

LEISURE | P2

Taapsee Pannu gives a Rani twist with her black and

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 250 I www. orissapost.com

gold outfit

Coast Guard intercepts two Bangladeshi fishing vessels with 78 crew members from the sea off Paradip coast Tuesday STATE | P5



BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 11, 2024

Equity mutual funds witness an inflow of ₹35,943cr in Nov, marking a 14% drop on a month-on-month basis



D Gukesh will have his task cut out when he faces Ding Liren in the 13th game of the World Championship

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00



DAREDEVILRY ON DISPLAY: Sumit Tomar, a member of Army Service Corps (ASC) 'Tornadoes' of the Indian Army, performs a stunt in an attempt to break the world record for the 'longest no-hands motorcycle wheelie', in Bangalore Tuesday

UP techie's suicide: Wife, family booked

THROW MY ASHES OUTSIDE THE COURT'S GUTTER, **ATUL SUBHASH SAYS IN SUICIDE NOTE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 10: A day after a 34-year-old techie from Uttar Pradesh died by suicide after blaming his wife and her family, the police Tuesday said they have been booked for abetment of suicide.

Atul Subhash, who worked for a private firm in the Karnataka capital, left behind a 24-page death note, giving extensive details of what he alleged was years long of emotional distress of marital issues; multiple cases filed against him and harassment by his wife, her relatives, and a judge based in

UP. police said. Subhash's body was found hanging at his residence in Manjunath Layout area, which falls under Marathahalli police station limits, they added. A placard reading "Justice is due" was found in the room where he ended his life. Before taking the drastic step, he recorded an over 80-minute video on Rumble, explaining the circumstances under which he had decided to die by suicide.

In the video, which has now gone viral on social media platforms, Subhash can be heard saying, "I feel that I should kill myself because the money I earn is making my enemies stronger. That same money will be used to destroy me, and this cycle will keep going.

"With the money from my taxes, this court and police system will harass me, my family, and other good people. So, the supply of value should be finished." He demanded that, after his death, his wife and her family should not be allowed near his body Until his alleged harassers are punished, he asked his family not to immerse his ashes.

Demanding justice. Subhash urged his family to throw the ashes outside the court's gutter if his alleged harassers were not found guilty. "Based on a complaint from his family, we have registered a case of abetment of suicide against his wife and her family members. All the allegations are being looked into, and we are investigating into the matter," a senior police officer said. No arrests have been made yet, he added.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Subhash had been facing marital discord with his wife, who had also registered a case against him in UP.

Ex-Karnataka CM SM Krishna dies

Bangalore: Ex-Karnataka **Chief Minister** and former

External Affairs Minister SM Krishna died here early Tuesday. He was 92.

Suave, sophisticated and a man with enviable academic credentials Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna started off his political innings as an independent MLA from Maddur in 1962, stunning a then Congress

veteran in the elections, and went

on to become the state's CM and

Minister. Tributes poured in for

who breathed his last at 2:45am

Tuesday. Krishna had been ailing

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

for quite some time.

later the country's External Affairs

the former Maharashtra Governor,

CB: Pannun's threat mail **Dhankhar loses Oppn trust** traced to US & Canada

OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The email that Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun had sent to city-based journalist Akshay Sahoo, threatening to disrupt the All-India DGP/IGP summit here recently, has been traced to United States and Canada, said a source at the state Crime Branch (CB) Tuesday.

the same journalist declaring December 1 as 'D Day' for military attack in the City.

Besides, he attached an audio clip in the email, warning people to stop flying from and to Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA). The mail stathas brought the neutrality

The office of the Vice President (VP) of India, as the second-highest constitutional position after the President, is expected to function in a strictly non-partisan manner. However, the recent Opposition uproar in Rajya Sabha over the alleged bias of VP Jagdeep Dhankhar



a total of 24 members. BJD leader Sasmit Patra said as his party is "equidistant" to both the NDA and the INDIA

bloc, it is not connected to the motion notice against the VP. Three motions have come in the past against Lok Sabha Speakers - GV Mavalankar

The probe agency also said that it would reach out to Interpol soon for additional assistance in the investigation.

A senior CB official said early investigations have revealed that the accused used Virtual Private Network (VPN) to send the threat mail to the journalist. The official. however, dismissed any possibility of involvement of a local associate of Pannun in the incident.

Notably, a day before the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval for DGP/IGP conference at Bhubaneswar. Pannun, who heads Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) outfit, released a video message November 28. He exhorted his followers to take cover in temples and hotels to disrupt the conference. Two days later, he had also sent another mail to

ed that, "Hindu terrorist Modi has turned Bhubaneswar into a 'Terror City'. Pro-Khalistan Sikhs are ready to die for the freedom of Punjab. Indian police chiefs... are you willing to sacrifice your life to defend the territorial integrity of India?"

The mail also mentioned about a reward of Rs 25 lakh for Khalistani supporters, who would raise 'Khalistan Flag' near Lok Seva Bhawan here. Earlier, the CB had written a

letter to Google India in the matter, seeking assistance to find the IP address of the threat mail.

The 59th all-India DGP-IGP conference deliberated on several security-related issues apart from chalking out roadmaps to counter existing and emerging national security challenges such as left-wing extremism, coastal security. narcotics, cybercrime and economic security. The conference also discussed the implementation of new criminal laws and initiatives and best practices

in policing.

of the chair under a cloud. Dhankhar's impartiality has been repeatedly questioned by a steadfast Opposition. This is particularly over the Chairman allowing Treasury Bench members to raise allegations regarding the purported link between Congress and US-based billionaire George Soros. Matters went to a head Tuesday, when a united Opposition moved a notice before Secretary General PC Mody. seeking a no-confidence motion against Dhankhar. Although the move is unlikely to succeed given the number game, it will leave its imprint in the 72 years of the parliamentary history as the first of its kind against the Rajya Sabha Chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Dec 10: In a first. parties of the INDIA opposition bloc Tuesday submitted a notice to bring a motion in Rajya Sabha for the removal of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar,

accusing him of "partisan" conduct as the Chairman of the Upper House.

If the motion is moved, these parties need a simple majority to get it passed, but they do not have the requisite numbers in the 243-member House. Opposition members, however, insisted that it was a "strong message to fight for parliamentary democracy'

On behalf of the opposition, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Naseer Hussain submitted the notice signed by 60 opposition MPs-including from the Congress, RJD, TMC, CPI, CPI-M, JMM, AAP, DMK, Samajwadi Party – to Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody.

This is the first time that a notice for bringing a motion to remove the VP has been

moved in Rajya Sabha. A 14day notice has to be given and it should be approved by the Deputy Chairman before the motion is taken up.

Notably, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and the floor leaders of various opposition parties are not among the signatories to the notice, the sources said.

Similar notices for removal of the Speaker of Lok Sabha have been submitted in the past, but none against the Vice President.

BJP and its allies have 121 members in RS, while the Opposition parties have 86 members. The non-aligned parties like the YSRCP, BJD, AIADMK, BRS and BSP have

December 18, 1954, against Hukam Singh November 24, 1966 and against Balram Jakhar April 15, 1987

The present move, spearheaded by the Congress, comes in the wake of verbal clashes between opposition parties and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

The Opposition has been upset with Dhankhar over multiple issues. The latest trigger was allowing BJP members to raise the allegations of links between Congress leaders and organisations backed by billionaire investor George Soros which the ruling party claims are involved in "anti-India activities".

Congress General Secretary (In-charge, Communications) Jairam Ramesh said they were pained to move such a notice against the Chairman, but were "forced" to do so after he "crossed all limits" Monday by allowing several members of the treasury benches to speak against top Congress leadership in the House.

