GST circle, said the man claimed he bought about 51 kg of silver ornaments from Agra and purchased another 10 kg of silver biscuits later. "We have detained him for further investigation," Saha said.

Baripada: Forest department personnel Thursday arrested three poachers from Mayurbhanj district, an official said. Based on the real-time AI camera alert, the Forest personnel caught red-handed Karan Marndi (21) inside the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) with guns while entering for poaching, said Samrat Gowda, Deputy Director, STR. During investigation, two other accused, identified as Karu Hansdah (35) and Budhurai Soren (28) were also arrested from their villages, he said. Gowda said five country-made guns, one half-made gun, gunpowder, pellets, explosives and snares were seized from their possession. They were booked under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and forwarded to the special court of CJM, Baripada for judicial remand, he said. The seized materials will

be handed over to the police station for booking under the Arms Act, 1959 and Explosive Act, 1884. Further investigation is going on, the deputy director said.

निवेशक शिक्षा और जागरूकता अभियान

म्यूच्युअल फ़ंड्स के बारे में और अधिक जानने के लिए इसमें अवश्य भाग लें. दिनांक तथा स्थान

रविवार, 8 दिसंबर 2024; सुबह 11:45 बजे से सोशल क्लब, पार्क्स लॉरिएट, सेक्टर 108, नोएडा रजिस्ट्रेशन कराने के लिए, कृपया संपर्क करे: विकास कौशिक, मोबाइल: 95010 75156. रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है. रजिस्ट्रेशन का समय सुबह 9:30 बजे से शाम 5:30 बजे तक होगा. वॉक-इन की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी



An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

म्यूच्यूजल जंड में निवेश करने के लिए, बन टाईम KYC की आवश्यकता को पूरा करने की प्रक्रिया के बारे में आधिक जानकारी हेतु https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/ key-know-how पर विजिद करें, निवेशकों को केवल विरुद्ध म्यूच्युजल राज रंज मैं निवेश करना चाहिए, जिनके विवरण का सरवामन सेवी की वेबसाइट (www.sebi.govin/informediaries.html) पर किया जा सरवाम है, विसी यूप्रताज, तिकावत तथा समस्या के समाधान के लिए निवेशक एएसनीज तथा/या निवेशक संवर्क अधिकारी से संवर्ष कर सरवते है, इसके साथ ही, पूछता, कालाद तथा संसथा क समायल क कार निवक एत्सांग तथा/या भवतक संसक आधकात स तथक कर संकट हु इसके लाव हा, निर्वका एत्सांगे का सोध भी कियाद कर सकते हैं, आप ने एप्समीज द्वार दिर पर समायान से संजुट न हो तो वे स्कोर्स योद https://scores.gov.in पर भी कियाद कर सकते हैं, क्लोरी योदत निवेककों को सेवी को अंजवाइन कियादा दर्श कर ति का तरा स्थिति को देखने की सुविधा प्रदान करता है. आर निवेक सोधो एप्सनीज से की वर्ड या स्कोर्स योदत के जरीए दर्ज शिकायता पर समयादा स्थली स्थिति को देखने की सुविधा प्रदान करता है. आर निवेकक सोधो एप्सनीज से की वर्ड या स्कोर्स योदत के जरीए दर्ज शिकायतों पर समायान से संयुद्ध में तो वह स्मार्ट ओडीआर पर https://smatod.rin/ogin शिकायत दर्ज कर सकता है. म्युयुअल फंड निवेश बाज़ार के जोखिमों के अधीन हैं, योजना से जुड़े सभी दरतावेज़ों को ध्यान से पढ़ें।

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2. A	Tode of Submission of tender : Tender should be vailability of tenders online : From 11:00 A.M. of Il other terms and conditions, details can be see	09.12.2024 to	17:00 P.M.			L
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ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଯାନିଯାତ୍ରା, ପର୍ବପର୍ବାଣି ମଧ୍ୟରେ "ମଷ୍ଟେଇ" ହେଉଛି ଏକ ଗଣପର୍ବ । ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର କଳା, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ଐତିହ୍ୟ ଓ ନିଆରା ପରମ୍ପରା ପାରସ୍ବରିକ ସଦ୍ଭାବ ରଖିବାରେ ଅନନ୍ୟ ଉଦାହରଣ ସୃଷି କରିଛି । ଦୀର୍ଘବର୍ଷ ଧରି ଆମରି ଲୋକକଳା, ଲୋକବାଦ୍ୟ, ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ବୈଭବକୁ ସାରା ଦେଶରେ ଲୋକପ୍ରିୟ କରିବାରେ "ମଷ୍ଟେଇ ମହୋସବ" ଗୁରୁଦାଁୟିତ୍ୱ ନିର୍ବାହ କରିଆସିଛି । "ମଷେଇ - ୨୦୨୪" ଆସନ୍ତା ଚଳିତ ଡିସେୟର ମାସ ୬, ୭ ଓ ୮ ତାରିଖରେ ମଣ୍ଢେଇ ପଡିଆ (ହିର୍ଲି)ଠାରେ ପାଳିତ ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଅଛି । ଏହି ମହୋସବରେ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସହିତ ୬ ଠାରୁ ୧୦ ତାରିଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟତ ପଲ୍ଲିଶ୍ରୀ ମେଳା ଅନୁଷିତ ହେବ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲା ତଥା ପାର୍ଶ୍ୱବର୍ତ୍ତୀ



