

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today you will feel like going green, and Ganesha approves. You could plant a sapling, or organise some dustbins to keep the neighbourhood clean. If you wish to make the world a better place to live in, do it but take it step by step.

TAURUS

You are likely to be become too ambitious today and strive to outdo others. So says Ganesha. You will be over eager to do something big, lay your hands on something precious and valuable. Though you are quite likely to succeed to some extent you over enthusiasm may land you in serious problems that may affect your persona; and private life.

GEMINI

Putting things in order will be your top priority, says Ganesha. You will possibly have a romantic dinner with your sweetheart. Seductive conversations may culminate in sensuous consumption. Your personal feelings will stir up your partner's private thoughts.

CANCER

It is high time you paid attention to your family. You have been so lost in work and in making money that you have almost forgotten the very people you have been slogging for. Your spouse has been trying hard to improve the relationship. Ganesha feels it is time you respond to your partner's needs.

LEO

You will leave no stone unturned to satisfy and please your partner today. So your chances of slipping up are very slight. You will be able to impress your partner today. You need to be careful in all your financial dealings today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Your communication and creative abilities are your best weapons. You will be overflowing with zest for life and will exude cheerfulness. However, Ganesha warns that your creativity will bloom fully only in situations where there is no pressure or strain.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that you will be full of joy, enthusiasm and vigor today. Your knowledge will improve by being in the company of intelligent people. Anything that you take up today will have your luck or destiny supporting you. Ganesha wishes you success in all your undertakings

SCORPIO

Focus is the buzzword for you; your eyes should be set on the things you aim, advises Ganesha. You may even indulge into some kind of research work. Today, you may bump into an old pal with whom you relive those good old school days and rejuvenate yourself.

SAGITTARIUS

Benevolence will be your middle name today. Being frank and open-minded will have its own advantages. You might just give your life partner a patient ear. This will make them feel treated well, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You have been waiting to hear some good news for long, and today is the day when the wait will be finally over. With your eyes firmly set on your goal, you will develop likings for your work. This will help you make plans and take decisions for the future, feels Ganesha. You wished to change your current job, but with some good news coming in you may not wish for the same any more.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will want to expand your horizon of knowledge. You will give a tough fight to your opponents and come out triumphant, feels Ganesha. Troubles will not be able trouble you as you will be able to turn them into your advantage. You are clever, talented and have all that it takes to fly high. Just believe in the strength of your wings.

PISCES

Today you will feel generous and calm. You will shower those in the family who are younger than you with this generosity and as a result be the object of their fondness. With a clear perspective you will be able to see things for what they are. The only downside of the day is that your expenses might take a toll on your wallet, says Ganesha.



BILLIE EILISH REVEALS SHE HAD 'BODY ISSUES' AT 10

Grammy winner Billie Eilish revealed that she began developing problems with her body image when she was just 10. The singer explained she opted for the loose-fitting garments as a way to feel more 'comfortable' after growing unhappy with her shape at a young age.

AMBER HEARD PREGNANT WITH SECOND CHILD

After an ugly legal battle against her ex-husband and Hollywood star Johnny Depp, things are looking bright for actress Amber Heard. The actress is expanding her family as she is expecting her second baby, reports People magazine.



Katrina's deepest relationship fear

MUMBAI: Before her marriage to Vicky Kaushal, Katrina Kaif once discussed her fears during her relationship with Ranbir Kapoor. In an old interview, she revealed worries that he might not fully love her or be prepared for commitment.

In a 2015 interview with GQ India, the actress expressed her deepest fear regarding her relationship. She revealed that her greatest concern was standing at the altar or mandap and worrying that he might not love her completely. She feared that he might not be certain enough to make such commitments, and the anticipation of heartbreak was her only fear.

Katrina confessed that she wasn't as close to Ranbir Kapoor's family as she desired, expressing a wish to spend more time with them. She stated that family would be a crucial factor in her decision to marry. Katrina described herself as a responsible partner, capable of being the best girlfriend if her needs were met.

On the work front, Katrina was last seen in *Merry Christmas* alongside Vijay Sethupathi. While she hasn't announced her next film, she is confirmed to star in Farhan Akhtar's upcoming project *Jee Le Zaraa*, featuring Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra. Details about the film are currently unknown, and fans are eagerly awaiting updates.

AGENCIES

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE FEST CONCLUDES



Artistes of Bharatendu Natya Akademi (Lucknow) presented Hindi play *Nirmanse Nirban Tak*, translated from Odia playwright Bijay Mishra's famous work *Tata Niranjana* by Rajendra Prasad Mishra, at Rabindra Mandap, Friday, on the last day of the national drama festival. The play was directed by Bipin Kumar. Several luminaries from various walks of life were in attendance during the show.

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

MUMBAI: Actress Shweta Tripathi, known for her work in projects such as *Masaan*, *Haraamkhor* and *Mirzapur*, has revealed her playlist and a carefully selected perfume play pivotal roles in helping her understand and embody her roles.

Talking about her creative process, Shweta said, "Two things really help me to prep my character. One is my playlist, which is full of songs that evoke longing and love. I am a sucker for love stories, and this is one genre I would love to explore more."

She talked about how music helps to get into the skin of the character. "The music helps me tap into the emotions and psyche of the character—it's like an emotional trampoline. Because I tune my emotions as per the mood of the music."

Here's how Shweta embodies her role



actress.

AINS

She then revealed that the other element is "perfume." "I always choose a scent that resonates with the essence of my character. Every character has a unique aura, and perfumes help me embody their spirit on a deeper level. It's fascinating how a whiff of the right fragrance can immediately transport you into a character's world," shared the actress.

MUMBAI: Amid divorce rumours about actor-couple Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, new pictures of the duo have emerged on social media platforms. Taking to their respective Instagram accounts, entrepreneur Anu Ranjan and actor Ayesha Jhulka posted photos featuring Aishwarya and Abhishek Bachchan.

In a photo shared by Anu, Aishwarya was seen clicking a selfie as she stood in front of her mother, Brindya Rai. Anu held Brindya's hand while Abhishek stood behind them. All of them smiled and posed for the camera. For the event, Aishwarya and Abhishek twinned in black outfits. She wore a suit,



while Abhishek was seen in a bandhgala and trousers.

Anu captioned the post, "So much love warmth (pink heart emojis)."

Reacting to the post, a fan said, "Love this, Anu... you really changed everyone's mindset."

A comment read, "Shutting off all false rumours."

A person wrote, "Strong women don't just divorce to avoid the problem. They look for solutions."

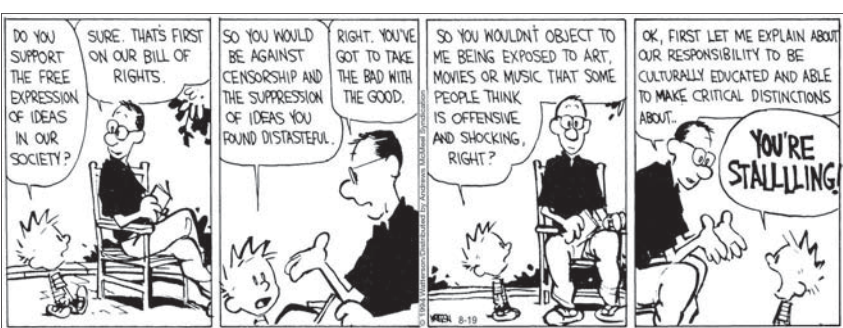
Aishwarya Rai with her mother and husband Abhishek Bachchan last evening at a party."



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

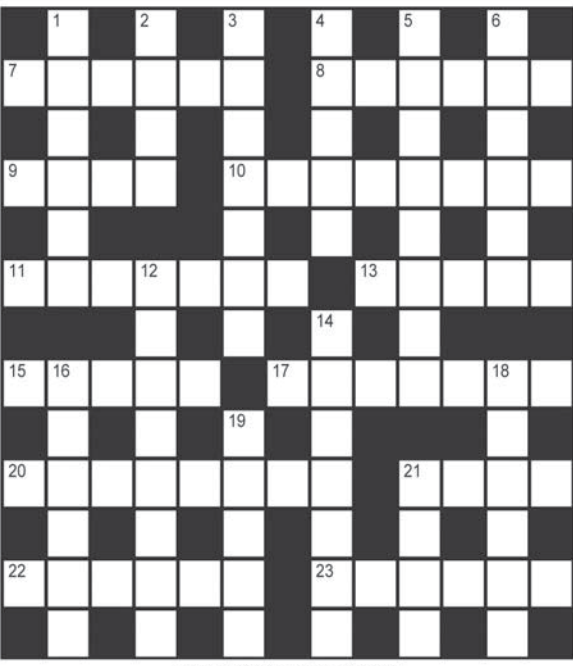


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across

7 Washed-out

8 Space invader?

9 Motel employee

10 Magic trick

11 Puerto Rican city (3,4)

13 Dracula, for one

15 Analyse

17 Misrepresent

20 Approve

21 See socially

22 Abrasion

23 Flamethrower fuel

Down

1 Garam (spice mixture)

2 Trudge

3 Commander of a fleet

4 Whimsical

5 Tailor's tool

6 Eminence

12 Type of decision or robe

14 Caveat

16 Hypnotic state

18 Pointless

19 Equestrian

21 Pickpockets

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

S	T	S	O	T	F
E	N	C	Y	C	L
O	P	A	E	D	I
I	P	I	E	M	L
S	P	R	I	N	T
E	R	P	O	M	P
F	H	A	L	S	
P	O	L	I	M	E
C	R	D	A		
A	C	O	R	N	
U	E	O	G	N	
E	P	I	C	M	
A	K	E	I	M	O
U	N	F	O	R	G
T	N	A	Y	L	L

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

ODISHA INCLUSIVE SUMMIT 2024

Call for action to integrate differently-abled persons



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: In a bid to generate awareness and create actionable solutions for the inclusion of differently-abled persons in various sectors, Odisha Inclusive Summit 2024 was organised by the Odisha Rising Foundation (ORF), in association with the SSEPD department at Rama Devi Women's University here Friday.

At the event, representatives from government, academia, corporate sector, and civil society came together to share insights on innovative approaches and inclusive practices that enhance education, employment, and social integration of differently-abled persons in the state.

A 'Sign Language Anthem' was performed by trainees from the 'Sanketa Mo-Bhasa' project at the event. Odisha Rising Foundation co-founder and chairman Akhaya Sagar gave the opening remarks and emphasised the need for inclusive growth.

Joining the event, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said, "We are focused on ensuring that persons with disabilities are integrated into every aspect of society, with policies that promote their rights and opportunities."

University vice-chancellor Aparajita Chowdhury spoke on inclusive education, saying, "Disabilities can take many forms—physical, mental, emotional, or visual. Our

goal is to create an academic environment where every student, regardless of ability, can thrive."

Notable dignitaries, including SSEPD department principal secretary Bishupada Sethi and director Niyati Pattnaik reinforced the importance of policy-driven initiatives for differently-abled persons.

A key moment at the event was the distribution of certificate to the first batch of Indian Sign Language students, a landmark achievement for the inclusivity movement in the state.

The summit featured panel discussions. The first panel discussion, 'Leveraging Innovation and Technology to Enhance Education and Employment Opportunities for PwDs' explored how educational institutions can integrate practices into their systems for inclusivity.

The second panel discussion, 'Role of Innovative Technology and Accessibility Solutions in Enhancing Employability for PwDs' featured corporate leaders from Infosys, Cognizant, and LTI Mindtree, who discussed the role of technology in creating accessible employment opportunities.



CULTURAL FEST: Khurda Collector Chanchal Rana lights the ceremonial lamp during the inauguration of Junior Parents' NITE 2024, at Loyola School in Bhubaneswar, Friday. Principal Father A Amaladoss, Rector Father Augustine Ezhakunnel, senior section vice-principal Nandita Pattanayak and junior section vice-principal Sr Esther Toppo are present on the dais

OP PHOTO

‘Efforts on to make OUAT a world-class varsity’

Deputy CM KV Singh Deo reviews functioning of OUAT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: With the state government is taking several initiatives to strengthen the agriculture sector and empower farmers, efforts are underway to upgrade the Odisha University of Agriculture Technology (OUAT) and transform it into a world-class university," Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo said Friday.

"This vision encompasses not just the Bhubaneswar campus but also the development of OUAT campuses in other dis-



tricts of Odisha," said Singh Deo who is also the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment and Energy.

Earlier the deputy chief minister chaired a review meeting on various functions of OUAT

A detailed review was conducted on OUAT's activities, infrastructure, classrooms, hostel facilities, teaching staff, and vacant positions. The Deputy CM emphasised the timely completion of ongoing developmental works and provided necessary guidance to expedite progress.