Capital punishment isn't my thing just set the bribe so high that they take their own life

In a first, IIT-Madras releases 3D images of fetal brain Ratna Bhandar repair likely from Dec 17 He said the SJTA will pro

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: In what would give the much-needed impetus to the field of neuroscience and potentially lead to the development of treatment for health conditions affecting the brain, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras has become the first research organisation in the world to release the most detailed 3D high-resolution images of the fetal brain, Director V Kamakoti said Tuesday.

The key applications of generating such high-resolution brain images are advance-



ments to current fetal imaging technologies for early diagnosis and treatment of developmental disorders. The pioneering work by the

Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre of IIT Madras pushes the frontiers of Brain Mapping Technology and places India in the global league of brain map-

ping science as this is a firstof-its-kind work anywhere in the world, he said. According to researchers, it is vital for the country to understand brain development from the foetus to a child, to adolescence and to a young adult, and developmental disorders like learning disabilities and autism.

"For the first time globally, 5,132 brain sections have been captured digitally using cutting-edge Brain Mapping Technology developed by the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre in the institute. "This monumental work is the first time such advanced human neuroscience data has been produced from India. The project was done at less than 1/10th of the cost in Western countries. The research was undertaken by a multidisciplinary team at IIT Madras with researchers from India, Australia, the US Romania and South Africa, and medical collaborations with Chennai-based Mediscan Sys tems and Saveetha Medical College Hospital," Kamakoti said.

The findings of the research have been accepted for publication as a special issue by the Journal of Comparative Neurology, a century-old peer-reviewed systems neuroscience journal.

AGENCIES

Puri, Dec 10: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is likely to begin the repair work at the Ratna Bhandar of the Srimandir December 17, an official said Tuesday.

The decision was announced by Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee after a meeting of the 'Chhattisa Nijog'. "It has been tentatively decided that ASI will start the repairing work of Ratna Bhandar from December 17, and it may be completed in a span of two-three months," Padhee told reporters.

vide necessary support to ASI for smooth conduct of the repair work. "The repair work will start at 1pm and continue till 6pm. However, the work may be halted for a day or two keep ing in view the rush of devotees December 31 and January 1. The repair work will in no way af fect the regular rituals in the 12th-century shrine," he added

Padhee said the devotees will be allowed to have darshan of the deities from the outer log of the temple only.

Superintending Archaeologist DB Garnaik explained the modalities of the repair work to the stakeholders at the meeting.

















NE FORECAST

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Emotions always pose obstacles. When things go wrong, life seems dispirited. But Ga

TAURUS

GEMINI

You need to carefully weigh

the pros and cons of the de-

cisions you take today, as well as proceed on all matters with caution. You

This day, Ganesha sees you act-ing crabby and irritable. You'll

be itching to pick up fights and quarrels,

getting into arguments and confrontations. Act resolutely and firmly and keep your

wild moods and snappiness in check. Later

in the day, you will again become cheerful and carefree. This is a good day for sorting

out difficulties and problems that could be

coming in the way of a blissful married life.

will attempt to dispose off matters casually

today. You will worry more about your own interests in the later half of the day. You need

to stop worrving about others and secure

vour own interests first, savs Ganesha

blessed life.

nesha advises you to look at the positive side of things, like the food on the dining

and you will thank God for granting you a

table or the clothes in your wardrobe,



JEREMY ALLEN WHITE JOINS **THE MANDALORIAN & GROGU**

Jeremy Allen White, known for The Bear, has been cast in the upcoming Star Wars movie. The actor will portray Rotta the Hutt in The Mandalorian & Grogu. The movie, directed by Jon Favreau, will hit theatres in May, 2026

Shweta's

future goals

New Delhi: What's common between Ali

Fazal, Vijay Varma and Vicky Kaushal?

It's Mirzapur star Shweta Tripathi, who

counts the three actors among her favou-

rite co-stars with whom acting be

"My favourites are Ali Fazal,

Vicky, Jitu, Vijay Varma and

it's fun because acting is actual-

ly like playing a sport. Whatever

you get, it's fun to do the batting

or bowling," she told in an inter-

Going forward, Tripathi said she

doesn't want to restrict her career

to a certain country or language

one type, I want to change that.'

'My goal is film festivals, I love

it because during Masaan, when we

went for the first time... (Hollywood

stars like) Jake Gyllenhaal and Zoe Kazan

were there... The energy there is so much

fun. I want to travel the world with my sto-

ries. We feel like the perception of India is of

Tripathi, who is set to venture into

ti's anti-hate satire.

girl in their home. m

production, said she one day

hopes to do a film like Jojo

Rabbit, director Taika Waiti-

World War II, the 2019 film

follows a young German boy

called Jojo who finds out that

his mother is hiding a Jewish

Set against the backdrop of

comes a sport.

view

CHRIS EVANS SET TO RETURN IN AVENGERS: DOOMSDAY

Chris Evans is all set to make a comeback to the Marvel Cinematic Universe with Avengers: Doomsday, joining Robert Downey Jr. as Doctor Doom. Directed by the Russo Brothers, Joe and Anthony Russo, the film is slated for release May 1, 2026.



I'm a lone warrior: Kartik

Mumbai: Actor Kartik Aaryan, who has surprised audience with his amazing performances in Chandu Champion and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, recently shared the challenges in carving his own path to stardom. Despite his success, Kartik admitted that he 'won't get any support from the film industry.

In an interview, the actor said, "I'm a lone warrior. This house that you see today — I bought it with my own money. I've fought like crazy to reach here. And it's not done yet-I know for a fact that I won't get any industry support for the road ahead. And I've come to terms with the fact that despite delivering a monster hit in Bhool Bhulai*yaa 3*, nobody will rally behind me. I still have to hustle for my next film." The Shehza da

went on to accept that there are may people who are waiting for him to fail he added "Yes-and I feel everyone can sense that. There are some wonderful people I've met over my journey, but the main section-and it's a large section-I will never win over. And I don't have any desire to win them over. The only people I want to win over are my audience. Because they're the only ones supporting me That's the only validation I need".

Kartik will next be seen in Pati Patni Aur Woh 2, Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety 2 and Aashiqui 3. AGENCIES



How Khaike Paan Banaras Wala became a part of 'Don'

RIMAN A IRANI ARAPID BAY SHI INDIV

Mumbai: Veteran Bollywood

diva Zeenat Aman recalled the iconic song 'Khaike Paan Banaras Wala', which the actress says was originally created for Dev Anand's "Banarasi Babu". The icon also shared that what she remembers most acutely is the quantity of paan megastar Amitabh Bachchan

consumed for the song. Zeenat took to Instagram. where she shared a video of the song, which originally featured in 1978 film "Don", starring Big B in dual roles, alongside Zeenat, Pran, Iftekhar, Om Shivpuri and

Satyen Kappu in supporting roles. She wrote: "If you work in a team industry and are blessed with a bit of luck, you may get to play a small part in creating enduring creative and cultural magic.'

The actress said that the song was rejected for the 1973 film "Banarasi Babu" starring Dev Anand for being too "frivolous"

"Rumour has it that 'Khaike Paan Banaraswala' wasn't originally meant to be included in Don. It was created for Dev Anand's Banarasi Babu, but had been rejected as too frivolous."

She then shared that "Don" director Chandra Barot had completed his action thriller



starring Amitabh Bachchan in a double-role, but found that the second half of the film needed some relief from the intensity of the plot line.

'Ànd so, long after the film had wrapped, the cast and crew arrived at Mehboob Studio to shoot a new video.'