ଜିଲ୍ଲାବାସୀଙ୍କ ମଶ୍ଚେଇ – ୨୦୨୪ର ଶ୍ୱଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜ୍ଞାପନ ସହ ଏହି ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ମହୋହବରେ ବହୁସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ସକ୍ୟାକାଳୀନ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ଉପଭୋଗ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସମଞଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ୱାଗତ କରୁଛି ।

ଡା. ଶୁଭଙ୍କର ମହାପାତ୍ର, ଭା.ପୁ.ସେ. କିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ତଥା ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ, କିଲ୍ଲା ସଂସ୍କୃତି ପରିଷଦ, ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର

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/5E.S	🔩 Governm	e	ent of Odisha No.B-73			
6	Short "E" Procu	re	ement Tender Notice			
~	OFFICE OF THE SUP	E	RINTENDING ENGINEER.			
	RAYAGADA (Ra		3) DIVISION NO II			
	E-mail ID : eepwd765017@	gı	mail.com, Phone - (06856)233066			
S	Short Bid Identification No. :	R	C (RANDB) RGD NoII 08/2024-25			
	(Online Tender) No	. 4	4991 Dated. 30.11.2024			
1	Total No. of the works	E	07 Road work & 01 Building			
2	Approximate estimated Cost	1	Rs. 12.71 Lakh to 42.67 Lakhs			
3	Period of completion	:	03 (Three) & 02 (Two) calendar Months			
4	Date & Time of availability of	1	11.00 Hrs. of Dtd. 13.12.2024 to 17.00			
	bid document in the portal		Hrs. of Dtd. 23.12.2024 for online bidding			
5	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	Up to 17.00 Hrs. of Dt. 23.12.2024			
6	Name and address of the	ŀ	Superintending Engineer, Rayagada			
	officer inviting BID	L	(R&B) Division NoII			
	Date of opening of Bid at 11.00					
8 Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal : www.						
tendersodisha.gov.in						
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oı	PR-34139/11/0004/2425		Sd./- Superintending Enginee Rayagada (R&B) Division No-			

MCL to invest ₹4.65cr to support 30 startups

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Dec 5: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Foundation for Technology Business Incubator (FTBI) located at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, for supporting startups in Odisha, an official statement said.

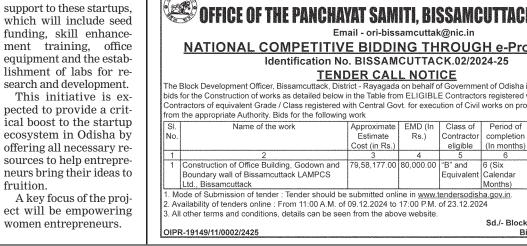
As per the provision of the agreement, MCL will invest ₹4.65 crore to promote startups in the next

three years. MCL, under its Cor-

porate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, will contribute funding to establish and run approximately 30 startups in Odisha. The goal is to provide essential assistance to budding entrepreneurs, fostering an ecosystem conducive to innovation and job cre-

ation, the statement said. Under the terms of the agreement, the FTBI will

collaborate with MCL to provide comprehensive







fruition.









power post

FOCUS FOOD SECURITY

We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves

THE MOTHER

Dopamine Hits

A ustralia has just banned children under the age of 16 from using social media. The move has met with some criticism, particularly from companies like Meta (which owns Facebook and Instagram) and TikTok, which will face fines of up to \$32 million if they fail to keep young people off their platforms. But Australia's new policy represents a critical step toward protecting children in the twenty-first century.

All societies – and the states that serve them – have a responsibility to protect their children from harmful addictions. And addiction is exactly what social-media companies are trying to cultivate. As Facebook's founding president, Sean Parker, revealed in 2017, the process of building the platform was guided by a simple question: "How do we consume as much of [users'] time and conscious attention as possible?" The answer these firms reached lay in "exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology": the desire for social validation.

Essentially, Parker explained, social-media platforms were designed to deliver hits of dopamine – a neurotransmitter that plays a role in addiction – through again line of the social sector of the s

addiction – through socially-validating likes, comments, views, and shares. The more people engage with the platform, the more dopamine hits they receive. The result is a "social-validation feedback loop" that keeps users hooked. "God only knows what it's doing to our children's brains," the regretful Parker lamented.

Chamath Palihapitiya – another former Facebook executive whose "tremendous guilt" spurred him to speak out against social media – has an idea. "You don't realize it," he told an audience at Stanford in 2017, "but you are being programmed." Deciding how (and how much) to use social media is tantamount to deciding how much "intellectual independence" one is "willing to give up."

But many users – particularly children – are not equipped to make informed or healthy choices about social media, not least owing to those addictive feedback loops. According to the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe, problematic social-media use – characterised by addiction-like symptoms, such as an inability to control usage and feelings of withdrawal when not using – has risen sharply among adolescents, from 7 per cent of users in 2018 to 11 per cent in 2022. In the United States, the average teenager spends 4.8 hours per day on social media.

These figures imply serious risks. Adolescents who spend more than three hours per day on social media are twice as likely as their peers to experience anxiety and

depression. Social-media use is also associated with low self-esteem, bullying, and poor academic performance. Evidence suggests that social media has been a key contributor to the uptick in suicide rates among US teens over the last decade.

The WHO has called for "immediate and sustained action to help adolescents turn the tide on potentially damaging social-media use." Even young people themselves are sounding the alarm. In early November, the youth parliament of the canton of Lucerne, Switzerland, petitioned the Cantonal Council of Lucerne to strengthen protections of social-media users – not least "addiction prevention" – through "targeted awareness-raising among parents and the public."