The review meeting was attended by Agriculture department principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Independent Secretary Dillip Kumar Parida, OUAT vice-chancellor Prabhat Kumar Raul, and other senior officials who shared their valuable suggestions during the discussion.

Conference on climate resilience at XIM varsity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Youth4Water India and the School of Sustainability, XIM University hosted 'Water and Climate Academy: Young Leadership Programme Conference - Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilience,' here Friday bringing together prominent figures in environment conservation, education, and leadership development.

The conference, in collaboration with the UN University – Brussels and other partners, started off with an inspiring address by Fr S Anthony Raj SJ, who emphasised the crucial role of empowered women and youth in driving positive social and environmental change.

School of Sustainability dean Sutapa Pati showcased the institute's dedication to sustainability through initiatives like planting a Miyawaki forest, creating a butterfly garden, and meticulously measuring climatic data. Additionally, Pati highlighted their participation in the OCEAN (Odisha Climate Education and Awareness Network) initiative.

Conference's inaugural speaker Anil Kumar Gupta explored the trajectory of human development, drawing inspiration from nature's ingenuity in inventions like aviation and neural networks.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

Rashmita Dash, W/o- Priyabrata Dash at Nuadia, P.O.- Amrutamanohi, Pattamundai, Dist.- Kendrapara, Pin- 754218, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.-11, dtd.03.12.24 that now onwards I shall be Known as RASHMITA MAHAPATRA for all future Purposes and obliged .

Best Multi-Speciality honour for Bhub Manipal Hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, has been recognised as the Best Multi-Speciality Private Hospital in the Bhubaneswar City category at the prestigious THE WEEK-Hansa Research Survey 2024: Best Hospitals in India.

The award ceremony, held in Hyderabad Friday, was attended by Telangana's Health Minister, C Damodar Raja Narasimha, and other distinguished guests.

The 20th edition of the survey, conducted in collaboration with Hansa Research, assessed hospitals across 17 cities, including the National Capital Region. Rankings were based on reputation, doctor competency, infrastructure, research and innovation, and patient care. The survey included feedback from 853 general physicians and 1,470 specialists, ensuring broad representation.



The event was attended by key figures from Manipal Hospitals, including chairman of Manipal Health Enterprises H Sudarshan Ballal, hospital director Saktimaya Mohapatra, senior consultant in neuro surgery Amit Jaiswal and senior consultant in Interventional Cardiology Jajati Keshari Padhi.

Mohapatra expressed pride in the achievement, stating, "We are immensely proud to be recognised as the best multi-speciality private hospital in Bhubaneswar for the second year in a row. This reflects the dedication of our medical professionals and our patient-centered care."

Ballal also noted, "Being named the best hospital in both Bangalore and Bhubaneswar is a proud moment for us. We are motivated to continue our commitment to excellence and ensure the best outcomes for our patients."

Odisha, Grant Thornton discuss agri energy plan

Bhubaneswar: A delegation from Grant Thornton Bharat, a leading global consulting firm, met Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Empowerment, and Energy, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, here Friday to discuss strategies for enhancing the agriculture and energy sectors in the state. The meeting, held in Bhubaneswar, was attended by key officials, including Energy department principal secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, and senior officers from both departments. Representing Grant Thornton Bharat were Manoj Kharb, Amit Kumar, Ramendra Verma, Padmananda V, and Prasad N. During the discussion, the Grant Thornton Bharat team expressed their interest in collaborating with the Odisha government to bring innovative solutions in agriculture and energy.

New chapter in IIM Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at bridging the gap between industry and academia, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur has partnered with the National Human Resource Development Network (NHRDN) to establish a new chapter on its campus.

The announcement was made during an event held in New Delhi Friday, marking a significant milestone as IIM Sambalpur becomes the first IIM to host an NHRDN chapter.

The collaboration seeks to create a robust platform for advancing human resource development and thought leadership in India. With over 20,000 active members, including senior HR professionals, academicians, and students, the NHRDN network will facilitate discussions, promote best practices, and un-

dertake initiatives that shape the future of HR strategies and policies in the country.

Notably, the NHRDN is a leading professional organisation in the field of Human Resources, recognised for its pivotal role in shaping HR practices across various industries. The IIM Sambalpur chapter will be the 52nd in NHRDN's expansive network, which includes three international chapters in Singapore, the Middle East, and Nepal, along with nine student chapters.

Commenting on the occasion, IIM Sambalpur director Mahadeo Jaiswal highlighted the institute's commitment to developing future-ready HR leaders. "The collaboration aligns with our core mission to contribute to the creation of visionary HR leaders equipped with contemporary strategies. Through this chapter, we aim to organise cutting-edge pro-

grammes, foster collaborative research, and bridge academic insights with real-world applications," he stated.

The initiative will focus on hosting workshops, seminars, and networking events to enhance professional skills and foster collaboration between industry experts and students.

Additionally, it aims to promote a deeper understanding of human resource development through rigorous research and knowledge dissemination.

The chapter's activities will emphasise the theoretical and practical dimensions of HRD, offering a comprehensive perspective on its philosophy, processes, and applications. By facilitating the exchange of insights among professionals and practitioners, the programme aspires to strengthen the HR field and its impact across industries.

BMPS Takshila celebrates Annual Day Twisha 2024

Bhubaneswar: Bhubaneswar Model Public School (BMPS), Takshila, celebrated its 14th Annual Day, Twisha 2024, with a vibrant display of talent, marking the institution's journey of academic excellence. The event brought together students, parents, and staff, with school chairman Tutul Kishore Das, director Sikata Das, and principal Lipsita Mohanty gracing the occasion. The celebrations commenced with Vedic chanting, followed by the school song. A series of cultural performances set a festive mood, beginning with a musical festa by the school choir. Enthralling performances such as Chaturdevi, Sizzling Sambar – a South Indian dance, Dhensa folk dance, and the English play Aladdin's Quest 2.0 received thunderous applause. Highlights of the closing ceremony included Raag Bihaag, Dance in Drizzle, The Tempest, TriTaal Classical Fusion, and a live orchestra by the Melody Makers. Plays such as Gatha Baal Nayakon Ki and the dance drama Nritya Navranga showcased the students' diverse talents. Speaking on the occasion, the guests commended the students' dedication and praised the school's achievements in academics and co-curricular activities. Principal Mohanty thanked the dignitaries for their presence and reaffirmed the school's commitment to holistic education. She also presented a brief report



on the students' accomplishments, highlighting their contributions to the school's legacy of excellence. The day concluded with resounding applause, leaving an indelible mark of celebration and pride.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.6°	29.8°
Min Temp	19.3°	19.0°
Humidity	80%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		
Mainly clear sky		

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
BOURSES	SENSEX	81709.12	56.74
	NIFTY	24677.80	30.60
	DOLLAR	84.77	0.05
	EURO	89.83	0.48
	GOLD	₹76,650	₹174
CURRENCY	SILVER	₹92,481	₹57

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Marketing woes hit cotton farmers

ANDHRA TRADERS MAKE HAY AS ONLY TWO COTTON MANDIS OPERATIONAL IN RAYAGADA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Dec 6: With cotton farming proving to be more profitable than paddy, its cultivation has steadily increased in Rayagada district. This trend is evident in both Rayagada and Gunupur sub-divisions.

Currently, cotton is being cultivated on 49,810 hectares of land with a target to collect 7,20,000 quintals of the fibre this year.

However, farmers have reported significant difficulties in selling off the harvested cotton due to limited market facilities in the district which has only two operational mandis operated by the Regulated Market Committee (RMC) in Rayagada and Gunupur for cotton.

While government records claim there are six cotton mandis in the district, including Chatikana in Bissamcuttack block, Lekapai in Kolnara block, Budaguda in Kalyansinghpur block and another in Ramanaguda block, cotton procurement takes place only in Rayagada and Gunupur.

This forces farmers to travel long distances to sell their produce, creating opportunities for middlemen and traders from neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh. These intermediaries often purchase cotton directly from farmers



at lower prices, exploiting the situation and forcing farmers to resort to distress sale.

Compounding the issue, recent rains caused by Cyclone Fengal and pest infestations have added to cotton farmers' woes this year. Waterlogging during the harvest season has further impacted crops.

According to details available from the Agriculture department, cotton was cultivated on 45,084 hectares in 2021-22 yielding 90,387 quintals. In 2022-23, 45,967 hectares yielded 97,625 quintals, and in 2023-24, 49,097 hectares yielded 1,03,803 quintals. Cotton acreage has seen a steady increase over recent years, but the operational challenges in selling the produce have cast a shadow

over the sector's growth.

Cotton harvest has started in phases in the last two weeks. However, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), which has received approval to procure cotton, is yet to start procurement of the crop.

At a recent Cotton Procurement Committee meeting, it was decided that procurement markets would start November 26 in Gunupur sub-division and December 10 in Rayagada sub-division. However, hundreds of farmers in Gunupur sub-division report that cotton purchases are yet to begin. This has led to harvested cotton lying unused in their fields.

Farmers have urged authorities to expand the number of operational markets to allevi-

ate their hardships and ensure fair prices for their produce.

The delay has posed a significant issue for CCI due to the lack of storage facilities. Despite years of cotton collection from Rayagada district, neither CCI nor the RMC has established dedicated warehouses.

As a result, CCI depends annually on private cotton mills for storage. Some mill owners exploit this situation for personal gain as admitted by CCI officials during the November 16 committee meeting.

Rayagada MLA Kadraka Appala Swamy expressed dissatisfaction over the situation during the same meeting. When contacted, District Agriculture Officer Bishnu Prasad Kar stated that there was no complaint of cotton crop damage from the ongoing unseasonal rains.

Meanwhile, mandis operated by the RMCs in Rayagada and Gunupur have been set up for cotton sales, and temporary markets will be arranged by the RMC if needed, according to Cotton Scheme Officer Rahul Kumar Nayak.

While the market in Gunupur has opened from November 26, the Rayagada market would commence operations December 10, Nayak added.

PNN & AGENCIES

Rairangpur, Dec 6: President Droupadi Murmu Friday turned emotional while visiting her birthplace Uparbeda village in Mayurbhanj district and said she has never felt the village as a place but a family.

Murmu, who was born in a Santali family of Uparbeda village under Bamanghati sub-division June 20, 1958, for the first time came to her village and her ancestral house after assuming the country's topmost Constitutional post. She assumed office of the President of India July 25, 2022.

As soon as Murmu reached the village, she rushed to Uparbeda Government Upper Primary School, her alma mater, where she spent her early years as a student. The school and the entire village were decorated to welcome her. She was received by teachers, students and villagers.

While interacting with the students, Murmu said, "I am 66 years old and do not feel like growing up. I still feel like a child at my school and village. I recall how teachers were teaching us in mud-walled classrooms here." Murmu also said that the teachers and the villagers treat her like a family member.



"I still recall the days when I was preparing for the Class-VII scholarship examination. Our teacher Madan Mohan Sir took me to his family home and I lived with his children while preparing for the examination. The love and affection that I have received from this village and school is heavenly," she said. Murmu also recalled teachers like Basant Sir and Biswambar Babu and some others who had witnessed her childhood.

At a function, the President felicitated her teachers - Bisheswar Mohanta, Headmaster of her school, Basudev Behera and Basanta Kumar Giri, her class teachers in Classes IV and V. She gifted school bags containing chocolates and tiffin box to about 200 students of the Uparbeda Upper Primary School.

In her speech, Murmu told the students to study sincerely

and abide by the advice of teachers, parents and elderly persons in the village.

Ahead of Murmu's visit, the entire village was decorated. State Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia supervised the preparations at the village. "The President is visiting her birthplace for the first time since assuming the highest office. The entire area is thrilled and proud to see her," said Khuntia.

Apart from neatly cleaning the village and decorating their houses with new paint, the villagers also performed their traditional tribal dance to welcome Murmu. The village roads were decorated with 'jhooti' (Rangoli) to welcome her. Her relatives have also baked different types of cakes, including 'arisa' and 'manda pitha', and rice and saga delicacy.

Probe ordered after viral video shows teachers thrashing boy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Dec 6: An investigation was ordered Friday after the video of a seven-year-old boy getting thrashed by teachers after being tied to the school's main gate went viral on social media, a state government official said.

The incident happened at a private English medium school under Marshaghai police station limits in Kendrapara district November 25 but came to light after photos and videos of the incident went viral, triggering outrage among the people.

The boy was punished for allegedly creating disturbances in the classroom.

Block Education Officer (BEO) Prafulla Kumar Swain said the principal of the school was issued a show-cause notice.

It's an unfortunate incident. An inquiry has been started. The principal of the school has been issued a show-cause notice. Action will be taken after the inquiry process is complete in a day or two, he said.