With crackling, innuendo-laden lyrics, an irresistible beat, Kishore Kumar on vocals, and a spirited performance by Mr. Bachchan, 'Khaike Paan Banaraswala' emerged as a surprise hit.

She added: "It took several days to shoot this number, and what I remember most acutely is the quantity of paan that Mr. Bachchan consumed and the sheer energy he brought to set.

Mumbai: Looking every-inch like royalty, Taand gold outfit.

Taapsee took to Instagram, where she postblack and gold one shoulder dress. The actress completed her look with drop diamond earrings, dewy make-up and her hair was tied neatly into a bun.

Taapsee captioned the post.

The actress mentioned about her popular character Rani from the film Haseen Dilruba franchise, where she played

Talking about Haseen Dillruba, The film premiered in July 2021. It

Hain Kahaan? with actor Pratik Gandhi. The upcoming project is a comedy-drama that brings Taapsee and Pratik together for the

first time. She was last seen in Khel Khel Mein directed by Mudassar Aziz. Based on the 2016Italian film Perfect Strangers. IANS



the basic necessities of life to your family, but today you will remain preoccupied with the thoughts of how to provide them some a new line of thought. Ganesha says in

LIBRA

packed your kit right and are ready to take on anything, as today promises to be an action-packed day. Most of this action might concentrate around your family members. Towards the afternoon, you may begin to feel weighed down by household

Taapsee slays in black

apsee Pannu gave a "Rani" twist with her black

ed a string of pictures of herself dressed in a

"Giving a Rani like twist to the evening,"

a romantic thriller film directed by Vinil Mathew. It also stars Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane. follows a woman, who is suspected of killing her husband and narrates an interesting story about her marriage while investigating police

The actress will next be seen in *Woh Ladki*

the role of Rani Kashyap.

officers looking for clues to arrest her.





luxurious things too. At work, try to adopt the evening you may treat your dear ones

Ganesha sure hopes that you



CANCER You will decide to expose certain unreasonable conventions and traditions, and you will be able to do so successfully, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may incur

the displeasure of your bosses. **LEO**

Call it a day with a positive difference, but today, you are more keen and inclined towards entertainment and relaxation. Everybody needs a break from the routine, says Ganesha, so make the most of today.

On a more personal note, you are required to make subtle moves as there are hints that you may want to give your love life a more definite turn, like a marriage.

to dinner at a luxurious restaurant.

responsibilities.

SCORPIO

Your stars are shining bright today. Relationships prove lucky for you as you are blessed to have great family and friends. Sort out differences if any and vote for harmony. In short, you are on a winning spree today and shall glorify the path you take up

SAGITTARIUS

You may just strike the notes of your beloved's heart today Your presence and presents will make them realise how much you do indeed love them. Expect a trip to posh showrooms and designer shops to buy them expensive gifts. But don't neglect work or your long-term goals, advises Ganesha.

.

CAPRICORN

Faced with an unrelenting boss? Give him that mil-

lion-dollar smile you flash to woo others, it might just work today. The first half of the day will be good for those looking to start a new venture, says Ganesha. But don't expect miracles to happen; you will not achieve success overnight and certainly not if you don't have your actions well planned.

AQUARIUS

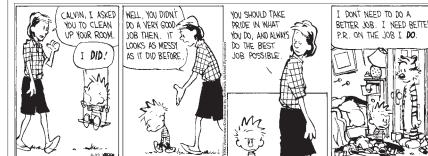
You will understand the importance of friends in your life, and you will go an extra mile to get back in touch with them. Your communication skills will help you get through the door at work, and everybody. even your competitors will be appreciate your talents. This skill will work wonders at home, as you will please your sweetheart with your eloquence, feels Ganesha.

PISCES

Today being a slightly risky day for, tread cautiously when it comes to financial dealings. Read the fine print and thoroughly thrash out the nitty-gritty's of any contracts you commit to. Any mistakes made now could come back later and extract a heavy price. There are also chances of conflict with your partner or spouse. Be on your guard, says Ganesha.

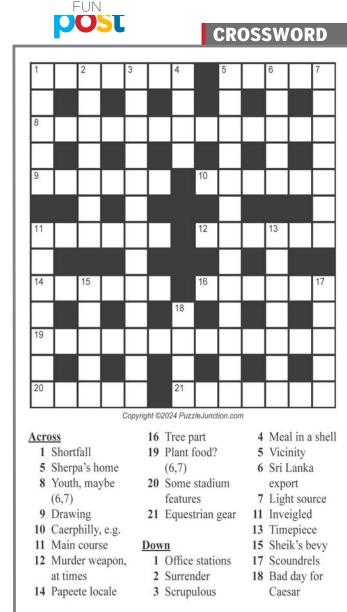


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

	8						5	7
_		4		6	1			8
_			8		5			
2		8	0					6
1				7				
5		1	2			9		
			6	5				
	7	6		9		4		

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

1	Ν	S	1	Ρ	1	D		С	L	1	Μ	В
R		Q		1		R		U		R		1
A	Μ	U	S	Е	Μ	Е	Ν	Т	Ρ	А	R	Κ
Т		Е		С		Ν				Q		1
Е	Е	L		Е	Х	С	U	R	S	1	0	Ν
		С		М		Н		А				1
S	С	н	L	Е	Ρ		Α	Ζ	Т	Е	С	S
Н				А		Е		0		R		
Е	S	С	А	L	A	Т	0	R		U	Ρ	S
R		L				С		В		Ρ		0
В	R	0	К	Е	Ν	Н	Е	А	R	Т	Е	D
Е		С		Μ		Е		С		Е		0
Т	Y	K	Е	S		D	U	K	E	D	0	M

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

PEANUTS

OrissaPO WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 11, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

OVER-SEAS

Guests from various countries attend the International Beach and Ocean Sports Carnival which was inaugurated in Puri Tuesday

owntown

UTKARSH ODISHA - MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE 2025

Singapore to be 1st country partner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam will visit Odisha in January, and his country is the first overseas partner of the state's investor summit 'Make in Odisha Conclave 2025'.

Simon Wong, the High Commissioner of Singapore in India, said this to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, after meeting him at state secretariat Lok Seva Bhawan here Tuesday, an official release said.

Singapore is one of the largest sources of FDI in the country. India too has a strong presence in Singapore through its companies in IT, banking and manufacturing.

With shared values of democracy, innovation and sustainable development, both nations are keen to strengthen ties for mutual growth and regional stability, the release said.

As Singapore and India are celebrating 60 years of diplomatic relationship, both na-



CM Mohan Charan Majhi receives Simon Wong, the High Commissioner of Singapore in India, at Lok Seva Bhawan, Tuesday

tions enjoy deep historical, cultural and economic ties. This relationship has now evolved into a strategic partnership encompassing areas like trade, defence, technology and cultural exchange. To commemorate this bilateral tie, the Singapore president is visiting India next month.

During his visit to that county in November, Majhi had requested the Singapore government to arrange a visit of the president to Odisha too. Accepting the invitation of the CM, the president has decided to come to Odisha

during his India visit, the re-

lease said.

Accepting the invitation of **Chief Minister Mohan Charan** Majhi, Singapore **President Tharman** Shanmugaratnam has decided to come to Odisha during his India visit in January

Wong said that Singapore would be the first country partner for 'Utkarsh Odisha- Make in Odisha Conclave 2025'

Odisha is the only state he chose to visit next month and the highlight of his tour will be the state's potential in petrochemicals and green energy.

The CM said the relationship is now poised for the next level in various sectors such as petrochemicals, urban planning, tourism, renewable energy and skill development.