Have children ever before petitioned adults to protect them from addictive habits? When rules on access to tobacco were debated, did young people step up to demand that their parents be informed of the risks of letting their children smoke? The fact that social media is sparking such requests shows just how acute the harm is.

The consequences of social media extend beyond children. According

PERILS OF RICE FORTIFICATION

ecently the Union cabinet approved the distribution of fortified rice to enhance nutrition among vulnerable populations. This will be done by enriching micro nutrients like iron, folic acid and vitamin B12. With an outlay of ₹17,082 crore for next four years, the government claims that it will reduce iron deficiency by 35 per cent, resulting in savings in healthcare equivalent to ₹49,800 crore in GDP terms. It is hailed as a valuable investment in improving the health status of citizens, especially those who are marginalised.

The government claims that food fortification has been used globally as a safe and effective measure to address anaemia and micronutrient malnutrition among vulnerable population. As 65 per cent of population in the country consumes rice as staple food, it is claimed that it is the ideal vehicle to supply micronutrients.

Rice fortification essentially means chemically produced micronutrients are added to the rice flour in a process called extrusion. These are converted into artificial grains that look similar to rice, with extra polishing. This fortified rice is then mixed with the rice to be distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Will this solve the problem of 'hidden hunger' and the rampant malnutrition among the vulnerable population of women and children? The Indian government has implemented this scheme on pilot basis in selected districts. But there is no evidence from this pilot scheme to prove that it is effective to address the challenge of malnutrition.

India has the second highest sickle cell disease burden and largest number of thalassemia patients in the world. In addition to this, malaria and TB are widespread in rural ar-



Why is the government forcing rice fortification, a technological solution to a problem that is caused by structural causes of lack of access to food?

eas. Studies have shown that patients suffering from these diseases will face adverse effect if they consume fortified rice.

Ironically, the government has addressed this issue by labeling the rice bags with warnings that those suffering from these diseases should not consume the fortified rice. Warnings are in English printed on the gunny bag. However, the grains are distributed to people, not in packets that contain the warning. As it is mandatory, the entire population that gets PDS rice; even those who are suffering from the diseases have no option but to consume the rice.

At the village level, tribal women in Jharkhand have found an innovative way to deal with fortified rice. They wean the PDS rice and remove the fortified rice which looks like plastic. They tried to feed it to chickens, which did not eat the grains. Their logic is simple "if these birds are not comfortable eating the plastic rice, why should humans eat it?"

Veena Shatrugna, former deputy director of National Institute of Nutrition, warns that evidence supporting fortification is inconclusive and certainly not adequate before major national

policies are rolled out. Why is the government forcing rice fortification, a technological solution to a problem that is caused by structural causes of lack of access to food?

causes of lack of access to food? The most intriguing aspect of rice fortification is the dominance of national and international corporate interests in lobbying in favour of the policy. The FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) is the primary regulatorv agency to set standards for food items and food imports. Surprisingly, Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC) holds a seat within FSSAI, and it has undue influence over funding and evaluation of the ongoing programme.

Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) in its report raises concerns about potential conflicts of interest in decision making on food fortification. FFRC members are basically from food multinationals that promote food fortification and who stand to benefit financially from the policy of mandato ry food fortification. The role of the Gates Foundation and NGOs supported by them in FFRC raises concerns about their vested interests

It is naive to believe that these corporates are engaged in philanthropy to alleviate malnutrition. For them it is a business opportunity to make profits by selling costly technology, especially that of producing chemically laden nutrition. Most of the technology has to be imported at high costs, paving the way for permanent dependence to solve the structural problem.

In a tropical country like India diverse diets that suit particular agri ecological zones to tackle nutritional deficiency would be a more viable and acceptable public health investment option rather than centralised rice fortification that fails to meet the needs of diverse population.

According to WHO, 77 per cent of children in India aged 6 to 23 months lack diversity in diet. It calls for holistic approach to resolve this by adding eggs, legumes, nuts, fruits and vegetables. Malnutrition is the direct result of inequity of sharing resources, depriving the vulnerable population to earn reasonable income to buy diverse diet. Any amount of food fortification is bound to fail unless fresh diet is made available to them. Looking at the macro issues, our soils lack micronutrients due to intensive use of chemical inputs and pesticides. Ironically it is the same food

corporates who have caused this problem are now advising the Indian government to artificially fortify the rice as a solution to malnutrition! Obviously it is a win-win situation for them, reaping profits by destroying soil micronutrients and now by forcing us to eat fortified rice.

The writer is a farmer and environmental activist working with Chipko-Appiko movement based in Karnataka.

SPECTRUM HIGHER EDUCATION

University autonomy in the true sense

he University Education Commission (1948) stated that we must resist government-controlled institutions of higher learning that 'act like mercenaries and promote the political purposes of the State.' Decades later, we continue to discuss 'university autonomy' indicating our failure to provide universities with the necessary conditions to perform as centres of excellence. The first Prime Minister of India at the University of Allahabad special convocation said, "A university stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for progress, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth." The Kothari Commission report emphasised that only an autonomous institution can pursue truth fearlessly. Academic freedom and internal organisational autonomy for collegial decision-making were recommended. The National Knowledge Commission acknowledged the erosion of the independence of universities due to external interference in governance, including in appointment of Vice-Chancellors. The problem has become so deep that recently, after the change of government in a state, all Vice-Chancellors of public universities demitted their position to allow the new government to

appoint Vice-Chancellors of its choice. The autonomy of higher education institutions continues to allure us as a goal of the National Education Policy 2020.