The state government banned corporal punishment in schools in September 2004.

MKCG MEDICAL COLLEGE GETS PAIN CLINIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Dec 6: The state-run MKCG Medical College and Hospital here opened a pain clinic to cater to patients with acute and chronic pain.

Suchitra Dash, Principal-cum-Superintendent of the medical college and hospital, inaugurated the special clinic at the Outpatient department (OPD) of the hospital, which

will run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

It is the first such clinic to come up in a government hospital in the state, sources said.

Patients of all age groups with acute pain inflicted due to various reasons such as cancer or problems of musculoskeletal, joints, spine and bones will be treated in the

new facility.

Chronic pain is no longer limited to the elderly or persons with severe illness. It also affects people of all age groups due to sedentary lifestyles, lack of physical exercise etc, said Dash.

"We hope the pain clinic will help the people with chronic pain," she said.

She said they would try to

run the clinic in a full-fledged manner with installation of the modern equipment to treat the patients.

Presently the clinic has the basic equipment to manage it. The patients suffering from pain will be treated as per the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO), said Khageswar Raut, Head of the Anaesthesia department.

"We deal with pain in a holistic manner and focus on diagnosing the cause of pain, followed by treatment with medicines and exercises," said Jagdeep Nayak, Assistant Professor of the Anaesthesia department.

Doctors from various departments were present at the inauguration of the new clinic set up in the hospital.



NITR professor bags IGU-Krishnan Medal

Rourkela: A professor from NIT, Rourkela has been honoured with the IGU-Krishnan Medal for 2024 in recognition of his contributions to Earth Sciences. Prof. Bhaskar Kundu, associate professor in the department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was presented with the prestigious award during the 61st Annual Convention of the Indian Geophysical Union (IGU) at Banaras Hindu University. The medal was awarded to Prof. Kundu by Dr. VK Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog, and Dr. M Ravichandran, President of IGU and Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). Prof. Kundu was recognised for his pioneering research in earthquake seismology, geodesy, and their applications to crustal dynamics, plate boundary deformation, earthquake processes, and the interplay between tectonics and climate. The IGU-Krishnan Medal is an esteemed national award given annually to a distinguished geophysicist or geologist in India.

Looters' gang busted; 3 minors among 4 held

Rourkela: The Plant Site police Friday busted a gang of looters involved in two consecutive loot incidents that took place December 2 and 3 and arrested four persons, including three minors. The first incident occurred around 2:45am December 2, when the gang members on a Bajaj Pulsar bike attacked a biker, threatened him with weapons and stole his bike, helmet, and ₹11,200 in cash. The following night, the armed looters struck again and robbed a man of his motorcycle, ₹10,000, mobile phone, wristwatch, and a jacket. The police registered cases for both incidents at Plant Site PS. During the investigation, the authorities arrested Jit Badaik, 19, who led them to the arrest of the three minors from various locations in Rourkela. From their possession, the police recovered ₹71,860 in cash, a mobile phone, and the Bajaj Pulsar used in the robberies.

DSPL-238



ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY MESSAGE


On the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day-2024, I extend my warm felicitations and best wishes to all ranks of Armed Forces as well as our Ex-Servicemen and their families.

The Armed Forces Flag Day offers us a unique opportunity to express our gratitude to Armed Forces personnel who not only resolutely defend the borders of our great nation but also render valuable service during the natural calamities and in combating internal disturbances. Their patriotism, valour and sacrifice has earned them a special place in the hearts of the people.

By proudly wearing the Armed Forces token Flag and donating to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, the nation expresses solidarity and support for the gallant heroes of our Armed Forces, rehabilitation of War Widows, Disabled Soldiers and Ex-Servicemen.

On the occasion, I appeal to my fellow citizens to donate generously to the "Armed Forces Flag Day Fund".

Jai Hind !


(Raghubar Das)
Governor, Odisha

OIPR-12088/13/0002/2425



Upgrading Amenities for Enhanced Passenger Convenience



"We are committed to transforming railway infrastructure to improve passenger amenities across the nation"
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Inauguration of

Foot Over Bridge at Baleshwar Railway Station

🕒 13:50 hrs. 📍 Baleshwar Railway Station

by

2nd Entry of Cuttack Railway Station

🕒 17:00 hrs. 📍 Cuttack Railway Station

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology

on

07th December, 2024

Benefits of FOB

- Safe and convenient way to cross railway tracks
- Enhanced safety for the rail users
- 3 Meter wide FOB for seamless movement
- Will connect Platform nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Facilities of Station's 2nd Entry

- Fully air conditioned building with ticket counter, OSOP stall & modern food court
- Well-planned circulating area integrated with ample parking facilities
- Escalators, staircases, & lifts for seamless movement
- Spacious waiting area designed for passenger comfort





All are cordially invited

INDIAN RAILWAYS


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D-11/24-25

“

What is God after all? An eternal child playing an eternal game in an eternal garden.

SRI AUROBINDO



The Great Exodus

India’s bureaucracy, often seen as the steel frame of governance, is experiencing a curious phenomenon: an increasing number of its officers seem to be trading government desks for greener pastures. Under the Modi regime, hundreds of officers, particularly from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), are opting for voluntary retirement. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary recently informed Parliament that 853 IRS officers have taken Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) since 2014, showing no signs of abating. In 2014, 20 IRS (Income Tax) officers took VRS; by 2024, the number had almost tripled to 57. The Customs and Indirect Taxes cadre saw a similar surge, with 24 officers opting out in 2014, rising to 73 in 2024. And while data on IAS and IPS officers taking VRS is not centrally maintained, anecdotal evidence suggests that they, too, are part of this growing exodus.

What’s driving this flight? For starters, the private sector offers better pay, more creative freedom, and fewer bureaucratic shackles. With years of experience and insider knowledge, these officers are hot commodities for corporations eager to navigate India’s complex regulatory landscape.

However, there’s a deeper malaise. Critics argue that the centralisation of power under the Modi government and an increasingly hostile work environment are pushing officers to the edge. Many find themselves sidelined, their expertise underutilised, or their decision-making curtailed. For some, VRS is not just an escape but a statement.

If this trend continues, who will keep the machinery of governance running? India’s civil service is already overstretched, and losing experienced officers in droves doesn’t bode well for its future. Perhaps it’s time to address the elephant in the room—why the “steel frame” is beginning to buckle.

Retirement goals or Great Escape?


Retirement goals, anyone? Former SIB chief and retired IPS officer T. Prabhakar Rao has rewritten the playbook with a bold, some might say audacious gambit: seeking political asylum in the United States. While officials remain tight-lipped, reports suggest that Rao has petitioned to be recognised as a “political refugee,” citing harassment from his former associates.

Now residing with his son in sunny Florida, Rao appears to have traded bureaucratic files for medical reports as he undergoes cancer treatment. But this isn’t just a tale of a quiet retreat to American suburbia. Rao’s departure comes under a cloud—he’s the prime accused in a phone-tapping case that has Telangana police scrambling to bring him back, Red Corner Notice and all.

Here’s the timeline of his Houdini act: the case was filed on 10 March, and by 11 March, Rao was boarding a flight to the US, leaving his alleged co-conspirators to fend off the law. That’s precision planning worthy of a thriller.

But Rao’s move raises bigger questions. What if this sets a precedent? Could political asylum become the latest escape route for beleaguered IAS and IPS officers? After all, who wouldn’t want to swap bureaucratic turf wars for Floridian beaches under the guise of political persecution?

For the Indian civil services, this is more than just a scandal. It’s a moment of introspection. What does it say about the state of our bureaucracy when its stalwarts would rather flee than face the music? As Rao basks in Florida’s sunshine, one thing is clear: this saga is far from over. Stay tuned.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

FOCUS

NEIGHBOURHOOD

BANGLADESH’S DESCENT



The 84-year-old Yunus has become little more than the civilian face of what is effectively military-mullah rule

In August, popular protests – and a harsh government crackdown – culminated in the military-backed ouster of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who lurched toward authoritarianism. But far from ushering in a democratic transition, the regime change has plunged Bangladesh into deeper turmoil, with mounting human-rights abuses and lawlessness by ascendant Islamist groups threatening to turn the country into yet another global flash point. Hasina may have forsaken her democratic credentials once in power – in 1990, six years before she was first elected prime minister, she led the pro-democracy uprising that toppled Bangladesh’s military ruler – but the “iron lady” also kept both the powerful military and Islamist movements in check.

As South Asia has seen firsthand, military-backed regimes tend to crush anti-government protests, whereas militaries with unfulfilled ambitions might facilitate violent unrest to create a pretext to swoop in, seize power, and “restore order.” Bangladesh’s military refused to enforce a lockdown even as protesters rampaged through the streets, and as soon as Hasina was gone, it installed an interim administration. Tellingly, the military packed her off to India even before she could formally resign.

To be sure, the interim regime is led by Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who was selected with the support of the student-led, Islamist-backed protest movement. But the 84-year-old Yunus has become little more than the civilian face of what is effectively military-mullah rule. And despite lacking constitutional legitimacy, the interim regime has offered no time frame for holding national elections.

Instead, the regime has overseen new curbs on press freedom, including “persistent attacks, ill-motivated lawsuits, and widespread harassment.” The credentials of 167 journalists have been revoked without explanation, and 129

journalists have been slapped with trumped-up murder, abduction, or assault charges. Scholars, lawyers, and others – anyone viewed as a critic of the regime – have also faced legal harassment. In a single week in October, more than 7,000 individuals were arrested, and political detainees have sometimes suffered physical assaults while in custody.

Last week, the regime trained its sights on a Hindu monk, who was arrested on charges of sedition after leading peaceful protests demanding protections for Bangladesh’s Hindu minority. But Hindus are under attack in Bangladesh. They have been the victims of jihadist mobs, which have also targeted other minorities, including Buddhists, Christians, indigenous people, and members of Islamic sects that Islamists consider heretical. At one anti-Hindu protest, Islamist marchers chanted, “Catch them and slaughter them.”

It is not difficult to see why Islamist violence is gaining ground. The interim regime has lifted bans on jihadist groups with links to terrorism and freed violence-glorifying Islamist leaders, including one who was convicted for the murder of a secularist blogger. Yunus’ administration also seeks to remove the reference to secularism in the constitution. All this appeasement has emboldened the Islamists, who have, at times, sought to enforce their own extreme vision of morality by hounding

“immodestly” dressed women. In the four months since Hasina’s ouster, hundreds of Bangladeshis have died as a result of violence. The situation has become so dire that even the secretary general of the Islamist-leaning Bangladesh Nationalist Party – the arch-rival of Hasina’s secular Awami League – has criticized the regime, lamenting that “people are shedding each other’s blood” on the streets and “newspaper offices are being set on fire.”

Meanwhile, Bangladesh’s once-booming economy is in shambles, with growth slowing, stocks sinking to their lowest level since the COVID-19 pandemic, and foreign debt spiraling upward. The ratings agency Moody’s recently downgraded its outlook for Bangladesh’s economy from “stable” to “negative,” and cut the country’s credit rating from B1 to B2, sending the country’s bonds deeper into junk territory. These problems will not go away, even if Bangladesh is granted the billions of dollars in bailouts it has requested.

Neighbouring India is watching events in Bangladesh with considerable apprehension (and, when it comes to attacks on Hindus, significant anger). Fears are rising that Bangladesh will go the way of the dysfunctional Pakistan, a terrorist hub and key source of regional insecurity. If nothing else, India would face an influx of refugees. With millions of illegally settled Bangladeshis already living within India’s

borders, this would present the country with an unpalatable choice between taking on more than it can handle and turning away people fleeing religious or political persecution.

Hasina’s ouster has thrown into sharp relief the divergence between India’s perspective and that of the US, which has welcomed the regime change. This contrast can also be seen elsewhere in India’s immediate neighbourhood. Under President Biden, the US has aided the military-backed regime in Pakistan and provided “non-lethal” military aid to the rebels attempting to overthrow Myanmar’s military junta, even as cross-border arms flows fuel ethnic conflict in India’s Manipur.

Fortunately, there is reason to think that US President-elect Donald Trump will rethink some of these stances – starting with America’s approach to Bangladesh. Trump has a long-standing aversion to America’s foreign commitments, and he is probably no fan of Yunus, who maintains close ties with prominent US Democrats and publicly lamented Trump’s 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton. Shortly before the recent US election, Trump posted: “I strongly condemn the barbaric violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities who are getting attacked and looted by mobs in Bangladesh, which remains in a total state of chaos.”

An unstable Bangladesh mired in radical Islamism and political violence has long been India’s geopolitical nightmare. One hopes that the US soon recognises that this is not conducive to its interests either, and puts pressure on Bangladesh’s interim regime to protect minorities and restore stability. Beyond strengthening regional security, such a policy shift could go some way toward restoring America’s fraying relationship with India.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research.