'Metro rail project set to complete by 2027'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The state government has set a target to complete the Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project by 2027, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra told the Assembly Tuesday.

baneswar Metro Rail Project will cover a length of 26 km, and there will be a total of 20 stations in the first phase.

According to Mahapatra, the first phase of metro rail project in the City will cover the distance from Bhubaneswar Airport to Trisulia Square. As many as 20 stations will be set up at prominent places like Bhubaneswar Airport, Capital Hospital, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar Railway Station, Ram Mandir, Vani Vihar, Acharya Vihar, Jayadev Vihar, Xavier, Rail Sadan, District Centre, Damana, Patia, KIIT. Nandan Vihar, Raghunathpur, Nandankanan, Baranga, Phul-

While a grant of ₹210 crore was sanctioned for the project in 2023-24, another grant of ₹1,000 crore has been approved in 2024-25. A target has been set to complete the





House din over 'non-payment' of salaries to Mission Shakti staffers

BJP government is

Shakti' staffers. I strongly

more than 70 lakh women

employees in the scheme

NAVEEN PATNAIK | LEADER OF OPPOSITION

The issue has been dis-

cussed in the Assembly.

of women

in the scheme."

The state government will

take appropriate decisions

keeping in view the interest

stop the salaries of the 'Mis-

sion Shakti' staffers. I strongly

condemn this. There are more

than 70 lakh women employees

PRAVATI PARIDA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

condemn this. There are

conspiring to stop the

salaries of the 'Mission



Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The Assembly Tuesday witnessed a noisy scene as Opposition BJD and Congress members held protests inside the House over alleged non-payment of salaries to around 60,000 women supporting staffers under the

As soon as the Question Hour began at 10.30 am, BJD members trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans, demanding justice for the women supporting staffers, who have been protesting outside the As sembly since Monday, alleging that they did not receive salary for the last six months.

so joined the BJD's protest and extended its support to the agicharge of the Women and Child Welfare and Mission Shakti Department said the agitating women should not be misled by

"The issue has been discussed in the Assembly. The state government will take ap propriate decisions keeping in view the interest of wom en," Parida said outside the

Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik, while leading the BJD MLAs in the protest inside the House, said, "These people (BJP) claim that they respect women. However, more than 50,000 women had to spend the night under the open sky in cold and rain demanding their remuneration from the government."

BJP members, however defended the government and blamed the Opposition BJD for alleged non-payment of salaries to supporting staff of the 'Mission Shakti' scheme.

As the din continued in the well of the House. Speaker Sur ama Padhy said that she had not received the notice for a discussion through motion on the issue of non-payment of salaries to 60,000 'Mission Shakti women supporting staff.

"You (Opposition) were allowed to speak on the subject Monday during Zero Hour. I request all of you to return to your seats and cooperate with

me to run the House," the

Woman clerk held for accepting bribe

GENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The Vigilance department Tuesday arrested a junior woman clerk, a day after she was caught accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 at the office of the sub-register here, an official statement said.

Debajani Kar, a junior clerk in the office of the sub-registrar of Khandagiri has been placed under arrest by the Vigilance department and will be forwarded to the court, the statement said.

"She was arrested for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 from a person for the execution of a registered sale deed (RSD) of subplot on," it said.

She was detained Monday and arrested Tuesday, the statement said. A case was registered against her.

The Vigilance department officials said that as per the trap plan, the complainant went to give the bribe money and the Vigilance officials caught her red-handed while accepting it in her office room.

The entire bribe money was recovered from Kar's possession and seized in the presence of witnesses. Following the trap, simultaneous searches were conducted at the woman's residence at Old Town and her office room. This apart, the anti-corruption Vigilance officials also recovered ₹15 lakh cash from the sub-registrar office. The office staffers were being examined, and the source of huge cash was being verified, officials added.



Rally to protest 'atrocities' on Hindus in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: A massive rally was held in Bhubaneswar Tuesday to protest the alleged atrocities on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh.

The rally, organised by Hindu Suraksha Manch (HSM), began at the Exhibition Ground and ended at Lower PMG with hundreds of people participating.

tricts of the state," he said. With placards and posters in their hands, the demonstrators raised slogans urg-Bangladesh should not forget ing all Hindus across the world to come together for the protection of the minorities in Bangladesh. "Following the political unrest, Hindus are being attacked every day in Bangladesh. Their houses and businesses are being set on fire and they need our support. So, we have organised this protest rally to express our solidarity and create aware-



The minister said the Bhu-

apokhari and Trisulia square.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

'Mission Shakti' scheme.

The Opposition Congress al-

anyone.

Assembly.

that India helped them to get independence in 1971.

People of Bangladesh

that India helped them

should not forget

to get independence in 1971

ness among the Hindu people

in Odisha," said HSM conve-

"Not only in Bhubaneswar

several such protests are

being held in different dis

Prusty said the people of

nor Javakrushna Prustv.

JAYAKRUSHNA PRUSTY HSM CONVENOR

Following the rally, representatives of HSM submitted a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UN Secretary-General António Guterres to Odisha Governor Raghubar Das, seeking protection of minority Hindus in Bangladesh.

project by 2027, he said. The ambitious development project aims to transform urban transport in Bhubaneswar, tackling traffic congestion and enhancing connectivity across key areas of the City. According to sources, the metro trains will run on railway tracks 13 metres above the ground level.

tating women.

Leader of Opposition and former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, who was present in the House, alleged, "The BJP government is conspiring to

857 jumbo deaths since 2014-15: Min

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The state has lost 857 elephants in the past 11 years, with electrocution being the key cause of unnatural death of the gentle giants, the Odisha Assembly was informed Tuesday.

Diseases, accidents, poach ing and electrocution were some of the other reasons for elephant deaths in the state, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia said in response to a query in the Assembly.

According to the statistics furnished by the minister, 149 elephants were electrocuted to death between 2014-15 and 2024-25 (till December 2) while poachers killed 30 elephants.

Diseases claimed the lives of the highest number of elephants (305) and natural reasons have been attributed as the cause of 229 elephant deaths.

The minister said that 29 elephants were killed after being hit by trains. Similarly, seven others died in road accidents and two by poisoning. The Forest and Environment department could not ascertain any reason behind the death of 90 jumbos. Further, 16 elephants died due to infighting, he said.

Patnaik also said his party has all along supported the 'Mission Shakti' women and will continue to do so.

Diseases claimed 305

229 jumbos died due to

149 elephants perished

Poachers killed 30

due to **electrocution**

jumbos across the state

Ninety-three elephants died

in 2018-19, the worst year in el-

ephant deaths during the pe-

riod. As many as 92 elephant

deaths were reported in Odi-

sha during 2022-23 whereas

54 pachyderms died in 2014-

15, the lowest among these

the state during the financial

year 2023-24, the figure is 67

till December 2 in the current

According to the latest ele-

phant census conducted last

month, 2,103 elephants were

found in different forests

While 66 elephants died in

11 years.

financial year.

of Odisha.

natural reasons

elephants

Unable to run the House, Deputy Chief Minister Pra-Padhy adjourned the proceedvati Parida, who is also in ings till 11.30 am.

Man arrested for blackmailing woman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Speaker said.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The Naypalli police Tuesday arrested a 33-year-old man for allegedly trying to extort money from a woman by threatening to make her intimate photos viral.

IIC Nayapalli, Satyaranjan Pradhan identified the accused as Santosh Kumar Sethi, a native of Ganjam, who works in Bhubaneswar. Pradhan said the woman met Sethi over a matrimonial site about a week ago, and after striking a rapport with him began communicating over phone calls and video chats. During their interactions, Sethi secretly recorded some intimate moments which he later used to extort the woman.