The International Association of Universities defines

students. Thus, it is essential to consider autonomy holistically from all its dimensions. First, leadership matters. All

appointments to university,

including the Vice-Chancellor,

what is best for the university. Academic freedom of teachers plays a crucial role in the autonomy of universities. When teachers remain silent spectators of unfair practice or if dissenting views are suppressed through bureaucratic process-



Peter G. Kirchschläger

ALL SOCIETIES -AND THE STATES THAT SERVE THEM - HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN FROM HARMFUL ADDICTIONS. AND ADDICTION IS EXACTLY WHAT SOCIAL-MEDIA COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO CULTIVATE

to Palihapitiya, the "short-term, dopamine-driven feedback loops" these companies have created are "destroying how society works" by propagating misinformation and "mistruth." As Parker put it, social media "literally changes your relationship with society, with each other." This is not mere speculation: social media has proven to be a "polarization engine" and a powerful tool for inciting violence.

Parker knew he was working to cultivate addiction, and so did Facebook Founder Mark Zuckerberg, Instagram Co-Founder Kevin Systrom, and others like them. According to Palihapitiya, while he and his colleagues told themselves nothing bad would happen, they knew "in the back of [their] minds" that it would. But the rewards were apparently too great to give up: the more addicted people were to their platforms, the more user data their firms could collect, and the more money they would make selling highly targeted and personalised ads.

The idea that social-media companies would police themselves was always wishful thinking: these firms' business models are built on violating basic rights. That is why all countries that are serious about fulfilling their responsibility to protect their people – and the international community at large – must work together to build and enforce a new regulatory framework for these platforms. The first step is to follow Australia's lead and raise age limits on their use.

The writer, Professor of Ethics and Director of the Institute of Social Ethics at the University of Lucerne, is a visiting professor at ETH Zurich. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Civilization is the progress toward a society of privacy. The savage's whole existence is public, ruled by the laws of his tribe. Civilization is the process of setting man free from men AYN RAND
- Every age has its own poetry; in every age the circumstances of history choose a nation, a race, a class to take up the torch by creating situations that can be expressed or transcended only through poetry

JEAN-PAUL SARTR

Nearly every man who develops an idea works it up to the point where it looks impossible, and then he gets discouraged. That's not the place to become discouraged
THOMAS A. EDISON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1865:** Georgia became the 27th U.S. state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery.
- **1917:** Finnish declaration of independence. The declaration ended 109 years of Finland being a Grand Duchy in the Russian Empire. The Northern European country came under the control of the Russian Empire in 1809. After the October Revolution in Russia, which created the Soviet Union, the Finnish Parliament declared independence on this day.



Pandurang Hegde

THE MOST

IS THE

INTRIGUING

ASPECT OF RICE

FORTIFICATION

DOMINANCE OF

NATIONAL AND

INTERNATIONAL

CORPORATE

INTERESTS IN

LOBBYING IN

POLICY

FAVOUR OF THE

Sanjaya Mishra

WHEN UNIVERSITIES DEPEND ON THE GOVERNMENT FOR ADEQUATE BUDGET ALLOCATION, THEIR

INDEPENDENCE IS JEOPARDIZED autonomy "as the necessary degree of independence from external interference that the University requires in respect of its internal organisation and governance, the internal distribution of financial resources and the generation of income from non-public sources, the recruitment of its staff, the setting of the conditions of study and, finally, the freedom to conduct teaching and research." A recent report from the European University Association examines university autonomy in four dimensions-(i) organizational, (ii) financial, (iii) staffing, and (iv) academic. Selection of the head of the institution is one of the criteria for organizational autonomy, with only six countries in Europe demonstrating high autonomy. The report also shows that universities have different levels of autonomy in the four areas. Countries with high organizational autonomv may not have the same financial autonomy or autonomy to recruit staff, offer new programmes, and enrol more

should be based only on merit and excellence. The selection process should be transparent and timely, with a good succession plan. Second, it is necessary to focus on financial autonomy. When universities depend on the government for adequate budget allocation, their independence is jeopardized. To provide financial autonomy, governments must develop a financing framework for objectively allocating funds. Third, appointment and promotion of staff should not be linked to approval from the government when budget provisions are available and internal processes approve the positions of the university. Finally, the university must serve autonomously through a collegial and democratic process. Autonomy should not mean anarchy-that the univer-

es, the consequences go beyond compromised autonomy. Any autonomy, therefore, must be designed for accountability and scrutiny. Research shows that universities with higher autonomy have better reputations of quality and often appear on global university rankings. Political and bureaucratic hubris and greed do not permit universities to serve society as independent, self-regulating organizations. At a time when the Government of Odisha is trying to restore the autonomy of public universities, it is necessary to rethink and create a robust system for enabling autonomy and accountability for performance. Let Odisha set a high standard for quality higher education, converting the rhetoric of autonomy to reality.

The writer is Education Specialist (Technology-Enabled Learning) at the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada. He is a global leader in digital education, and his views are personal.