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SPECTRUM

SOCIETY

Vox Populi, Vox Dei



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

THE LOCKEAN SOCIAL CONTRACT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO LITTLE MORE THAN A CONSUMER WARRANTY CARD WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE

The political and moral foundation of liberalism as a movement originated as a critique of feudalism, religion, monarchy, and conservative traditions. Its primary aim was to ensure individual liberty, egalitarian democratic governance based on the consent of the people, and equality before the law. The struggles of working people and their revolutionary class struggles were instrumental in bringing these liberal and secular ideas to life. However, over time, the elites co-opted liberalism, aligning it with market democracy and transforming liberal society into a market-driven society. Such a transformation granted social legitimacy to capitalism, empowering its narrow and authoritarian market forces as well as reactionary social and political elements.

The Lockean social contract was redefined into market contracts rooted in purely economic relations, forming the foundation of capitalism in Lockean Europe. This system was later internationalised through European colonialism

across Asia, Africa, the Americas, Oceania, and the Arabian and Middle Eastern regions. Contrary to advancing liberal and constitutional democracy in the former colonies, European colonialism reshaped liberalism in a way that transformed egalitarian natural rights into property rights, favouring Europeans’ domination over people and their resources in colonies. However, the struggles of the working class against European colonialism played a pivotal role in establishing democracy. These struggles not only advanced liberal and constitutional democracy in the colonies but also deepened democratic principles and strengthened liberal society within Europe itself.

In a cruel twist of ideological bankruptcy, contemporary liberals have become deeply entangled with various forms of capitalism and its expansion. Such an alliance has destroyed both the objective and subjective foundations of liberalism and its moral calibre. However, this illiberal alliance between liberals and their capitalist counterparts, aimed at build-

ing a market democracy, has undermined both democracy and liberalism in society, politics, culture and economy. The Lockean social contract has been reduced to little more than a consumer warranty card with an expiration date.

Rather than questioning power and authority, liberals have forged alliances with them, contributing to the rise of reactionary, right-wing, and religious forces that have gained social and political legitimacy worldwide. The rise of a new form of liberalism under neo-liberalism, along with its social, economic, and cultural order, has normalised the market and naturalised its culture of consumerism. This shift has effectively undermined both the culture of consumption and the democratic choices available to consumers. The corporatisation of agricultural production and consumption has led to widespread hunger and food insecurity in a world abundant with resources. Similarly, the rise of monopolistic supermarkets has eroded local markets and destroyed the direct rela-

tionship between consumers and producers.

Economic policymakers and their political allies continue to pursue and implement illiberal policies to uphold capitalism. Politically, the world is witnessing a forward march of an illiberal order marked by inter-imperialist wars, regional resource conflicts, and the rise of right-wing politics, spanning from the Lockean heartland of Europe to the capitalist core of the US. Asia, Africa, and Latin America remain trapped in the oppressive grip of this illiberal world order, emanating from Western Europe and the US.

In such a situation, it is imperative to reclaim the liberal social order and rescue liberalism from both liberal and illiberal forms of capitalism. It is the working people who have the power to defeat the tyranny of capitalism’s illiberal and imperialist orders. History stands as a testament to the truth in the adage: Vox Populi, Vox Dei—the voice of the people is the voice of God.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University.

WISDOM CORNER

“Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.”

SUN TZU

“To know what you know and what you do not know, that is true knowledge.”

CONFUCIUS

“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”

DALAI LAMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1732: Royal Opera House opens its doors. The popular performing arts venue in Covent Garden, London houses the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet.
- 1787: First state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Delaware became the first state to ratify the United States Constitution. Because of this, it is sometimes called the First State.
- 1917: The United States declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire during World War I.
- 1941: Adolf Hitler issued his Night and Fog Decree, a secret order for the arrest and execution of “persons endangering German security.”
- 1941: Pearl Harbor attack. On this day in 1941, Japanese bombers launched a surprise aerial attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, precipitating the entry of the United States into World War II.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



Melanistic marvels

Sir, The sighting of two melanistic tiger cubs with their mother in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha’s Mayurbhanj district has set wildlife lovers’ pulse racing. Excessive production of melanin pigment gives rise to this condition; the dark spots and enlarged black and yellow stripes provide these tigers a melanistic touch. STR is the only natural habitat of melanistic tigers. These tigers are said to have come from a small founding population that may have led to inbreeding. However, experts are worried that the negative effects of inbreeding may adversely affect the long term conservation of melanistic tigers due to reduced genetic diversity and heightened susceptibility to diseases. Be that as it may, the dense forests and water bodies of the Similipal reserve, diverse flora and fauna in addition to the rich prey base, have boosted the melanistic tiger population.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Unsafe social media

Sir, This refers to “Dopamine hits,” Orissa Post, Dec 6. Australia’s new law to keep kids off social media until they turn 16 is an ambitious social experiment something that parents, schools and governments have attempted with varying degree of success. This is, after all, 21st century - an era when social media is the primary communications tool for most of those born in last 25 years. Leaders and parents around the world are watching Australia’s policy closely as many seek to protect young kids from the internet’s dangerous corners. What’s most important for kids is real human connection. Less time on screen means more time to connect. Kids who spend more time on social media, especially as teenagers, are more likely to experience depression and anxiety. Many are exposed to content that is not appropriate for their age like pornography and violence, as well as social pressures about body image and makeup. They also face bullying, sexual harassment and unwanted advances from their peers and as well as adults. Against this backdrop, even US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said there is insufficient evidence to say social media is safe for kids. He urged policymakers to treat social media like car seats, baby formula, medication and other products children use.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Cops lathi-charge BPSC aspirants

Candidates protest against reports of potential normalisation in the 70th Combined Preliminary Examination scheduled in Bihar Dec 13

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 6: Patna Police Friday lathi charged hundreds of aspiring Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) candidates protesting outside the commission's office at Bailey Road.

The candidates were protesting against reports of potential normalisation in the 70th Combined Preliminary Examination scheduled in Bihar December 13.

However, Secretary of the BPSC, clarified that the commission has not announced any plan for normalisation.

While the commission has dismissed rumours about normalisation, the candidates are seeking official assurance to avoid any last-minute surprises that could affect their prospects.

Supported by student leaders, the candidates demanded that the exam be conducted without normalisation, as has traditionally been the case.

Protesters argued that normalisation is unnecessary, especially when the exam is being conducted in one shift across all centres.

The demand is for the exam process to remain as it has been in the past, ensuring uniformity and fairness without additional complications.

Since a single set of questions is being used, candidates believe normalisation — a method often applied to adjust for



Why should the commission clarify regarding the misleading talks about normalisation? Those protesting are not serious candidates but individuals who do not focus on their studies

SATYA PRAKASH SHARMA | SECRETARY, BPSC

Since a single set of questions is being used, candidates believe normalisation — a method often applied to adjust for variations in difficulty across multiple shifts — is irrelevant. Meanwhile, Satya Prakash Sharma, Secretary of BPSC, clarified that the commission has not announced any plan for normalisation.

“If normalisation were to be applied, the commission would have mentioned it explicitly in the notification

or issued a separate notice,” Sharma said.

He dismissed the protests as baseless, stating: “Why should the commission clarify regarding the misleading talks about normalisation? Those protesting are not serious candidates but individuals who do not focus on their studies.”

He emphasised that only one per cent of candidates typically pass, and those genuinely preparing for the exam are not involved in such demonstrations.

The preliminary examination for the 70th combined BPSC examination is scheduled December 13, 2024, in a single shift across 925 centres

across Bihar and around 4.80 lakh candidates are appearing in the examination.

The protests highlight a broader concern among candidates about transparency and fairness in recruitment processes. This growing unrest underscores the importance of clear communication between examining bodies and aspirants to ensure trust in competitive examination systems. Earlier, RJD leader and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, extended his support to the protesting candidates,

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‘POVERTY, BLACK MARKETING OR ILLEGAL MIGRANTS’

Bengal’s unusual kerosene consumption in spotlight

The state alone consumes 66.38% of the national consumption of kerosene while Bihar comes in the distant second position at 6.02%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Dec 6: Amit Malviya, BJP’s in-charge of the National Information & Technology Department and Co-in-charge for the West Bengal unit, Friday, questioned the exorbitantly high percentage of kerosene consumption in the state in comparison to the national statistics.

According to recent statistics provided by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in Parliament based on specific questions raised by BJP’s Rajya Sabha member from West Bengal Samik Bhattacharya, the state alone consumes 66.38 per cent of the national consumption of kerosene. Bihar comes in the distant second position



at 6.02 per cent.

Malviya, Friday, made a significant post on his official X handle in the morning raising questions on this high consumption percentage of kerosene in West Bengal.

According to Malviya, the fact that despite saturated coverage of LPG West Bengal consumes nearly 67 per cent of the national kerosene makes it clear that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is going to leave the state in ruins.

“What could be the reason?

Poverty, black marketing or large numbers of illegal migrants, doubling up as vote banks for the ruling TMC? Malviya questioned.

Recently, another set of questions raised by Bhattacharya in the Rajya Sabha prompted answers from the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs highlighting the flight of corporate entities from West Bengal.

As per the statistics, a total of 2,227 companies have shifted their base from West Bengal to other states during the last five years from 2019 to 2024. Out of the 2,227 companies, 39 are enlisted with the Mumbai Stock Exchange.

As per the reply of the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs, under Section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013 a corporate entity has the freedom to shift its registration from one office to another and there are several reasons for that shifting, including flexibility in operations, smooth management, cost of company administration and better infrastructure facilities, among others.

BIHAR BYPOLL ANOMALY

Every fifth voter of polling booth has dad of same name

The irregularity has come to light in the Aurai block of Muzaffarpur, where at one polling booth, “Munna Kumar” has been stated as the father’s name for 138 out of 724 voters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muzaffarpur, Dec 6: In a comedy of errors, almost every fifth voter of a polling booth in a Bihar legislative council constituency, where a by-election was held Thursday, has the father of the same name.

Officials conceded that it was an “anomaly” in the electoral roll which would, however, not affect the poll process for the Tirhut

constituency, where 18 candidates are in the fray.

The voters, numbering slightly over 1.5 lakh, are spread across 197 booths in the districts of Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sheohar.

The anomaly has come to light in the Aurai block of Muzaffarpur, where at one polling booth, “Munna

Kumar” has been stated as the father’s name for 138 out of 724 voters. Tirhut Divisional Commissioner Sarvanan M said.

“None of the voters would be deprived of their right to franchise because of the anomaly which seems to have been caused by some technical factors. Upon the completion of the by-election process, we will take necessary action,” the commissioner told PTI over phone.

A multi-cornered contest was witnessed in the by-poll necessitated by the resignation of senior JD(U) leader Devesh Chandra Thakur, who is now the Sitamarhi MP.

Many of the candidates seem vexed at the comedy of errors.

“It is bizarre. So many voters, men and women of all age groups and of various religious affiliations, have the same name as the father,” said Abhishek Jha, the JD(U)’s nominee in the by-poll.

Independent candidate Banshi Dhar Briwasi alleged, “I had flagged the discrepancy before the authorities in time but no action was taken. The voters are worried.”

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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi- 110003
No.01/01/2022P.III

WITHDRAWAL OF ADVERTISEMENT

The Advertisement No. 01.01.2022-P.III for filling up three (03) Posts of Scientist ‘C’ in Zoological Survey of India (POST NO. 15-17/C/ZSI) and one (01) Post of Scientist ‘C’ in Botanical Survey of India (POST NO. 27/C/BSI) on Direct Recruitment basis, published in the Employment News dated 24.12.2022, may be treated as withdrawn as per provisions under Clause 19 (a) of ‘General Instruction, Essential Information and Clarifications’ as mentioned in Advertisement No. 01.01.2022-P.III dated 24.12.2022. This is for information of all concerned.

Sd./- (Satya Prakash)
Under Secretary (P.III)

CBC-13101/11/0011/2425

Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Department of Sports
Appointment of Vice-Chancellor in National Sports University, Manipur
(A Central University)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor of National Sports University, Imphal, Manipur. Details of essential qualifications, general instructions, information, application proforma and other details required for the post are available on the website of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports www.yas.nic.in.

Applications completed in all respects in the prescribed format should reach Shri Sandeep Kumar Sinha, Deputy Secretary, Hall No.101, JLN Stadium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003, within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement, by Registered / Speed Post. Applications received after the due date will not be considered.

Only offline applications will be accepted. (Online applications will not be accepted).

CBC-47116/12/0006/2425

Government of India
Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology
ADVT. NO. DST/02/2024-E-III.