Police said Sethi started de manding ₹50,000 from the woman since the last four days by threatening her to make their intimate photos viral if she refused to budge. On Monday, he reportedly stalked the woman before confronting her when she was about to board an auto-rickshaw near Jaydev Vihar. When she protested, Sethi forcibly travelled with her up to the latter's residence. Pradhan added

The woman filed a complaint with the Nayapalli police Tues day, following which the cops arrested Sethi and booked him under Sections 308(2), 351(4), and 78(2) of the BNS Act. He was subsequently produced before a court for remand.



SEEKING SUPPORT: Members of Odisha Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Association (ODMDA) stage a peaceful dharna at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, demanding effective steps from state and Central governments for treatment of the muscle wasting disease, and financial assistance to the affected families since there is no known cure for the disease. DMD disease is a rare degenerative disease which causes progressive muscle loss as the child grows up. The disease makes the child wheelchair bound as he/she attends the age of around 14 years















OrissaPOS

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owntown



LAUNCH OF SHAKTI APPLICATION

'Significant move towards combating gender violence'



Odisha now stands as the first state in India to harness blockchain technology in its efforts to *improve support systems* for survivors of GBV

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The launch of the Shakti Application marks a significant and progressive step toward combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Odisha, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said this during an event here Tuesday

The initiative driven by the department of Women and Child Development (WCD), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UN-FPA), leverages cutting-edge blockchain technology to deliver a trauma-informed, efficient and dignified support system for survivors.

Odisha now stands as the first state in India to harness blockchain technology in its efforts

Sainik School to organise 8th mini marathon, OBA meet

Bhubaneswar: Sainik School Bhubaneswar is going to organise the 8th Sainik School-OMC mini marathon December 15, Principal Colonel Balu Bharath announced here recently. Over 1,200 participants, including 600 cadets, students from Sahodaya and government schools, alumni, and their families, are expected to join the event.The marathon will feature categories for students from classes VI to VIII, IX to XII, a girls' category, and the Old Boys' Association of Sain School (OBEANS). The senior category will cover a 10 km route starting and ending at the school's Gandhi ground, passing through landmarks such as Mancheswar Road. OMFED. and Apollo Hospital. The juniors will run a shorter route covering Mancheswar Road, OMFED Square, and Gajapati Nagar. The event will be flagged off by the chief guest Commodore Mahesh Rahangdale, DDG of NCC Directorate Odisha, along with Colonel Bharath, Madhusudan Padhi, and event coor dinator Amitabh Swain. Prizes will be distributed by the Rahangdale. Separately, the 53rd Annual Meet of the Old Boys' Association (OBA) will take place December 22. Alumni from various sectors, including defense, civil services, and corporate industries, are expected to attend with their families. The 1999 batch will celebrate their Silver Jubilee, while the 1974 batch marks their Golden Jubilee.

to improve support systems for survivors of GBV.

The pioneering approach positions the state as a leader in adopting modern solutions for social challenges, redefining how services are delivered and managed in the realm of gender-based support.

Parida highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to fostering a society that is free from violence and discrimination.

She stated, "As we prepare to scale this initiative statewide, we are not just enhancing processes—we are reimagining what it means to provide survivor-centric care, ensuring that survivors are treated with the dignity they deserve throughout their journey to recovery.

The App has been developed with a primary focus on streamlining the support process for survivors. By employing blockchain, the app securely stores and manages survivor data, reducing the need for repeated recounting of traumatic experiences.

The feature not only safe-

guards the privacy of survivors but also promotes a more empathetic and respectful approach. Through the app, coordination between shelter homes, One Stop Centres, and both district and state officials is optimised, resulting in greater accountabil ity and real-time monitoring. This interconnected network enhances the efficiency of responses, ensuring timely assistance and comprehensive care for survivors.

The App has already been piloted in five districts, where it received overwhelmingly positive feedback from survivors. Many users expressed that the app played a crucial role in restoring a sense of empowerment and dignity, as it simplified their interactions with support services and reduced the emotional toll of recounting their experi-

ences multiple times. The launch ceremony of Shakti also marked the conclusion of a powerful 16-day campaign against Gender-Based Violence, which spanned all 30 districts of the state. The campaign was characterised by its impactful and engaging activities, including street plays that educated and raised awareness

about GBV It culminated in a symbolic gathering of 1,000 participants forming a Human Chain, an act that underscored Odisha's collective dedication to ending violence against women and girls and supporting survivors in their path toward healing and justice.

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport signed a Memorandum of Understand ing (MoU) with the National Technology Centre for Ports. Waterways, and Coasts (NTCP-WC), IIT Madras, Tuesday. The agreement focuses on prepar-

in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

spective Plan (OMPP). The agreement was signed in the presence of Commerce and Transport department principal secretary Usha Padhee, who highlighted the significance of the initiative and encouraged active participation from all stakeholders during the kickoff meeting.

ing the Odisha Maritime Per-

The meeting aimed to collect feedback and insights from var-



EQUAL RIGHTS: Students take part in an awareness rally organised by the Bharat Scouts and Guides on the occasion of World Human Rights Day

MoU inked for Odisha Maritime Perspective Plan

TEACH RIGHTS

PREACH JUSTICE

ious stakeholders, including representatives from government departments, transport and logistics sectors, maritime experts, port operators, and

LEARNING

OPENS DOORS

IO EQUALITY.

Boat Owners' Associations. The discussions focused on addressing grassroots-level challenges, concerns, and needs

Dean of NTCPWC, IIT Ma-

dras Kantharaj Murali present ed an outline of the proposed OMPP through a detailed presentation. Following the presentation, attendees were invited to share their perspec tives and suggestions, which were documented by NTCPWC officials for further analysis.

To ensure comprehensive stakeholder input, feedback forms and presentation cop ies were distributed to all participants. Members were requested to submit their suggestions and insights to NTCPWC for incorporation into the final OMPP.

The initiative marks a signif icant step toward developing a sustainable maritime infra structure in Odisha, addressing key logistical and transporta tion challenges.

LET'S KEEP

'Majority ignorant of human rights'

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Orissa High Court Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh Tuesday said that majority of the people do not know about human rights and existence of institutions such as national and state human right com-

missions. Singh was speaking at the Human Rights Day celebration programme organised by the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) here Tuesday. "Majority of the people don't

know what human rights are.



They are not at all aware that any of their rights has been violated. If the rights have been violated, they aren't aware of the existence of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and OHRC," he said. Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, in his address,

said, "Even after the completion of 75 years of independence, social stigma like untouchability and gender inequality exist. We have many temples where the low caste people are not allowed.³ Though several initiatives in-

cluding the right to education

have been taken by the govern ment, the poorest of poor people are not able to get proper education, he said

To address the issues, the new government under the leadership of CM Mohan Majhi has started taking actions, the minister added.

OHRC chairperson Justice Satrughana Pujahari emphasised that human rights are intrinsic and cannot be granted or revoked. "Human rights are the basic needs of every person. Freedom is a birth right, and it is the right of everyone born on this earth to have it," he said.

Grand finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024 at IIT Bhub

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar will host the grand finale of the software edition of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 December 11 and 12 an official informed.

POST NEWS NETWORK

The event marks the seventh edition of the flagship programme organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Twenty-six teams from

across the country, each

comprising 5-6 members, will

compete to develop innovative

By hosting the event, II7 Bhubaneswar reaffirms its commitment to promote col laboration among academia industry, and government while nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset," he added.