Accessible travel

Sir, Travel by people with disabilities, also known as disabled travel or accessible travel, is on the rise. The travel industry is waking up to disabled travellers' special needs by providing them more services and greater accommodation. Meanwhile, the sheer abundance of information on accessible travel is astounding -- much of it generated by disabled travellers themselves. In America the Disabilities Act guarantees that travellers with disabilities receive equal treatment under the law. While this would be the case in a perfect world, it does not always work out that way in real life, especially in those countries where accessibility regulations vary widely. Despite having common sense, considerable public sentiment and strength in numbers, travellers with disabilities frequently face inadequate facilities, prejudice, misinformation, general hassles and higher prices than other travellers. In India, we should also upgrade the facilities extended to differently-abled persons and the facilities should be extended to the senior citizens also in the best way possible.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

High-risk food

sities become a fiefdom for

Vice-Chancellors. Therefore,

it is crucial that the internal

institutional mechanisms-

the senate, syndicate, academ-

ic council, board of studies.

finance committee, etc.—have

adequate independent mem-

bers to advise and discuss

Sir, The food regulatory body of India, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has categorised packaged drinking water and mineral water as "high-risk food." According to FSSAI, high-risk foods are those that pose a higher risk of food poisoning due to contamination, poor storage or poor handling. These require closer and regular inspections to safeguard consumers from food poisoning and other health issues. Consumption of drinking water that is not fully purified can lead to cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid, amebiasis, hepatitis, gastroenteritis, and various other health issues. Also if the containers used to store water are unsafe it can lead to chronic health issues. According to the FSSAI, manufacturers of packaged drinking water will have to pass mandatory inspections before getting a licence and packaged drinking water products will now have to undergo more stringent safety checks through regular inspections and audits. This to an extent will help consumers to get products that are hygienic and safe.

M Pradyu, KANNUR



words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



















strengthened his status as a prominent leader within his party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

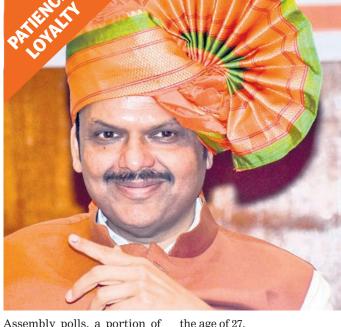
Mumbai, Dec 5: Devendra Fadnavis, the political stalwart who rose from humble beginnings to become a key figure in Maharashtra politics, is set to become chief minister -- a position he has held twice before.

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



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

Unlike many leaders across

the political spectrum in Ma-

harashtra, Fadnavis has re-

mained untainted by accusa-

Among the most articulate

Maharashtra politicians, Fad-

navis is also credited with

pushing the previous Con-

last month's election.

tions of corruption.

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 Bhartiya 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

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 prepoll 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 twoand-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.

Strategic acumen pays off for Fadnavis From serving as an obscure corporator to becoming the youngest mayor of Nagpur, Fadnavis has

PUNJAB

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 Chee ma, Balwinder Singh Bhundar and Hira Singh Gabira, among others, who are also doing pen ance were also present at the gurdwara.

Badal's wife and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal son Ananthir 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 mini-

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 confere nce 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 aovernment will do, it

is for them to think. We will begin our march towards Delhi at 1 pm from the Shambhu bo



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

chief to the border to assess security.

"It does not look like a Pundent of Police Patiala Nanak

World Bank approves \$188.2mn loan to Maha

Investments under the operation will equip districts with the necessary data, funds, and

expertise to maximize the value of public money employed for driving growth and job creation PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Dec 5: The World Bank has approved a \$188.28-million loan to stimulate economic growth in the Indian state of Maharashtra, especially in the lagging districts,

a media release said. The \$188.28 million Maharashtra Strengthening Institutional Capabilities in districts for enabling growth operation will support district planning



dination at the district level the program will enhance evidence-based planning and policymaking, efficient public sector interface with the private sector, and improved service delivery to the public – all of which are the fulcrum of broad-based growth, especially in lagging districts," said Auguste Tano Kouamé, the World Bank's Country

Director for India. The operation will unlock the

mum 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.

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

SARWAN SINGH PANDHER

Central paramilitary forces have also been deployed on the He said that even now if the Haryana side of the border. government stop them from

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

The administration has althere should be no objection,' ready imposed Section 163 of Ambala Police in Haryana Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha flagged a high alert following Sanhita, restricting assembly farmers plan of a Delhi march of five or more persons in the and sent senior officers indistrict and issued notices at cluding Ambala district police the protest site.

jab-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-

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-trol leys in the march. "They will go on foot," he said about the marchers.

Bhagat's birthplace being developed into tourist attraction

and growth strategies, the bank said in a statement. Investments under the operation will equip districts with the necessary data, funds, and expertise to maximize the value of public money employed for driving growth and job creation

It will also enhance private sector participation by improving e-government services for businesses in districts, especially in the tourism sector, it said.

"By providing well-articulated investments in institutional capability and coor-

value of public data by building a data governance architecture including the Maha Databank for better coordination, integration, analysis, and dissemination of insights into state development This data can be used to address key development gaps including gender disparities.

The \$188.28-million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 15 years, including a grace period of 5 years, the media release said.

IIT Bombay launches impart app for lake temp monitoring

he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombav) Wednesdav said it has developed an open-source webbased 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.

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 legend ary

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 **44** The Khatkar Kalan house. which today stands as a protected monument. was built by Bhagat Singh's greatgrandfather Sardar Fateh Singh in 1858

It was declared a monument under the 'Puniab 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 be ing 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 per formances.

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







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

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



of the day uote 77

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

Mahavuti, 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 AVNIRMAN 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 GOVERN

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.