Applications are invited for filling up of one post of Mission Director, National Mission Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems, Group ‘A’ Gazetted Non-Ministerial, [Level-14 in the pay matrix (Rs.1,44,200-Rs.2,18,200)] on deputation (including short-term contract) basis in the Department of Science & Technology. Eligible candidates are required to fill the application online, through the online portal <https://recruitment.dst.gov.in/> using valid email ID. This online portal for applying shall be available for a period of 45 days from the date of advertisement in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar. This application form duly signed by the candidate along with attested copies of ACRs/ APARs for the last five years may be forwarded through proper channel so as to reach this Department by Registered Post or by Speed Post within 30 days (45 days for remote areas) from the date of clouser of online portal. For application process and details of qualifications, experience, age limit, last date of application & other requirements etc. visit our website www.dst.gov.in.

Sd./- (Vinod Kumar Sharma)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC-36101/11/0001/2425

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Notice No.: e-Tender-Elect-G-45-24

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: PROVISION OF WEB BASED ENERGY METERING SYSTEM AT RAILSADAN, RAILVIHAR & MANCHESWAR COLONY OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,27,15,844.73, EMD: ₹ 2,63,600/-

(2) Notice No.: e-Tender-Elect-G-46-24

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: PROVISION OF WEB BASED ENERGY METERING SYSTEM WITH MONITORING OF POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT DIFFERENT STATIONS AT KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,01,93,365.83, EMD: ₹ 2,51,000/-

(3) Notice No.: e-Tender-Elect-G-47-24

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: PROVISION OF FLOOD LIGHTING ARRANGEMENT AT NEW ECORSA-KUR FOOT BALL GROUND AT KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 83,40,501.63, EMD: ₹ 1,66,800/-

(4) Notice No.: e-Tender-Elect-G-48-24

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: PROVISION OF FENCING WITH SPREADING OF SAND & BALLAST IN SUBSTATIONS AT WAY SIDE STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,58,73,061.08, EMD: ₹ 2,79,400/-

Completion Period: 4 Months (for SI. No. 1 & 2), 3 Months (for SI. No. 3) & 6 Months (for SI. No. 4).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 hrs. of 24.12.2024 (for all the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available at website: www.irops.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website ten (10) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/contingendum issued for this tender. The tenderers/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer(s)/ bidder(s) can participate on e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ PR-778/P/24-25

Khurda Road

Bank of India

Bank of India BOI Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties “As is where is”, “As is what is” and “Whatever there is” basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors/Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	JAYADEV VIHAR BRANCH, PH.: 7977662475 / Borrower: M/s. Sai Amrit Diagnostic Private Limited, Registered Address at Plot No.: 10/834, 11 & 12, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit-20 Mangalabag, Kathgola Sahi (Near Ring Road), Cuttack, Odisha-753008 / Managing Director/Guarantor: Dr. Manas Kumar Patra, S/o: Dr. Anadi Krushna Patra, At: Amrit Cottage, Journalist Colony, Madhusudan Nagar, Tulsiapur, Cuttack-753008 / Guarantors: 1) Dr. Anadi Krushna Patra, S/o: Late Pyari Mohan Patra, At: Flat No.: A-144, Kalyani Apartment, Near Friends Colony, Cuttack-753001, 2) Mr. Tapas Kumar Patra, S/o: Dr. Anadi Krushna Patra, At: HIG-212, Phase-VII, Sailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751021 / Total Dues: ₹4,46,65,137.26 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid. of Dr. Manas Kumar Patra, S/o: Dr. Anadi Krushna Patra & Dr. Anadi Krushna Patra, S/o: Late Pyari Mohan Patra, Bounded by East: Road, West: Rev. Plot No.: 14, North: Rev. Plot No.: 10, South: Rev. Plot No.: 59	Land and Diagnostic Centre Building constructed thereon pertaining to 1) Khata No.: 131/30 , Plot No.: 11, Area: Ac.0.207 Dec., Plot No.: 12, Area: Ac.0.032 Dec., 2) Khata No.: 131/48 , Plot No.: 10/834, Area: Ac.0.007 Dec., 3) Khata No.: 131/18 , Plot No.: 789/801, Area: Ac.0.014 Dec., Plot No.: 13/802, Area: Ac.0.031 Dec., Total Land Area: Ac.0.291 Dec. i.e. 12,676 Sqft. , Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 20 Mangalabag, P.S.: Mangalabag, P.S. No.: 02, Tahasil: Cuttack, Tahasil No.: 220, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-752054 having KISSAM: Gharabari-I & Gharabari-II, jointly in the name	₹9,74,15,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹97,41,500/- / ₹50,000/-
Date & Time of E-Auction: 09.01.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.			
Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 09.01.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.			
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 08.01.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer			
The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.			
This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date.			
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://BAANKNET.com			
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 07.12.2024			
Authorised Officer, Bank of India			

of the day **note**

We can say with a very high degree of confidence that India will continue to grow at 6-8 per cent real growth, 10-14 per cent nominal growth and a very moderate inflation for the coming five years and this confidence is due to the change that has happened in people's lives

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

We have taken note of the recent escalation in fighting in the north of Syria. We are closely following the situation. There are about 90 Indian nationals in Syria, including 14 who are working in various UN organizations

RANDHIR JAISWAL | EAM SPOKESPERSON

PM Modi's 'ek hai to safe hai' slogan caught the imagination of the people

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

Teen sentenced to death in Bengal

Kolkata: A special court in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district sentenced a 19-year-old man to death for raping and murdering a 10-year-old girl within about two months of the crime. The body of the girl was recovered from a pond in Joynagar's Kuiltali area October 5. The girl, a class 4 student, went missing when she was returning home from a tuition class. The POCSO court of Additional District Judge Subrata Chattopadhyay in Baruipur convicted the accused under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 65 (rape), 66 (punishment for causing death or resulting in a persistent vegetative state of the victim), and 103 (murder), besides the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Surendra Pal Singh Bittu rejoins AAP

New Delhi: In a political development ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, two-time Timarpur MLA Surendra Pal Singh Bittu rejoined the AAP Friday. Singh's return to the party comes amidst speculation about changes in AAP's candidate from Timarpur seat for the upcoming polls. Bittu, who previously represented the Timarpur constituency as a Congress MLA, had joined AAP in 2017 but later switched to the BJP for the 2020 elections.

Five Naxalites surrender in Bijapur

Bijapur: Five Naxalites, including three with a cumulative reward of ₹11 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Friday, a police official said. They laid down arms citing the hollow Maoist ideology and due to the impressive 'Niyad Nellanar' (your good village) scheme of the state government, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said. All the surrendered Naxalites were provided assistance of ₹25,000 each and will be further rehabilitated as per the government's policy, he said.

Three killed as SUV overturns

Surajpur: Three persons were killed and two others injured Friday morning when their Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) overturned following a tyre burst on a highway in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district, police said.



The BJP has filed an application to delete the names of 11,018 voters in the Shahdara area, but when we cross-checked that application on 500 names, 75 per cent of people were still living there, but their names can be deleted from the electoral roll

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENOR

MADHUKAR PICHAD PASSES AWAY AT 84

Tribal leader and former Maharashtra minister Madhukar Pichad (84) passed away Friday at a hospital in Nashik following a brief illness



Police fire tear gas at protesting farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shambhu, Dec 6: Protesting farmers Friday suspended for the day their foot march to Delhi to press for various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, after some of them suffered injuries due to tear gas shells at the Punjab-Haryana border.

Earlier in the day, a 'jatha' of 101 farmers began to march towards the national capital from their protest site at the Shambhu border but was stopped a few metres away by multilayered barricading erected by Haryana security personnel. As the group reached the barricades, security personnel lobbed multiple tear gas shells to disperse the protesting farmers and force them to retreat to their protest site.

Covering their eyes and mouths, several protesting farmers rushed to cover the tear gas shells with wet jute bags to counter the smoke. Many of them were seen uprooting iron nails and barbed wire installed on the road to deter their march. Chanting 'Satnam Waheguru' and holding their union flags, several farmers of



the 'jatha' crossed the initial layer of barricades easily but could not proceed further.

A few of them were seen pushing an iron mesh put up by security personnel down the bridge constructed over the Ghaggar River. One of the protesters climbed the roof of a tin shade where security forces had been stationed. He was forced to climb down.

Water cannon vehicles have also been deployed at the Shambhu border point. The Haryana Police asked the farmers not to proceed further, citing a pro-

hibitory order clamped by the Ambala district administration under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that prohibits the assembly of five or more people.

A farmer leader claimed that five to six farmers were injured due to the tear gas shelling. Sarwan Singh Pandher later an-

nounced the suspension of the march for the day and said the injured farmers were taken to a hospital. "We have called back the 'jatha' for today in view of the injuries suffered by a few farmers," Pandher said here.

He added that the two forums of the farmer bodies, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, would decide the next course of action after a meeting. Earlier, Pandher termed the 101 farmers who were part of the jatha "marjeevras" (someone willing to die for a cause) and slammed the Haryana government for not allowing them to march even on foot.

The farmers are marching towards Delhi to press the Centre for a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops. The Haryana government Friday suspended mobile internet and bulk SMS service in 11 vil lages of Ambala district till December 9. The ban was enforced in Dangdehri, Lohgarh, Manakpur, Dadiyana, Bari Ghel, Lhars, Kalu Majra, Devi Nagar, Saddopur, Sultanpur and Kakru villages.

District authorities in Ambala have ordered the closure of all government and private schools. Pandher had Thursday told reporters that if the government stopped them from carrying out their march, it would be a "moral victory" for the farmers. Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur's martyrdom day was also observed at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points by the farmers.

Meanwhile, SKM leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal continued his fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border point Friday. The farmers, gathered under the banner of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have been demanding that the Centre give them a legal guarantee for MSP.

23 dead, dozens injured in multiple road mishaps in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kannauj/Chitrakoot/Pilibhit, Dec 6: Twenty-three people were killed and several injured in separate road accidents in various districts of Uttar Pradesh Friday, police said.

In Pilibhit, six people were killed when a car carrying a wedding party crashed into a tree, before plunging into a ditch around midnight. In Chitrakoot, six people were killed when a sports utility vehicle (SUV) collided head-on with a truck. In Kannauj, eight passengers lost their lives when a private bus hit a water tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. In Lucknow, three men were killed when their motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle in the Mall police station area.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the Kannauj incident and announced an ex-gratia relief of ₹2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for the injured.

"Saddened by the loss of lives in the bus accident in Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is assisting those affected. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of each deceased, and the injured will receive ₹50,000," Modi said in a post on X. In the Pilibhit incident, a car with 11 people on board rammed into a tree before falling into a ditch on the Pilibhit-Tanakpur road in the Neora police station area. The driver lost control over the car while trying to overtake another vehicle.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Avinash Kumar Pandey told PTI Videos that the rescue operation lasted for more than an hour and a half, with a bulldozer used to clear a fallen tree that had trapped the vehicle. The victims, all from Utarakhand's Khatima district, were returning from a wedding in Chandoi village when the tragedy struck.

Gyanvapi Mosque panel moves SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: The Gyanvapi Mosque management committee has moved the Supreme Court to oppose several pending petitions that challenge the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The 1991 law prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed August 15, 1947. The law, however, made only one exception -- dispute over the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.

The top court is already seized of about six petitions, including the PILs filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay and former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, against certain provisions of the law. The committee of management, Anjuman Intezamia Masajid, Varanasi, in its plea filed through lawyer Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi, filed an intervention application in the top court seeking dismissal of the pending pleas against the 1991 law on the ground that they were based on "rhetorical and communal claims" that could disrupt commu-

nal harmony and the rule of law. The committee said the pleas challenging a legislative enactment must indicate the unconstitutionality of the provisions based on constitutional principles. It said the 1991 law was a "legislative instrument designed to protect the secular features of the Indian polity and an enforcement of constitutional commitment".

The mosque committee further underscored the potential "drastic consequences" of overturning the law, citing incidents like the Sambhal case, where a recent survey order reportedly triggered widespread protests and resulted in six fatalities. The committee warned that repealing the Act could lead to a surge in disputes over religious sites across the country, prompting tensions in "every nook and corner" while threatening communal harmony.

The intervention plea listed a series of contentious claims made over the years concerning various mosques and dargahs (shrines), including the Shahi Idgah Masjid in Mathura, the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque near Delhi's Qutub Minar, the Kamal Maula Mosque in Madhya Pradesh, and others.



A mock rescue being performed during the 62nd All India Civil Defence and Home Guards Day celebrations, in Guwahati, Assam

India seeks strong action against Azhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: India asked Pakistan Friday to take strong action against Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, after reports emerged that he delivered a speech recently at a public gathering in the Pakistani city of Bahawalpur.