11" & 12" D

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ENCY	DOLLAR	85.95	•	0.12				
CURR	EURO	89.58	•	0.20				
SES	GOLD	₹ 78,134	•	₹648				
BOUR	SILVER	₹ 95,350	•	₹153				

WEATHER							
	BBSR	СТС					
Max Temp	27.8°	26.8°					
Min Temp	21.3°	19.5°					
Humidity	93%	96					
Rainfall	Nil	Nil					
FORECAST FOG/MIST in the morning and mainly clear sky later.							

Double-decker electric buses soon in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Double-decker electric buses are likely to be introduced in the state soon as part of the housing and urban development department's plan to revamp the City's public transport scenario. "The buses will be introduced in Bhubaneswar. Cuttack and in Puri initially," Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra said Tuesday. "We have floated a tender to procure the double-decker elec-

tric buses. The vehicles will be

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

protocols



introduced on an experimental basis and based on the outcome. we will decide on expanding the service to other parts of the state," Mahapatra added. The minister stated that the

double-decker buses will be environment-friendly since they will be electric vehicles

them apart from hotel accom-

modation," Deputy Chief Min-

in design. "Initially, we are planning to run the buses from Bhubaneswar to Cuttack and to Puri," the minister added.

While other cities have phased out such buses, the vehicle has recently been introduced with the EV design in Mumbai, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram and Nagpur.

Mahapatra reasoned that the double-decker buses can carry a larger number of passengers, thereby, reducing the number of vehicles on the roads. "This will further help reduce traffic congestion," he said.

Odisha scales up rice fallow mgmt project

Bhubaneswar: The department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empower ment signed an MoU with IRRI, ICRISAT, ICARDA, MSSRF, and AFC India Ltd. to expand the Rice Fallow Manage ment project. The initiative, launched in 2022-23 aims to utilize 16 lakh hectares of underused rice fallow land by cultivating pulses and oilseeds, targeting 4.55 lakh hectares this year The project integrates bio-based inputs, IPM devices, and soil health improvement with dolomitic limestone for acidic areas. Monitoring includes geo-tagging and Aadhaar-linked farm registries. Deputy CM Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo highlighted the collaboration's role in benefiting nearly 5 lakh farmers statewide.

solutions for five critical problem statements. These include smart resource conservation in home appliances and software tools to track drug trafficking via social media platforms like Telegram, WhatsApp, and Instagram. The teams will be evaluated by experts from organisations such as NDRF, NCB, the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, Godrej, and NALCO.

"IIT Bhubaneswar is excited to host the Smart India Hackathon 2024 as one of the 51 nodal centers in the country," said institute director Shreepad Karmalkar.

IIT Bhubaneswar has un dertaken significant initiatives, including a ₹130 crore Research and Entrepreneurship Park and the 100-CUBE startups programme, aiming to establish 100 startups worth ₹100 crore each by 2036. The institute also offers courses such as 'Introduction to Re search and Entrepreneurship for PhD and MS students and a minor degree in 'Innovation and Product Development' for B.Tech students.

Odisha to provide homestay options for visiting NRIs

senior official said.

The aim is to provide the Indian diaspora with the experience of Odisha's atmosphere as well as the culture and tradition in Odia homes, the official said.

This apart, in view of cyber frauds in hotel bookings, the state government has advised the delegates to book their accommodation through a dedicated website 'pbdindia.gov.in.'

The state tourism department has shared the names and other details of hotels with the Ministry of Home Affairs for the

national standard. For this, he suggested that a special cleanliness campaign be conducted in the state capital.

All the roads in the City are being renovated, illuminated and decorated, while tourist places are being beautified.

According to a statement issued by the CMO, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to attend the first day January 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi January 9 and President Droupadi Murmu January 10. The event will feature a Ple-

nary Session on topics such as 'Unraveling India's Best Kept Secret' and 'Odisha - the Land of Opportunities'.

During the PBD events, the state has planned as many as 10 festivals in Bhubaneswar in January. These are Raja Rani Music Festival (January 7-11), Muktaswar Dance Festival (January 7-11), International Odissi Dance Festival (January 7-11), Tribal Dance and Folk Art Festival (January 7-11), Adiva si Mela (Tribal Fair) (January 5-15), Chilika Bird Festival (January 6-12), Flower Show (January 7-11), Food Fest (January 8-10) and Night Flea Market (January 8-10).

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: As Odisister Pravati Parida said. ha is gearing up to host the three-Odisha's hospitality would dav Pravasi Bharativa Divas be on the like of "Atithi Deva Bhabo" (Guest is God), she said. from January 8 to be attended by around 7,000 NRIs, the state gov-In order to facilitate the ernment is making homestay arvisitors to book their accomrangements for the visitors apart modation, Parida said the

from hotel accommodations. Odisha Tourism department The homestay owners have has blocked 200 hotels with been provided training in more than 3,700 rooms in Bhuguest management and safety baneswar, Cuttack and Puri. The "It is a big opportunity for

the people of Odisha to host the NRIs. We will also make homestay arrangements for

families owning homestays, who would host the visiting NRIs, have been provided basic training in guest management and safety protocols, a

PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

safety of delegates.

The department has also identified as many as 30 tourist destinations in Bhubaneswar. Puri, Konark, Chilika-Satapada and Raghurajpur crafts village where the NRIs may pay visits, the official said.

The PBD event began in 2003 and is being held in Odisha for the first time. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday reviewed the preparations for the programme.

Majhi said the cleanliness of Bhubaneswar should be of inter-

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state



MUSCLE POWER: A girl participates in a powerlifting competition organised as part of a sports meet for the district-level Lok Mahotsav 'Chaiti' at the Ambaguda indoor stadium in Rayagada Tuesday

Lack of docs, equipment plague Hatigada CHC

OST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, Dec 10: With healthcare services severely affected owing to a host of impediments, the Hatigada Community Health Centre (CHC), located in Raibania under the Jaleswar block of Balasore district, is in dire straits.

The CHC, which along with its nine Primary Health Centres (PHCs), caters to the needs of a population over 150.000. has been plagued by severe shortage of doctors, healthcare staff, and medical equipment.

According to reports, the facility lacks basic infra, including a mortuary, while the doctors' chambers are in pitiable condition. Daily around 300 patients, who visit the centre, have to stand in long queues since morning hours waiting for their turns to arrive for consultation. However, with many staff positions vacant for years, the centre is struggling to meet patients' needs. The lack of infrastructure is further exacerbated during power outages, as there is no backup generator. This forces doctors to attend to patients using candlelight.

The Hatigada CHC serves 12 nearby panchayats—Chamar Gaon, Dipipur, Khudiamajhi Sahi, Kalama, Kalika, Khuada, Raibania, Makidia, Olamara, Sardarbandha, Baradiha, Shy-



amnagar, and Srirampur-as well as patients from neighboring West Bengal. Despite its large coverage area, the centre is severely understaffed. Only one specialist, a gy-

remaining vacant. necologist, is available at the CHC, while key positions for pediatricians, surgeons, and general physicians have been lying vacant since the last 12 years. Although four MBBS doctors and one AYUSH practitioner are posted, their competence levels are far below government norms, leaving the facility incapable of meeting the

needs of patient load. Patients with serious conditions are often referred to other hospitals due to the lack of specialist doctors. Many poor patients, unable to afford re-

ferrals, face severe challenges. Additionally, the CHC lacks essential grade-IV staff, such as dressers, sweepers, and office attendants, with four such posts

Husband

available

Another critical issue is the delay in issuing birth and death certificates, which is handled by the CHC. Staff shortage in this department has caused unrest among locals. Similarly, one of the two approved pharmacist posts has remained unfilled for an extended period, while the centre lacks crucial diagnostic equipment.