INDIA bloc MPs protest over Adani issue in Parl

makers from several other Op-

position parties like the Rash-

triya 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 dis-

cussion 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 is-

sue in the House. The protest

took place in front of the steps

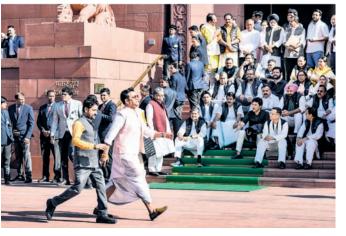
of Parliament's Makar Dwar

and not on the steps leading

to it as an advisory issued by

the Lok Sabha Secretariat and

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-

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 Ramji 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

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 legisla tors 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 Lakhipur 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 adjourn ments, 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

SNIPPETS

Court sends Naresh Balyan to one-day judicial custody

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday sent AAP's Uttam Nagar MLA Naresh Balyan to one-day judicial custody in an alleged organised crime case. Special judge for lawmakers, Kaveri Baweja, sent Balyan to jail, considering that the arguments on Delhi police application seeking his 10-day custody for interrogation in the case under stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) would take more time

MUDA case: HC issues notice to govt over Siddaramaiah's appeal

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 Rangreji, 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," Ran-



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.

Bengaluru: Karnataka High Court Thursday issued a notice to the state government and other respondents on an appeal filed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah challenging the single judge bench's order upholding the Governor's decision granting approval for investigation against him in the MUDA site allotment case. The division bench of Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Justice K V Aravind posted the matter for further hearing January 25, 2025.

Assam Oppn terms beef ban attack on freedom of expression

Guwahati: A day after Assam Cabinet decided to ban public consumption of beef, the Opposition Thursday slammed the BJP-led government claiming that the step is an attack on people's freedom of expression and a "political gimmick" to polarise vote bank. The ruling BJP, however, countered it saying the decision would lead to preservation of cattle and create a society by respecting the religious sentiments of all communities. By amending an existing law, the Assam government in a cabinet meeting Wednesday decided to ban public consumption of beef in hotels, restaurants and community gatherings.

greii 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.

judicial member Justice Arun

Kumar Tyagi and expert mem-

ber A Senthil Vel noted the

submissions of the counsel for

Uttar Pradesh, as per which,

objected to Dubey's remarks leading to an uproar in the House. As the protests continued, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Bir

Congress members strongly

la adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. Similar scenes were witnessed when the House re-assembled at 2 pm. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rjiju 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.

Polluted Ganga water can affect pilgrims' health: NGT The bench also comprising

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 there was a typographical error in a communication sent to him by the chief secretary November 28 about seeking an extension for filing the report. "Even if we accept such submission, we find that though the order was passed by the tribunal September 23, 2024, yet it appears that till Novem-

ber 7, no effective action was taken by the HPC," the tribunal said noting the communication. It underlined that the issue of river Ganga's pollution was a "time-sensitive matter".

"The issue relates to stopping the discharge of untreated sewage in river Ganga before 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 signa ture. If that is so, we failed to understand why 15 days have been sought for filing the re port." the tribunal said. The matter has been posted Decem ber 9 for further proceedings.







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 ex-

tension of time."





national



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



of the day uote

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

EDAPPADI K PALANISWAM 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

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

VISHNUDEV SAI | CH'GARH CM



The next

economic crisis is

already here.

Governments

have borrowed

money at crazy

scale post 2020

@Akshat World



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.

SHORT TAKES

Jitender Singh **Shunty joins AAP**

ISRO's PSLV successfully places two European satellites into orbit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

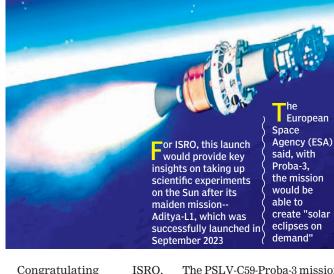
Sriharikota, (Andhra Pradesh), Dec 5: The IS-RO Thursday successfully launched the PSLV-C59 rocket with the European Space Agency's Proba-3 satellites from here, in a first-of-its-kind initiative involving precision formation flying of two satellites.

The "Mission Success! 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--Aditva-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



Congratulating 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. Teleme-

try 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, IS-RO 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.

SC allows CAQM to relax GRAP-4 curbs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: With the improvement in Delhi-NCR's air quality, the Supreme Court Friday allowed the Commission for Air Quality Management to relax the stringent GRAP-4 curbs to stage 2 to deal with air pollution.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih, however, suggested the CAQM to include some additional measures of GRAP-3 in stage-2 curbs. "Considering the data which have been placed before us, we do not think that it will be appropriate at this stage to allow commission (CAQM) to go below stage 2, perhaps further monitoring on the part of this court is necessary," the bench said.

The top court said though the commission was permitted to go to stage 2 for the time being, it would be appropriate if the CAQM considered incorporating certain additional measures that were a part of stage 3 under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The bench told the CAQM that stage 3 curbs would be introduced if the AQI crossed the 350 mark and stage-4 curbs if AQI crossed 400.

"While we permit the commission to do so we must record here that if the commission finds that the AQI goes above 350 as a precautionary measures under stage 3 have to be implemented and if AQI crosses 400 on a given day stage 4 mea sures have to be introduced," it said. The top court noted the AQI level in NCR did not cross 300 in the last four days.

"We have perused the figures of the AQI from November 18 till December 4. Upto November 30, the levels were consistently above 300 and it is only during the last four days that the levels have come down below 300," it said.

India, China hold diplomatic talks



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

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 disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised October 21. Two days after the pact was firmed up, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks

MEA

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 di alogue on boundary questions

India's Special Representa tive 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."

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



lift-off Wednesday.

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

Her mother said the reinstatement 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



New Delhi: In a boost to the Aam Aadmi Party ahead of next year's Assembly elections in Delhi, Padma Shri awardee social worker litender 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 postcremation 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 Ambivli, 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 iniuries 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.