New Delhi said if the reports of Azhar's location are correct, then Pakistan's "duplicitous" has been exposed as it has been maintaining that the JeM chief is not in that country.

Azhar, known to be the mastermind of the 2019 Pulwama terror attack, was designated as a global terrorist by the UN Security Council the same year. "He is a UN-designated terrorist. We demand that strong action be taken against him, that he is brought to justice," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir



Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. His remarks came when asked about reports that Azhar delivered a speech at a public gathering in Bahawalpur last month. Jaiswal also questioned Pakistan's persistent position that Azhar is not in the country.

"There has been denial that he is not there in Pakistan. If the reports (of his location) are correct then it exposes the

duplicitous of Pakistan," he said. "Masood Azhar is involved in cross-border terror attacks against India and we want that strong action be taken against him," Jaiswal added.

In 2022, the then Pakistani foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto had reportedly said that Azhar had fled to Afghanistan. India had released Azhar in 1999 in exchange for freeing the hostages of hijacked Indi-

Azhar, known to be the mastermind of the 2019 Pulwama terror attack, was designated as a global terrorist by the UN Security Council the same year

an Airlines Flight 814 (IC814). In his speech last month, Azhar reportedly said "fearful rulers" who do not believe in the word of Allah and "Jihad" have "led us to defeat" in Kashmir, Palestine and other Muslim lands. Azhar is also believed to be the mastermind of the 2001 terror attack on Parliament and the 2016 Pathankot strikes.

Over the last few years, India has been asking Pakistan to take stringent action against the JeM chief.

Speedy trial fundamental right: Top court

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Pankaj Mithal grants bail to a man, who was in custody for about 4.2 years in a case lodged in Bihar, observing the case's trial wouldn't be over soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: Speedy conclusion of trial is a fundamental right and an undertrial cannot be subjugated to indefinite incarceration, the Supreme Court said Friday.



A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Pankaj Mithal therefore granted bail to a man, who was in custody for about 4.2 years in a case lodged in Bihar, observing the case's trial wouldn't be over soon.

The top court's order came on a plea filed by one Raushan Singh, who challenged the Patna High Court's June verdict dismissing his bail application.

"An undertrial cannot be subjugated to indefinite incarceration. Speedy conclusion of trial is a fundamental right, well-recognised in our jurisprudence," the bench said.

Singh's counsel informed the bench that the petitioner was in custody since his arrest in October, 2020, and the case's trial was still inconclusive. The counsel appearing for the state

said three more prosecution witnesses were to be examined in the case.

The bench noted as per the state's counsel, the delay in trial was attributed to a discharge application filed by one of the accused in the case. "Having considered the period of incarceration and the fact that trial may not be concluded on a near date, we deem it appropriate to allow bail to the petitioner -- Raushan Singh," held the bench, adding appropriate bail conditions were to be imposed by the trial court.

While dismissing his bail application previously, the high court directed the trial court to conclude the trial as expeditiously as possible, preferably within six months.

CM Hemant Soren distributes portfolios

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Dec 6: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Friday distributed portfolios among the new ministers, keeping key departments such as Home, Personnel and several others to himself, according to a government notification.

Radhakrishna Kishore, a Congress MLA, got Finance, Commercial Tax, Planning and Development Department, and Parliamentary Affairs departments. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) legislator Deepak Biruwa was allotted the departments of Revenue, Registration and Land Reforms (non-registration), and Transport, the

notification said. Chamra Linda, another JMM leader, was allotted the departments of Schedule Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes (except Minority Welfare).

Irfan Ansari of the Congress got Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare, besides Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, and Disaster Management departments, the notification said.

The Chief Minister also kept to himself the departments of Cabinet Secretariat, Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Official Language, Road Construction, Building Construction, and those departments yet to be distributed to anyone.

of the day

quote

In 2017, it was the first year of the Trump administration when it (Quad) started at the vice-minister's level. Then in 2019, it was again under the Trump administration that it moved from the vice-minister's level to the foreign minister's level

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER



They (Fadnavis, Shinde and Pawar) took oath yesterday (December 5). If they don't address the demands of the Maratha community in the next one month (by January 5), we will declare a fresh date for our agitation

MANJO JARANGE | ACTIVIST



Eknath Shinde had to take oath as deputy chief minister. BJP had planned to go ahead with the swearing-in ceremony without Eknath Shinde. Had he maintained the stubborn attitude to pressure the BJP, its brass had informed (the state leadership) to go ahead without him

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER



POST OF THE DAY

BREAKING : Arvind Kejriwal exposes massive voter list scam by BJP and ECI

Shahdara AC has 1,86,362 total votes. BJP has applied to cut votes of 11,000 people by either saying they are dead or have shifted. After investigation, it was found that 75% people were still present at their address and alive. BJP had lost this seat by 5294 votes in 2020.

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT TAKES

Maha cabinet expansion soon

Mumbai: Cabinet expansion of the Devendra Fadnavis-led Maharashtra government is likely to take place December 11 or 12, sources said Friday. In all likelihood, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP will retain Finance and the BJP the Home department as in the previous Eknath Shinde-led government, sources told PTI.

Five killed in road accident in K'taka

Vijayapura (Karnataka): Five people, including two women, were killed in a road accident Friday, following a collision between a car and a pulse-sowing vehicle, police said. The accident occurred around 4 pm in the Talikote police station limits. According to officials, the driver of the pulse-sowing vehicle fled the scene after the crash, abandoning the vehicle at the site.

BJP, AAP cross swords over 'bogus voters'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 6: A verbal duel broke out between the Delhi BJP and the AAP over bogus voters in the electoral rolls for the forthcoming Assembly polls, with the Opposition reminding illegal voters of one-year jail term for impersonation and the ruling party alleging a conspiracy to delete names of its supporters from the voters' list.

While AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal accused the BJP, along with the Election Commission, of getting names of its voters removed from the electoral rolls, the BJP vowed not to allow even a single Rohingya, Bangladeshi or any bogus voter to cast vote in the

UP: Temple-mosque disputes simmer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Dec 6: As the 32nd anniversary of the Babri mosque's demolition was observed Friday, there are several temple-mosque disputes simmering across Uttar Pradesh --? all with the potential to stoke tensions like in Sambhal, where violence after a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque has left four people dead.

Friday marked the first anniversary of the demolition of the Babri masjid after the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya January 22.

Some Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders like former Uttar Pradesh minister and Vishva Hindu Parishad's (VHP) Vinay Katiyar have even claimed that Agra's Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world, was actually built over a "Tejo Mahalaya" or Shiva temple.

Meanwhile, Maulana Tauqeer Raza, president of the Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IEMC), said Tuesday that anything can come out from the excavation of religious places and it would be better to abandon such an idea and work towards development. Talking to reporters in Bareilly, Raza said, "For the unity and integrity of the country, the idea of excavation should be abandoned and development prioritised. Skeletons of extinct dinosaurs can also be found."

Here is a list of places in Uttar Pradesh where religious disputes continue to simmer –

BAGHPAT

In February, a court in Baghpat dismissed a decades-old plea filed by a Muslim side over



Firing tear gas shells on them and trying to stop them in various ways is condemnable. The government should listen to their demands and problems seriously

RAHUL GANDHI | LOP IN THE LOK SABHA



Friday marked the first anniversary of the demolition of the Babri masjid after the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya January 22

a site that Hindu devotees claim is the Mahabharat-era "Lakshagriha". The petitioners had claimed that it was a graveyard and the dargah of Sufi saint Sheikh Badruddin.

According to Ranveer Singh Tomar, the lawyer for the respondents, Civil Judge Junior Division of the District and Session Court Shivam Dwivedi dismissed the petition, saying there was neither a graveyard nor a dargah at the site in Baranawa.

SAMBHAL

Sambhal has been in the eye of the storm since November 19, when a Mughal-era mosque was surveyed on court orders following claims that a Harihar temple

previously stood at the site.

Violence erupted during a second survey November 24 as protesters gathered near the Shahi Jama Masjid and clashed with security personnel. Four people were killed and several injured in the violence.

LUCKNOW

In Lucknow, the additional district judge February 28 dismissed a revision plea that had challenged a lower court's order rejecting an objection against a civil suit that had sought the right to worship at the Laxman Teela, where the Teeleewali Masjid is situated.

According to the civil suit filed by a Hindu side, a temple of Shesh Nagesh Teeleshwar Mahadev is situated in close vicinity of the mosque.

BUDAUN

In Budaun, a Hindu outfit has moved a local court seeking permission to offer prayers at the Jama Masjid Shamsi, claiming it to be a temple. The court asked the Muslim side Tuesday to conclude their arguments in the matter by December 10.

112 DIED IN 3 YEARS AFTER FREE TREATMENT AT PVT HOSP

As many as 112 people have died in the last three years after or during treatment under government healthcare schemes at a private hospital here which is under the lens for the death of two PMJAY beneficiaries following botched angioplasty, police said Friday



ADANI ISSUE

Wearing black masks, Oppn MPs hold protest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: Wearing black masks with "Modi, Adani bhai-bhai" printed on them and holding a copy of the Constitution, several Opposition MPs led by the Congress held a protest march inside the Parliament complex on the Adani issue Friday.

The protest saw several leaders from some of the INDIA bloc parties marching and raising slogans against the Adani group, its owner Gautam Adani and the government. MPs from the Rashtriya Janta Dal, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Left parties joined the protest.

The Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party, which have so far stayed away from any denunciation of Adani, stayed away from Friday's protest as well.

The decision has been seen by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a "division" in the Opposition bloc. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra,

The protest saw several leaders from some of the INDIA bloc parties marching and raising slogans against the Adani group, its owner Gautam Adani and the government.

MPs from the Rashtriya Janta Dal, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Left parties joined the protest

the newly elected MP from Wayanad, were among those who led the agitation.

Priyanka Gandhi later alleged that the government was scared of holding a discussion on the Adani issue and wondered why it was so. "They don't have the courage to discuss the Adani issue (in Parliament). Why is there a problem in discussion... discussion happens in democracy only, they are afraid of it as well," she said.

The Opposition MPs Thursday protested outside the Makar Dwar of Parliament wearing black jackets with "Modi, Adani Ek Hai" and "Adani Safe Hai" stickers on them. They also raised slogans on the Parliament premises to demand a joint parliamentary probe into the Adani issue.



PTI PHOTO

A farmer on a bullock cart passes by a mustard field in Nadia, West Bengal

Actor Sidhique held in rape case, released on bail

Thiruvananthapuram: Weeks after the Supreme Court granted protection from arrest to veteran Malayalam actor Sidhique in a rape case, he appeared before the investigating agency Friday when he was formally arrested and then released on bail. The actor was formally arrested, his medical examination was carried out and then he was released on bail after he was produced before a court here. He was granted protection from arrest by the apex court on November 19. Sidhique had moved the top court after the Kerala High Court on September 24 denied him the relief on the ground that in view of the seriousness of the accusations, his custodial interrogation was inevitable for a proper investigation of the crime.

PM should speak to farmers: Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 6: The Congress Friday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi invite farmers for talks and accept their demand to provide a legal backing to minimum support price (MSP) of agriculture produce and enact a law to this effect in the current Winter Session of Parliament.

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference that this government is "anti-farmer" as it was not listening to the voice of farmers and said farmers should be allowed to come to Delhi and the government



should speak with them and address their concerns and grievances.

"We demand the Prime Minister that he invite farmers for talks and pass a law for giving legal backing to MSP after

agreeing to their demands. A Bill in this regard should be brought in this Winter Session of Parliament and passed," Surjewala said. Taking a swipe at the Prime Minister, he said, "The PM has time to see movies but not meet farmers." The party also condemned the blocking of the way of farmers, who were "peacefully marching" towards Delhi but were being prevented and subjected to lathicharge and tear-gas at the border.

The senior Congress leader observed that the farmers were only demanding what had been promised to them by the Prime Minister after their year-long protest at Delhi borders.



Delhi Assembly elections

Releasing videos shot by BJP's booth level workers during their visits to homes of alleged bogus voters in Moti Nagar and Trilokpuri constituencies, Delhi BJP chief Virender Sachdeva said, "Kejriwal is shaken as his fraud is being exposed. Bogus Rohingya and Bangladeshi voters are being caught and voters living in Uttar Pradesh who come to vote in Delhi are being exposed."

"The way Kejriwal has started questioning constitutional bodies shows he has nothing concrete to say about the exercise to remove bogus voters," he claimed. Sachdeva alleged Kejriwal was objecting to removal of names of 6,584 voters who have either died or shifted out of Moti Nagar constituency. "What is the reason behind retaining these names?" he asked.

The BJP leader accused Kejriwal of spreading falsehoods

and presenting no proof to substantiate his claim of illegal removal of names from the electoral list.