The nine PHCs under the Hatigada CHC at Bada Bazar, Sikharpur, Lakshmananath, Nampo, Chhamouja, Jamalpur, Salabani, Khuada, and Olamara face similar challenges. Many

are short on pharmacists and grade-IV staff. At Khuada PHC the doctor reportedly visits only twice a week, further affecting services. Moreover, deputation of staff to other centres has worsened the situation.

Local social activists, including Ashish Ghosh, Sukumar Ghosh, Sanat Sahu, Sujit Das, Sapan Bindhani, Badal Soren, and Dibyendu Dey, have demanded immediate action to address these critical issues plaguing the healthcare facility.

Meanwhile, when reminded of the state of affairs at the CHC. Balasore District Collector Survawanshi Mayur Vikas said he will soon take a review and initiate actions to address the issues.

Special squads to check loot of minor minerals POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 10: Special squads have been formed to check loot of minor minerals in the state. sources said here Tuesday. They added that to stop the illegal trade of minor minerals in Odisha, the Department of Steel and Mines has formed sub-divisional and tehsil-level committees under the govern ment's directives. These com mittees will report monthly to the district-level task force and the Director of Mines, focusing on actions like raids on illegal quarries and reviews of unauthorised mining activities. The sources informed that the Additional Chief Secretary issued a notification in this regard, December 4, 2024.

The sub-divisional committees will be chaired by the sub-collector and include members from SDPO, ACF, range officer, tehsildar, police inspector and a mining officer as conve ner. Earlier, an armed force was established in this district to counter illegal mining and transportation of minor minerals. It provided support to revenue officials. The district collector had issued instructions to this effect.

Special task forces have been formed earlier in this district, specifically in tehsils like Jajpur, Dharmasala, Darpan, Danagadi and Vyasanagar to address illegal lifting and trading

2 Bangladeshi vessels, 78 crew members held

PNN & AGENCIES

Paradip, Dec 10: The Coast Guard Tuesday intercepted two Bangladeshi vessels with 78 people on board while allegedly fishing in Indian waters, a state ment said.

The two vessels were located during routine surveillance by the Coast Guard ship 'Amogh', it said. The vessels -- FV Laila-2 and FV Meghna-5, were found engaged in unauthorised fishing activities in Indian waters near the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), violating the international maritime laws and bilateral agreements, it added.

While there were 41 crew members on FV Laila-2, there were 37 crew members on FV Meghna-5, the statement said.



of black stone, sand, murram, laterite stones and unauthorised crusher units. However, efforts to curb illegal mining had not been fully successful. It was alleged that some departmental staff colluded with the mining mafia and aided in the loot of minor mineral resources. Sources said illegal transpor-

tation of black stone and murrams from areas like Barada. Aruha, Bajabati, and Dankari continue unabated. Unauthorised sand mining is also rampant at certain ghats of the Baitarani and Brahmani rivers.

The recently-formed committees have been entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding minor minerals, sources said. Whether the step will be successful will be clear in the days to come. The Revenue Secretary directed the formation of task forces comprising district collectors and SPs in each district to curb illegal mining activities in December 2018. The then district collector Ranjan Kumar Das and SP here took prompt action by conducting

night raids in sand quarries and leased (sairat) areas. How ever, in regions like Darpan and Dharmasala, illegal mining op erations continued unabated. Former Jajpur district collec

tor Chakravarti Singh Rathore had issued instructions to shut down illegal crushers, February 26, 2021. Approved crushers were mandated to install CCTV cameras and maintain a regis ter to record the details of ray materials received. Tehsildars were tasked to examine these registers and CCTV footage ev ery 15 days and submit their re ports. If any discrepancies were found, strict action was directed against owners of the concerned crusher units.

When contacted over the alleged illegal mining of minor minerals, Jayaprakash Nayak, Deputy Director of the de partment stated that various measures have been taken to address these issues. He as serted that the department had achieved considerable success in controlling illegal mining activities.

3 killed as bus hits bike in Dhenkanal

Dhenkanal: In a tragic incident, three persons were killed after a bus hit the motorcycle on which they were travelling from behind near Khairamunda village under Parjang police limits in Dhenkanal district, Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Sagar Pradhan, 24, Sumant Parida, 55, and Soumya Ranjan Sahu, 19 - residents of Naupalakateni village. The deceased

worked as masons. As per reports, the mishap took place when the trio was travelling on the National Highway -53 towards Khairamunda on a motorcycle for house construction works. As they neared Khairamunda village, a speeding bus hit the motorcycle from behind, causing the rider and pillions fall off the vehicle. They succumbed on the spot owing to the deep injuries they suffered in the accident. The incident led to tension in the area, with locals staging a road blockade over compensation for the families of the deceased.

e-Tender No. 23-SBP-TRD-OT-

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All such manual offers shall be considere

valid and shall be rejected summaril

omplete information including e-tende ocuments of the above e-tender i vailable in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders mus have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal Only registered tenderer/bidder car participate on e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) PR-793/P/24-25 Sambalput

(TIG)"

Months

Hrs. on 30.12.2024.

ithout any consideration

Freedom fighter Rendo Majhi remembered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhawanipatna, Dec 10: Odisha Tuesday remembered freedom fighter and tribal icon Rendo Majhi on his 169th martyrdom day.

Rendo Majhi headed a movement against the British from 1853 till he was shot dead by the police two years later.

Taking to X, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said "A humble tribute to the great freedom fighter, tribal leader Rendo Maihi, on his sacrifice day. His



dedication and sacrifice for the protection of motherland will always be remembered.'

Rendo Majhi, along with his 19 associates, was gunned down by British police while they were taking rest at Urladani in Kalahandi district December 10, 1855. He became the target of the British police following his revolt against the East India Company's interference in the socio-cultural and religious matters of tribals and intervention in the rights of tribal on minor forest products.

Strawberry farming halts in Niyamgiri as aid flow dries up

OST NEWS NETWORK

Ravagada. Dec 10: Strawberry farming has come to a halt on Niyamgiri hills in this district. This has happened after the Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP) closed down its activities in the area, locals said. OPELIP was providing financial assistance and technical know-how to the tribal community for strawberry cultivation.

In a promising initiative last year, Lakunu Jakasika, a resident of Kurli panchayat under Bisamcuttack block in this district. cultivated strawberries for the first time on Niyamgiri hills. His efforts yielded profitable results. OPELIP which was assisting the Dongria Kondh Development Agency provided comprehensive support, including technical



know-how and resources for the cultivation to Jakasika. However, due to the shutdown of OPELIP. Jakasika did not receive any assistance this year and was forced to abandon strawberry farming.

Last year, Jakasika invested 3.5 lakh on strawberry farming, which included costs for saplings, fertilizers, drip irrigation and labour. After

the harvest, he marketed the produce under the 'Niyamgiri' brand name, and earned approximately 7 lakh. The strawberries were sold in markets across this district and even at the Adivasi Mela issue, following (Tribal Fair) in Bhubaneswar.

which Prasanta attacked her This initiative marked a with an axe significant milestone for the and repeatedly hacked her. Dongria Kondh tribal commu-Ranjita was nity, helping them embrace hit on many modern farming practices. parts of her However, the closure of OPEbody including LIP in September has disrupton the neck. The incident ed the efforts and has left the took place at community in distress.

an area under Local residents stressed on Tikayatpalli police station the importance of reviving limits in Bonai OPELIP, asserting that its subdivision. restoration could greatly con-Ranjita was tribute to the socio-economic immediatelv shifted to Bona development of the Dongria hospital and Kondhs. They urged the govlater on docernment to take swift action tors' advice she to reinstate OPELIP for the was brought to RGH. betterment of the region.