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

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

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 saving 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

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 reconsidered 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 Madhva 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 can cer 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 I hope done on account such criteria is of the Covid also imposed on male

outbreak, the judges. I have no hesitation court noted. in saying this. The lady, she has "The offigot pregnant and she had cers along miscarriage. The mental and with three physical trauma of a lady who has other women undergone a miscarriage. What officers were is this? I wish men have

appointed in menstruation. Then they judicial serwill know what it is vices in the state JUSTICE NAGARATHNA 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 "unsatisfac tory". 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 with out following any due process of law.

She alleged her termination from service was a violation of her fun-

damental 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.



Justice Nagarathna, question-











international



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



uote of the day

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 MINIS-

TER FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH

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

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

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



- 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

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.

France now risks ending the year without a stable gov ernment or a 2025 budget, although the constitution allows special measures that would avert a US-style government shutdown.

The political turmoil in France further weakens a European Union already reeling from the implosion of Germany's coalition government, and comes just weeks before Trump returns to the White House.

It also diminishes Macron, who precipitated the crisis with an ill-fated decision to call a snap election in June that give rise to the country's polarised parliament.

MACRON WEAKENED

As France confronted the need to form a new government for a third time this year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen jetted into Uruguay looking to finalise a free trade deal between the EU and Mercosur. France has long opposed the accord and Macron's office reiterated its stance Thursday.

Macron's own mandate runs until 2027 and he has so far showed no sign of bowing to Opposition calls to resign. though a Toluna Harris Interactive poll for RTL broadcaster showed 64% of voters now want the president to step down.

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 redeployed 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 larg est. Homs, which is about 40 ki lometres 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 Syr ian insurgency announced in a video message that the in surgency reached the city of Hama in a "conquering that is not vengeful, but one of mercy and compassion.'

The capture of Hama, Syr ia'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.

Yoon replaces defence chief

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul (South Korea), Dec 5: South Korea's president accepted the resignation of his defense minister Thursday as Opposition parties moved to impeach both men over the stunning yet short-lived imposition of martial law that brought armed troops into Seoul streets.

The main Opposition Democratic Party and other small Opposition parties submitted a joint motion to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol Wednesday over his martial law declaration the previous night Martial law lasted about six hours, as the National Assembly quickly voted to overrule the president, forcing his Cabinet to lift it before daybreak Wednesday. Yoon replaced Defense Minis ter Kim Yong Hyun with Choi Byung Hyuk Thursday, a retired four-star general who is South Korea's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Yoon's office said. It didn't provide any further comments by Yoon.

Amnesty 'genocide' declaration comes too late: Palestinians

ternational that Israel was guilty of genocide in Gaza - strongly restrike 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





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

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 Navv

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: Presidentelect 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.

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

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-Assar, 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

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

oolly mammoths, giant sloths and sa-Toolly ber-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 vears 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.



THE FINDINGS

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

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 vears

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 quot ed Bangladesh Bank executive director Husneara 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.







study states.









Business



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



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 busi-

nesses 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 vears

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 (HMIL) 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," HMIL Whole-time Director and Chief **Operating Officer Tarun Garg** said. The price increase will impact all the 2025 models.

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

Trump's nomination of Atkins to the SEC.

A former SEC commissioner Atkins has been involved in crypto policy as co-chair of the Token Alliance, which works to "develop best practices for digital asset issuances and trading platforms," and the Chamber of Digital Commerce.

'Atkins will offer a new perspective, anchored by a deep understanding of the digital asset ecosystem." said Blockchain Association CEO Kristin Smith. "We look forward to work-

ing with him ... and ushering in – together – a new wave of American crypto innovation." A slew of crypto companies

including Ripple, Kraken and Circle are also jostling for a seat on Trump's promised crypto advisory council.

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 provision 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

"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 counter part in the trade ministry. The letter was dated November 27.

spond to a email seeking comments. During April-October, hotrolled coils were the largest imported grade, while bars 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 IN points, or 1.68 **PAST FIVE** per cent. to TRADING DAYS, BSE 82.317.74 **UP 2,722.12 POINTS** but pared gains in the **OR 3.44%** pre-close **FIIs BOUGHT** session on profit-taking **EQUITIES WORTH** by investors. ₹1,797.60 CRORE The NSE WEDNESDAY surged

Nifty 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

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 vesterday 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 midcap 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 posi tive 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 RBI adds 27tn gold to country's reserve in Oct

Vishal Mega Mart to float ₹8,000cr IPO

.

production outside the group. OPEC+, which pumps about

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the data further

revealed that the Central Bank

a temporary tax for two years on flat-steel products to curb cheap Chinese imports.

The steel ministry did not re

and rods topped the imported grades in the non-flat product category, the data showed.

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).



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

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.

not fail to surprise, with 7 bil-

lion views generated by content

related to the ICC Men's T20

World Cup and the 2024 Indian

"Creators stepped up to the

crease, delivering expert anal-

ysis, hilarious commentary,

and mind-blowing recreations.

Fans, on the other hand, didn't

just jump into the conversation

they dissected every play, cel-

ebrated every victory, and

turned those nail-biting javelin

throws into YouTube gold. And,

forget the nosebleed seats! Con-

nected TVs gave viewers front-

row access to the action, turn-

Premier League.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. Dec 5: Gold buving 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

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

of the Republic of Turkey added 17 tonnes, making October the 17th consecutive month of net purchases and the highest reported monthly figure on re cord 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 buving.

YouTube releases 2024 wrap-up **Investments in India profitable: Putin**

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 takeaways 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-



ics to wedding planners offering their hot takes, this year, the after-party was online, and everyone had a VIP pass," You-Tube wrote

Ajju bhai, known as Total Gaming, who commands an impressive subscriber count of 43.9 million, also grabbed a spot on the charts.