Earlier, Kejriwal alleged a conspiracy involving the Election Commission and the BJP behind large-scale deletion of names of his party's supporters from electoral rolls, especially in Shahdara constituency.

"There is a threat to democracy. A voter has the right to cast a vote and pick a government of his choice as mandated by B.R. Ambedkar, but the EC is blatantly deleting names of voters based on applications given by the BJP," said Kejriwal, adding that names of 11,000 voters from Shahdara constituency were being removed illegally.



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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, SONEPUR
Pin-767017, Ph:06654-220259 (Off), Email:eerwssdivsnpr@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.02 of 2024-25, Dt.05.12.2024

No.O-793:The Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Sonepur on behalf of the Government of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids through e-procurement in Single Cover System according to norm of e-procurement system in on-line mode for the work "Shifting & laying of Pipeline from Chainage 7/20 Km to 22/00 Km due to widening & strengthening of MDR-39 Road in Binka Block under Subarnapur District."

1.Nature of Work: Shifting & laying of Pipeline from Chainage 7/20 Km to 22/00 Km due to widening & strengthening of MDR-39 Road in Binka Block under Subarnapur District. 2. Total No. of Work:- 01 No., 3. Tender Paper Cost:- Rs.6000/-, 4. Value of Work:- Rs.20.91 Lakhs., 5. Class of Contractor:- "C" & "B", 6. Period of Completion:- 90 days (Refer DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Procurement Officer-Publisher	Bid Identification No.	Date and Time of availability of document in the portal		Last Date & Time of Seeking Clarification on Tender/Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Sonepur	Notification No.02 of 2024-25	From	To	Dt.12.12.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.17.12.2024 @ 11.00 AM

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DONALD TRUMP |

PRESIDENT-ELECT, US

SL'S INTERIM BUDGET PASSED

The interim budget covering the first four months of 2025 was approved in parliament Friday without a vote at the end of a two-day debate. The government presented a vote on account Friday while a formal budget would be presented in February for the next fiscal year



of the day quote

To attack a place of worship is an attack on Australian values. To attack a synagogue is an act of antisemitism, is attacking the right that all Australians should have to practice their faith in peace and security

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PRIME MINISTER, AUSTRALIA

The alternative is what we've seen here in the United States and in many democracies around the globe - not just more gridlock, not just public cynicism, but an increased willingness on the part of politicians and their followers to violate democratic norms, to do anything they can to get their way

BARACK OBAMA | FORMER US PRESIDENT

I'm well aware that some want to pin the blame on me for this situation, it's much more comfortable

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

SHORT TAKES

Pak witnessed 61 terror attacks in Nov

Islamabad: Sixty-one terror attacks occurred across Pakistan in November, marking a 27 per cent increase compared to the previous month, according to a think-tank report. According to the monthly security review of Pakistan by the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), an Islamabad-based think-tank, 169 people were killed in terror attacks in November. "The number of fatalities rose sharply by 69 per cent, increasing from 100 in October to 169 in November. Another 225 people were injured in these attacks," it stated. As many as 41 attacks occurred in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which claimed 114 lives and injured 95 others.

Putin pushes Belarus security guarantees

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Belarus Friday to sign a treaty offering security guarantees to Moscow's closest ally. The planned signing of the document follows the publication of a revised version of Russia's nuclear doctrine, which for the first time placed Belarus under the Russian nuclear umbrella amid the tensions between Moscow and the West over the Ukrainian conflict. Speaking alongside Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko, Putin emphasised that the new document includes a potential use of Russian tactical nuclear weapons deployed to Belarus in response to an aggression.

Quake triggers tsunami warning

San Francisco: A 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook a large area of Northern California Thursday, knocking items of grocery store shelves, sending children scrambling under desks and prompting a brief tsunami warning for 5.3 million people along the US West Coast. The quake struck at 10:44 am west of Ferndale, a small city in coastal Humboldt County, about 130 miles (209 km) from the Oregon border, the US Geological Survey said. It was felt as far south as San Francisco, some 270 miles (435 km) away, where residents felt a rolling motion for several seconds. It was followed by multiple smaller aftershocks. There were no immediate reports of major damage or injury. The tsunami warning was in effect for roughly an hour. It was issued shortly after the tremor struck and covered nearly 500 miles (805 km) of coastline, from the edge of California's Monterey Bay north into Oregon.

AMID MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS

Iran launches heaviest space payload into orbit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manama (Bahrain), Dec 6: Iran said Friday it conducted a successful space launch, the latest for its programme the West alleges improves Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

Iran conducted the launch using its Simorgh programme, a satellite-carrying rocket that had had a series of failed launches, at Iran's Imam Khomeini Spaceport in rural Semnan province. That's the site of Iran's civilian space programme.

The Simorgh carried what Iran described as an "orbital propulsion system," as well as two research systems to a 400-kilometre orbit above the Earth. A system that could

change the orbit of a spacecraft would allow Iran to geo-synchronize the orbits of its satellites. Tehran has long sought that ability.

Iran also put the payload of the Simorgh at 300 kilograms, heavier than its previous successful launches.

There was no immediate independent confirmation the launch was successful. The US military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The announcement comes as heightened tensions grip the wider Middle East over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip and as an uneasy ceasefire holds in Lebanon.

The United States has previously said Iran's satellite



launches defy a UN Security

Iran conducted the launch using its Simorgh programme, a satellite-carrying rocket that had had a series of failed launches, at Iran's Imam Khomeini Spaceport in rural Semnan province

The Simorgh carried what Iran described as an 'orbital propulsion system,' as well as two research systems to a 400-kilometre orbit above the Earth

Council resolution and called on Tehran to undertake no activity involving ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. UN sanctions related to Iran's ballistic missile programme expired in October 2023.

"Iran's work on space-launch

vehicles — including its Simorgh — probably would shorten the timeline to produce an intercontinental ballistic missile, if it decided to develop one, because the systems use similar technologies," a US intelligence community report released in July said.

Under Iran's relatively moderate former President Hassan Rouhani, the Islamic Republic slowed its space programme for fear of raising tensions with the West.

The Simorgh launch represented the first for his administration from the country's civil space programme. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard conducted a successful launch in its parallel programme in September.

Iran, Hezbollah aim to reinforce Assad

Seizing Homs would cut off Syria's capital Damascus from the coast, a longtime redoubt of Assad's minority Alawite sect and where his Russian allies have a naval base and air base

REUTERS

Beirut/Amman/Dubai, Dec 6: Iran will send missiles, drones and more advisers to Syria, a senior Iranian official said Friday, as rebel forces pushed their lightning offensive south towards the city of Homs in the biggest challenge for years to President Bashar al-Assad's rule.

Seizing Homs would cut off Syria's capital Damascus from the coast, a longtime redoubt of Assad's minority Alawite sect and where his Russian allies have a naval base and air base.

After years locked behind frozen front lines, the insurgents have burst out of their northwestern Idlib bastion to achieve the swiftest battlefield advance by either side since a street uprising against Assad mushroomed into civil war 13 years ago.

Assad regained control of most of Syria after his key allies - Russia, Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah group - came to his support. But all have recently been weakened and diverted by other crises, giving Syrian Sunni Muslim militants a window to fight back.

The head of the Syrian faction leading the sweeping assault told CNN that his group - a former Al-Qaeda affiliate now known as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) - aimed to "build Syr-



- HTS leader Golani aims to 'build Syria', return refugees
- Israeli airstrikes target Lebanon-Syria border crossings
- Rebels' offensive catches Assad government off guard
- Residents flee Homs for pro-Assad coastal region
- Russian forces destroy bridge to hamper rebel progress

ia" and bring Syrian refugees back home from Lebanon and Europe.

SURPRISE OFFENSIVE

The rebels' sweep has taken the region by surprise. Iran has been focused on tensions with its arch-enemy Israel since the Gaza war erupted in October 2023.

"It is likely that Tehran will need to send military equipment, missiles and drones to Syria. Tehran has taken all necessary steps to increase the number of its military advisers in Syria and deploy forces," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

"Now, Tehran is providing

intelligence and satellite support to Syria."

The Israeli military said it was reinforcing aerial and ground forces in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in Syria and was prepared for all scenarios.

Iran-backed Hezbollah, meanwhile, sent a small number of "supervising forces" from Lebanon to Syria overnight to help prevent anti-government fighters from seizing Homs, two senior Lebanese security sources told Reuters.

Lebanon shuts land border with Syria

Lebanon's General Security Directorate said Friday the country is closing all land border crossings with Syria except for a main one that links Beirut with the Syrian capital Damascus. The decision by the security agency in charge of border crossings came hours after an Israeli airstrike damaged the Arida border crossing with Syria in north Lebanon, days after it was reopened. Separately, Jordan's Interior Minister al-Frayeh said Friday the Naseeb border crossing with Syria had been closed because of the security situation on the Syrian side. He spoke after Syrian opposition activists said insurgents had captured the main border crossing with Jordan, forcing the Syrian authorities to leave.

LADAKH STANDOFF

India, China to further ease border tensions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Dec 6: India and China agreed to take measures to further ease the situation at the borders while continuing to implement the October agreement to resolve the standoff in eastern Ladakh comprehensively, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said a day after talks in New Delhi.

China and India held the 32nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on China-India Border Affairs (WMCC) Thursday in New Delhi, and the two sides agreed to maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels, and safeguard sustainable peace and stability in the border areas.

Both sides positively assessed the solutions reached on border-related issues and agreed to continue implementing them comprehensively and effectively, while taking measures to further ease the border situation, a press release issued by the Ministry here Friday.



This is the first meeting of WMCC after the October 21 agreement between the two countries to resolve the over four yearlong military standoff in eastern Ladakh that had brought the relations between the two countries to a standstill.

Following the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries, the meeting focused on preparations for the next round of Special Representatives' talks on the China-India border issue, it said.

The two sides also agreed to continue leveraging the role of the border negotiation mechanism, maintaining communication through diplomatic and military channels, and safeguarding sustainable peace and stability in the border areas, the release said.



Palestinian women and girls struggle to reach for food at a distribution center in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip Friday

PTI PHOTO

US to close Dublin women's prison after years of inmate abuse

The closures are a striking coda to the Biden administration's stewardship of the Justice Department's biggest agency

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Dec 6: The federal Bureau of Prisons is permanently closing its "rape club" women's prison in California and will idle six facilities in a sweeping realignment after years of abuse, decay and mismanagement, The Associated Press has learned.

The agency informed employees and Congress Thursday that it plans to shutter the Federal Correctional Institution in Dub-

lin, California, and its deactivate minimum-security prison camps in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Florida. Staff and inmates are being moved to other facilities, the agency said.

In a document obtained by the AP, the Bureau of Prisons said it was taking "decisive and strategic action" to address "significant challenges, including a critical staffing shortage, crumbling infrastructure and limited budgetary resources." The agency said it is not downsizing and is committed to finding positions for every affected employee.

The closures are a striking coda to the Biden administration's stewardship of the Justice Department's biggest agency. After repeatedly promising to reform FCI Dublin and other troubled facilities, the



Bureau of Prisons is pivoting to closures and consolidation, citing inadequate staffing and staggering costs to repair aging infrastructure.

The permanent shutdown of FCI Dublin seven months after

After repeatedly promising to reform FCI Dublin and other troubled facilities, the Bureau of Prisons is pivoting to closures and consolidation, citing inadequate staffing and staggering costs to repair aging infrastructure

or unwilling to rehabilitate its most problematic institutions.

The Bureau of Prisons and the union representing correctional officers have repeatedly pushed for additional federal prison funding, highlighting what they

Romanian top court annuls presidential election results



REUTERS

Bucharest, Dec 6: Romania's top court annulled the result of the first round of the country's presidential election Friday, adding that the entire election process would have to be rerun.

The second round had been due to be held Sunday and voting is already underway in polling stations abroad.

Having polled in single digits before the first presidential election round Nov 24, Calin Georgescu - who wants to end Romanian support for Ukraine against Russia's invasion - surged to a victory that raised questions over how such a surprise had been possible in a European Union and NATO member state.

Documents declassified by Romania's top security council Wednesday said the country was a target of "aggressive hybrid Russian attacks" during the election period.

"The electoral process to elect Romania's president will be fully re-run, and the government will set a new date and calendar for the necessary steps," the court said in a statement.

The second round of the presidential contest that had been due to take place Sunday would have pitted Georgescu, a far right, pro-Russian candidate against pro-EU centrist leader Elena Lasconi.

Far-right parties also performed well in last Sunday's parliamentary election in Romania, though the ruling Social Democrats emerged as the largest grouping and hope to cobble together a pro-EU coalition government.

The court has not called into question the integrity of the parliamentary vote

Advantage for hosts at the end of day as Aussie pacers bowl out India for 180 in 1st innings

Starc reality hits India

AGENCIES

Adelaide, Dec 6: Seasoned pacer Mitchell Starc (6/48) made the most of a moving pink ball for a career-best haul as India flattered to deceive to let Australia hold all the aces on day one of the day-night Test here Friday. Opting to bat, India had it under control at 69 for one before they lost their way to settle for 180 all out at the stroke of dinner.

A fearless Nitish Reddy (42, 54b, 3x4, 3x6) was the sole man responsible for taking his team past the 150-run mark, adding valuable runs with the lower-order.

Australia did well to reach 86 for one at stumps with Marnus Labuschagne (20 batting) and Nathan McSweeney (38 batting) finding welcome runs.

The hosts would be backing themselves to surpass India's total on day two, considering the easier batting conditions in daylight. Labuschagne, fighting for his place in the side, once again took a long time, 19 balls to be specific, to get off the mark but then found ways to score runs. McSweeney was dropped by Rishabh Pant off Jasprit Bumrah early in his innings and he rode that luck to frustrate the opposition.

Birthday boy Bumrah was once again the best Indian



(Left) Mitchell Starc demolished India with a fiery spell; Nitish Kumar Reddy played a gutsy knock

PTI PHOTOS

bowler on show and picked up the only wicket to fall in Australia's innings, having Usman Khawaja (13) caught at first slip with a beauty.

In the second session of the game, Starc made the pink ball talk to take his maiden five-wicket haul against India. Having reduced the visitors to 82 for four at tea, Australia took the remaining six wickets at the cost of 98 runs before dinner break was taken.

Starc sizzled with his trademark inswingers to remove Ravichandran Ashwin (22) and Harshit Rana (0) while skipper Pat Cummins (2/41) used the short ball effectively. Indian skipper Rohit Sharma (3) batting in the middle order after six years, was trapped in front by

Bumrah joins elite company

Adelaide: Jasprit Bumrah celebrated his 31st birthday in style, becoming the first pacer to notch 50 Test wickets in 2024. The milestone was achieved during the first day of the pink-ball Test against Australia here Friday when Bumrah dismissed opener Usman Khawaja. With this feat, Bumrah joins the elite company of Kapil Dev and Zaheer Khan as the only Indian pacers to take 50 Test wickets in a calendar year. Bumrah reached the landmark in his 11th Test of 2024. Kapil Dev remains the highest wicket-taker for Indian pacers in a year, with 75 Test wickets in 1983, followed by his 74 in 1979. Zaheer Khan stands third with 51 scalps in 2002.

Scott Boland (2/54) with a ball that jagged back from length.

Reddy, who impressed on his debut in Perth, added much-needed runs to the total alongside Ashwin who replaced Washington Sundar in the playing XI. Seeing the wickets falling at the other end, Reddy went for his shots and that included a couple of sensational sixes off Starc and Boland to take the total past 150. He first dispatched a wide ball from Starc over extra cover before reverse scooping Boland for a maximum over the slip cordon. Four balls later, Reddy pulled Boland for another six.

In the first session, it was Starc who landed the timely blows as India squandered a promising start to reach 82 for four at tea. Starc removed opener KL Rahul (37) and Virat Kohli (7) in quick succession to turn the tide in Australia's favour. That was after a 69-run stand between Rahul and Shubman Gill (31) for the second wicket.

Brief scores

India 180 (Nitish Kumar Reddy 42, Mitchell Starc 6/48); Australia 86 for 1 (Nathan McSweeney 38 batting).

Suryavanshi show destroys Sri Lanka



Vaibhav Suryavanshi played a match-winning knock for India

India in final of under-19 Asia Cup with thumping victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Dec 6: Vaibhav Suryavanshi (67, 36b, 6x4, 5x6) was the star of the show again with a second successive half century as India stormed into the U-19 Asia Cup ODI final with a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka here Friday. The 13-year-old, who became the youngest cricketer ever to be bought at an IPL auction last month, played a scintillating knock as India chased down a target of 174 with 170 balls to spare.

India will face Bangladesh in the final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Sunday. Bangladesh defeated Pakistan by seven wickets, completing a modest chase of 117 in 22.1 overs in the first semifinal in Dubai.

Opting to bat, Sri Lanka could only manage 173 in 46.2 overs despite a valiant effort from Lakvin Abeysinghe (69, 110b, 3x4, 2x6)) and Sharujan Shanmuganathan (42, 78b, 2x4).

Their innings struggled to gain momentum as Indian bowlers were in full control with Chetan Sharma (3/34), Kiran Chormale (2/32) and

Ayush Mhatre (2/37) wreaking havoc in the middle overs.

India's chase was built on a solid foundation laid by Ayush Mhatre (34) as he put on a stand of 91 with Suryavanshi for the opening wicket. Suryavanshi, the young left-hander from Bihar troubled the Sri Lankan bowlers from the beginning as he started with consecutive sixes and a boundary off Dulnith Sigera, who ended up giving away 31 runs in his opening over.

Mhatre too played his strokes at the other end as the duo raced to 87 for no loss in eight overs before Vihas Thewmika gave Sri Lanka their first breakthrough by removing the batter.

But Suryavanshi showed remarkable maturity as he kept the run-rate ticking despite losing his opening partner, forging another crucial association with C Andre Siddharth (22). He didn't stop there, taking the attack to the opposition bowlers with his aggressive strokes, including hitting two sixes off Aayan Khan.

Skipper Mohamed Amaan (25 n o) and KP Karthikeya (11 n o) then completed the chase.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 173 in 46.2 overs (Lakvin Abeysinghe 69, Sharujan Shanmuganathan 42; Chetan Sharma 3/34, Kiran Chormale 2/32, Ayush Mhatre 2/37) lost to India 175/3 in 21.4 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 67, Ayush Mhatre 34) by seven wickets.

SHORT TAKES

Odisha eves finish 3rd in sub-junior hockey

Secunderabad: Hemrom Leoni scored the decisive goal as Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh 1-0 in the final of the 14th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championships, here Friday. Odisha finished third defeating Hockey Mizoram 4-3 in a match played at the South Central Railways Sports Complex, RRC Ground, Rail Nilayam here. Priyanka Minz scored three goals and Anjana Xaxa one for Odisha. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced a cash prize of ₹3 lakh for the champions, ₹2 lakh for the runners-up and ₹1 lakh for the bronze medallists.

Silva replaces Shah as ACC president

Dubai: Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding Jay Shah, who recently became the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). It won't be Silva's maiden role with the ACC, having previously functioned as the chairman of the organisation's finance and marketing committee. "It is a great honour to lead the Asian Cricket Council. Cricket is the heartbeat of Asia, and I look forward to working closely with all member nations to elevate the game, provide opportunities for emerging talent, and strengthen bonds that unite us through this beautiful sport," said Silva in a statement.

Direct entry for Nagal

Melbourne: Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal is set for his fifth appearance in a Grand Slam after earning a direct entry for the main draw of next year's Australian Open. The 98th-ranked Nagal, who features in the entry list released Friday by Tennis Australia, had to go through the qualifying rounds in the competition's previous edition. Meanwhile, reigning World No. 1 and defending champion Jannik Sinner is top see for the Australian Open, followed by Alexander Zverev and Carlos Alcaraz. In women's singles Aryana Sabalenka is the top seed in the tournament.

Amir to play with his idol Manpreet

Junior India captain talks about his dreams and aspirations

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 6: From walking 10 kilometres to watch his idol Manpreet Singh in action to now gearing up to play alongside him in the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL), life has come full circle for Indian junior team skipper, Amir Ali. Amir is set to share the field with Tokyo Olympics bronze medal-winning India captain as a member of Team Gonasika.

"During my teenage years, I felt embarrassed by my father's job as a bike mechanic, because I wasn't mature enough to realise that no work is insignificant," said Ali who was bagged by Team Gonasika for ₹34 lakh in the HIL 2024-25 auctions.

"But it was our family's struggles which pushed me to pursue my dreams in hockey. I wanted to change our financial situation and make my family and country proud. That desire became my greatest motivation," the player added.



him and give my best under his guidance," Amir added.

Son of a motorcycle mechanic, the India defender from Lucknow grew up witnessing financial struggles firsthand.

"During my teenage years, I felt embarrassed by my father's job as a bike mechanic, because I wasn't mature enough to realise that no work is insignificant," said Ali who was bagged by Team Gonasika for ₹34 lakh in the HIL 2024-25 auctions.

"But it was our family's struggles which pushed me to pursue my dreams in hockey. I wanted to change our financial situation and make my family and country proud. That desire became my greatest motivation," the player added.

Time running out for Gukesh

Indian challenger may suffer having let go of some winning opportunities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Dec 6: Half a dozen draws and some missed opportunities later, sprightly challenger D Gukesh and resolute defending champion Ding Liren would be desperate for a breakthrough when they clash in the 10th game of the World Chess Championship here Saturday.

Gukesh has explored several winning lines but the advantage has not translated into victories for the Indian, and with just five more classical games left to be played in the USD 2.5 million prize money championship, the 18-year-old would look to break the deadlock and hope to take a decisive lead after a day's rest Friday.

The draw Thursday, which was the seventh of the match and sixth on the trot, has left



both players on an identical score of 4.5 points each, still three shy of the championship-winning tally.

World No. 1 and five-time World Champion Magnus Carlsen minced no words while doing a recap of the ninth game and said that the time was running out for Gukesh.

"I think we have finally arrived at a moment when Gukesh is not a favourite in this match anymore, it's as pure a 50-50 match as it comes," said Carlsen.

If the deadlock is not broken after 14 rounds, Gukesh could

There is no disadvantage playing with black, the computers have seen to that and now it's an equal game

D GUKESH

well surrender the initiative to his Chinese opponent when the games are played under the faster time control to determine the winner. Liren is said to have an advantage in short games.

Gukesh, said after the draw in the ninth game Thursday

Indian Universities win series

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: The bilateral cricket series between the Australian Universities team and their counterparts of the Indian Universities ended Thursday. The Indian Universities team won the three-game T20 series 2-1. They also won the single ODI which was played at the KIIT Cricket Stadium here.

In the ODI played Thursday, the Indians won the game by an emphatic margin of 113 runs. Batting first, the Indian Universities team posted a total of 296 in 44.3 overs. Pranjal Saini (57, 60b), Dipin Chitkara (51, 30b) and Parthasarathi Nayak (44, 43b) batted well for the Indian team. Captain Kavvy Saini (5/61) was the pick of the



bowlers for the Australian Universities team.

In reply the Australian team lost wickets at regular intervals and were dismissed for 183 in 42.1 overs. Only Jason Kent (31) and Tom Connolly (30) offered some resistance to the opposition bowlers. The bowlers of Indian Universities maintained a steady line and length to hasten the downfall of the opposition bat-

ters. Chitkara, Tushar Chordia and Nitish Samantaray picked up two wickets each for the Indian Universities team. Chitkara was adjudged player of the match for his all-round performance.

There were three players from Odisha, Maroju Prasanth and Partha Sarathi Nayak from KIIT University and Sujal Kumar, Singh from Sambalpur University in the Indian squad.

KIIT EMERGE CHAMPS IN KHO KHO TOURNNEY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: The men's team of KIIT emerged champions of the East Zone Inter University Kho Kho Championships 2024-25 which concluded Friday at the Fakir Mohan University in Balasore.

The matches were played in the league format with four teams participating in the tournament. KIIT won all their matches to top the pool and emerge champions.

Hemchand Yadav Vishwavidyalaya, Durg, secured the first runners-up position with two wins, while Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, earned the second runners-up spot with one victory.



Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, finished as the last team of the pool after they failed to win a single match and in the process suffered three losses.

All four teams however, qualified for the All India Inter University Inter Zone Kho Kho (Men) Championships 2024, to be held at Mangalore University.

The KIIT kho kho team were very dominant in the tournament and earned easy victories over all their opponents. They played well and won all their matches convincingly.

Odisha eves lose to Uttarakhand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 6: Despite a fighting half century by skipper Sushree Dibyardashini (52, 69mb, 6x4), Uttarakhand defeated Odisha by 50 runs in a match of the BCCI Senior ODI women's tournament at the Gujarat College ground in Ahmedabad, Friday. After scoring 176 all out in 49.4 overs, Uttarakhand dismissed Odisha for a paltry total of 126 in 41.4 overs to emerge winners.

Prema (47, 72b, 3x4) and Raghuvi (38, 54b 6x4) took Uttarakhand to a fighting total. Jyoti K Prasad (3/27) and Rasanara Parwin (2/28) bowled well for Odisha.

Then Prema (3/30) and Neelam (3/27) picked up wickets to derail Odisha's chase and script victory for their side.