The song "moye moye," which quickly gained popularity for its entertaining tone and catchy melody, has been featured in numerous videos, garnering over 4.5 billion views, it said.

The cricket fever in India did

ing living rooms into fan-access zones," the blog read.

Another well-known name on the list was singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh, who has taken over social media feeds with his concert clips and electrifying performances.

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections, veteran industrialist Ratan Tata who breathed his last October 9. multi-starrer mythology movie Kalki 2898 AD also fea tured in the list.

'Gulabi Sadi', 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya', 'Aaj ki Raat', and Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba' emerged as the top songs on YouTube Shorts.

"As pop culture continues to become more personalised, fan-driven, and participatory, YouTube serves as a launchpad for new kinds of breakthrough entertainment and a place where viewers are coming to take part in larger cultural moments in new ways. With 2025 just around the corner, we can't wait to see what new adventures await us on You-Tube!" the blog said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Dec 5: Russian Presi dent 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 Rus sia'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.















SPORTS

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 biggest positives with

the bat in Perth were Virat

Kohli regaining his rhythm and

Jaiswal's coming of age hun-

dred in his debut Test in Aus-

tralia. Both will look to build

on those significant gains here.

the bowling department though traditionally, the Adelaide

pitch has aided the spinners,

bringing R Ashwin and Ravin

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.

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

The pressure is mounting

on the fragile batting line-up,

which will need to step up

against Jasprit Bumrah and Co.

The usually accurate Scott

dra Jadeja into discussion.

No changes are expected in

the hallowed ground.

Buoyant India aim to prove a point Gukesh, Liren draw

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

SOUADS:

18 months.

India: Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah, Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahu Abhimanyu Easwaran, Devdutt Padikkal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel, Ravichandran Ashwin, avindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Harsl 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.

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.

Champions Trophy hybrid model finalised, same plan for all ICC events till 2027

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The Inter national Cricket Council has reached a consensus to conduct next year's Champions Trophy in a hybrid model, allowing India to play its share of matches in Dubai while agree ing "in principle" to a similar arrangement in multi-lateral events till 2027.

According to a top ICC source, the decision was more or less finalised during an infor mal meeting between the body's new President Jay Shah and the Board of Directors, including Pakistan, at its headquarters in Dubai Thursday.

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.



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, topscored 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 back-



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 Indi-

However, Mauricio didn't

Oz steamroll India in Women's ODI OFC's home scoring streak ends

> the ninth minute. The fleet-footed Brazilian re-

ceived 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.

Guwahati Masters: Shuttlers storm ahead

Guwahati: M Tharun and Ravi toppled 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 onehour 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 horsewhipping 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.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

chase, when Renuka Thakur Brisbane, Dec 5: India put up struck twice in the same over. a dismal show with the bat as before coasting to victory in Australia stamped their supe-16.2 overs.

riority over the visitors with Debutant opener Georgia a five-wicket win in the first Voll (46 not out off 42 balls) Women's ODI here Thursday. produced a measured knock to Opting to bat, India colensure a comfortable win. Her lapsed to 100 all out in 34.2 effort included a six off Renuka in the cow corner region. overs with Australia pacer

Her opening partner Phoebe Megan Schutt returning an impressive five-wicket haul. Litchfield (35 off 29 balls) was Australia did experience the aggressor in their 48-run a minor stutter in the run stand, smashing six fours in a ward 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 castling Priya Mishra. It was a batting performance to forget for India.

an 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 backline of their adversaries, and Diego Mauricio was pretty inventive in one such approach of his in 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.

'It's been agreed in princi ple by all parties that the 2025 Champions Trophy will be held in the UAE and Pakistan with India playing its matches in Dubai, It's a win-win situation for all stakeholders," the ICC source told PTI.

The Champions Trophy is to be held in February-March next year.

Pakistan, while withdraw ing its boycott threat and agreeing to go hybrid in the previous ICC meet last week, had demanded a reciprocal arrangement for itself till 2031 However, the ICC has agreed to a hybrid model for all its events till 2027.

During this period, India will be hosting the women's ODI World Cup in October this year and the 2026 men's T20 World Cup jointly with Sri Lanka.

Given the hosting arrange ment, Pakistan would not have been compelled to travel to India if they had insisted against it in 2026 even if a hybrid model was not in place.

"During the 2026 men's T20 World Cup, Pakistan will play its matches in Sri Lanka. The compensation demanded by PCB for the Champions Trophy hybrid model is still under consideration," the source said.

Agreeing to this arrangement means that the Indian women's team will have to travel to a neutral venue to play their league match against Pakistan should that be necessitated by the schedule which is yet to come out.

"Cricket should win, that's most important but with respect for all. We are going to do what's best for cricket Whichever formula we go for, it would be on equal terms, Pakistan Cricket Board head Mohsin Naqvi had stated after the last ICC meet.

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-medallist 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 canoe-kayak, golf, hockey, karate, modern pentathlon, shooting, sport climbing, surfing, tennis and weightlifting.

'These sports will not feature in the competition programme but will be promoted through interactive activities on site and via digital platforms, emphasising their role as integral components and an official part of the YOG," the IOC said.

In total, the Dakar YOG will feature 151 events -- down from the 241 for the 2018 Buenos Aires edition -- equally split between men and women with 72 events for each, alongside seven mixed-gender events.

Originally scheduled to be held in 2022 from October 22 to November 9, the 2026 YOG -- the fourth edition of the Summer Youth Games -- was delayed by four years in view of the operational and economical consequences of the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics to 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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