EAST COAST RAILWAY F. No. 4/1/2020-RE-RE NAME OF WORK : TRD RELATED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH THI WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF "PROVISION OF SHUNTING NECK OF 80M ON R/1 AT SIKIR (SFK) END OF TITLAGARH (TIG) STATION WITH PROVISION OF DS & EXTENSION OF EXISTING SHUNTING NECK AT SAMBALPUR (SBP) END OF R/7 FOR A LENGTH OF 550M TO KEEP RAKE OF

Upon inspection, approx-

imately 160 ton of fish were

found in the two vessels. Sub-

sequently, the vessels and the

crew members were brought to

Paradip for further investiga-

tion, it said. Both vessels were

booked under the Maritime

Zones of India Act, 1981. The

Coast Guard said it was coor-

dinating with relevant author-

ities, including the Ministry of

External Affairs and the Fish-

eries Department, for further

The Government of India invites applications from the eligible candidates for filling up one post of Whole-Time member in International Financial Services Centres Authority, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat. The whole-time Member shall have an option to receive pay as admissible to an Additional Secretary to the Government of India

legal actions.

The particulars of the post and eligibility conditions may be seen on the Ministry's website at https://www.dea.gov.in/vacancydeputation-department-economic-affairs under Department of

Applications of eligible candidates in the prescribed proforma along with certified copies of required documents may be forwarded, through proper channel (wherever applicable) so as to reach to the undersigned in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Room No. 71B, North Block, New Delhi-110001 on or before

Sd./- (Shekhar Chaudhary) Director (RE) Tel: 2309 5009



PR-793/P/24-25

For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the UCO Bank, Puri Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, Puri Branch for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon

PURI BRANCH / Name and Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Rajesh Kumar Agrawalla,			All that part & parcel of the property Standing
2) Mr. Ashok Kumar Agrawalla, 3) Mr. Deepak	as on 13.09.2024	1	in the name of 1) Mr. Rajesh Kumar
Kumar Agrawalla / Guarantors: 1) Poonam	+ further interest & other charges thereon		Agrawalla, 2) Mr. Ashok Kumar Agrawalla, 3) Mr. Deepak Kumar Agrawalla, situated
Agrawalla, 2) Mina Agrawalla, 3) Krishna	over Khata No : 367 P	lot No · 360 Are	a: Ac 0 120 Dec Mouza: Dolamandan Sahi-1
Agrawalla, All are At: Suar Sahi, Near Nahar	P.S: Puri Town, Tahas	sil: Puri, Dist.: F	Puri, Bounded by North: Ganeswar Patra and
Gali, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752001	others, South: Narayar	Mishra, East: S	Sweeper Path, West: Road
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.12.2024			Authorised Officer, UCO Bank











power post

FOCUS ECONOMY

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

SRI AUROBINDO

Listless INDIAlliance

ays after TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee voiced her discontent with the functioning of the INDIA bloc, indicating her intent to lead the alliance, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yaday today has asserted that the West Bengal Chief Minister should be allowed to lead the Opposition alliance.

Yadav categorically stated that Banerjee should be allowed to lead the INDIA bloc, indicating the unacceptability of the present situation with the Congress and Rahul Gandhi as leading the pack. When reporters questioned about the Congress' reluctance to accept her as the leader of the Opposition coalition, Yadav bluntly responded, "The Congress' opposition will not make any difference. She should be allowed to lead the INDIA bloc.³

In response to Yadav's remarks, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut suggested that his party is willing to consider the possibility of a leader from outside the Congress heading the INDIA bloc.

"Still, if the INDIA bloc is to be strengthened again, everyone wishes to discuss (issues related to) leadership, who can give time to the alliance....(whether it could be) Mamata Banerjee, Uddhav Thackeray, Lalu Prasad, Sharad Pawar or Akhilesh Yadav," Raut said

He mentioned that even Naveen Patnaik, the chief of the Biju Janata Dal, which has always collaborated with the BJP, could join INDIA although in political circles the acceptance for Patnaik is very low

Earlier, Mamata Banerjee had expressed her confidence in managing both her duties as the leader of the Opposition front and her position as Chief Minister of West Bengal simultaneously.

"I had formed the INDIA bloc, now it is up to those leading the front to manage it. If they can't run the show, what can I do? I would just say that everyone needs to be taken along," Banerjee had said in an interview to a Bengali news channel.

Last week, the Samajwadi Party (SP) announced its exit from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra following a statement on 6 December from a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader praising the demolition of the Babri Masjid. The UBT faction now probably realises that it has lost the baton of Hindutva to the BJP in Maharashtra and therefore continuance under Rahul Gandhi's leadership can only result in further decimation of its Hindu party image.

The Congress leadership has utterly failed to retain faith of the masses. This has been happening even when people are desperately looking for an acceptable alternative. A sizeable percentage of fence sitters, often the class that is decisive during voting, had turned in favour of Rahul during his first padayatra, Bharat Jodo. Many known faces had openly joined his walk. That group started viewing him as a person with a mind of his own even when he was faltering and confusing. This was not limited to urban elites only but spread to rural parts of the country also. However, Rahul's immediate trip abroad and his speeches condemning India and the manner most systems were functioning in this country again pushed him to the corner of ridicule. People laughed that Sam could easily waylay him without his understanding. Such inabilities demonstrate how Rahul Gandhi has been on a Snake & Ladder board forever. He goes up two flights and comes down four of them

A gamble to change leadership and bring in a new, strong and non compromising face might be the secret key the INDIAlliance has been looking for since inception.

WISDOM CORNER

God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. Yet his shadow still looms. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives; who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves?

NEED FOR MORE FAIR PAY

he Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India. Anantha Nageswaran, while speaking to corporate leaders at an industry chamber event, cautioned that employee compensation growth was poor while India Inc was enjoying a record profit growth. After COVID, the share of post-tax profit of companies listed on the stock exchange has risen to 5.2% of GDP, which is a figure only seen during the boom times of 2007-08. This is the highest ratio in the last 15 years. For Nifty 500 companies, this ratio is 4.8%. It has risen quite steeply in the past three years alone. At the same time employee compensation share has been coming down. Employment growth in the corporate or formal sector has been poor, and within the employed category, wage or salary growth is nothing compared to the growth in profits. As per a report from Motilal Oswal Financial Services, the growth in profit of Nifty-500 companies

Ajit Ranade

THE SHARE OF

INDUSTRY HAS

WORKERS IN

STAGNATED

FOR FAR TOO

LONG. AND SO

HAVE WAGES

over 2020 to 2024 was 34.5% per year, whereas the GDP was growing only at 10.1% By comparison the growth in salaries was not even commensurate with the inflation rate. Economists Amit Basole and Zico Dasgupta report that from the third quarter of 2021-22 to the second quarter of 2023-24 the average real GDP growth rate was 6.7% whereas regular wages stagnated (minus 0.07% growth). Their findings are based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data published by the government every three months. This PLFS data will soon be available on monthly basis.

The divergence in growth rate of GDP and wages was evident even before the pandemic. For instance, in the 11 quarters from 2017-18 till just before COVID, GDP was growing at 4.8%, but regular wages growth rate was a mere 0.21%. Basole and Dasgupta point out that from 2017 till



At some point the issue of fair compensation is not only important for sustaining purchasing power and consumer spending growth, but also one of equity and justice

2024 regular wages, together with earnings of self-employed persons, growth is just 1%. A recent report from Citibank says that for the first three quarters of 2024 the growth in inflation adjusted wage cost for listed Indian companies has remained below 2%, as against a ten-year average of 4.4%. Thus, it is half of long-term growth.

Thus, the CEA's caution to leaders of corporate India is based on a longer-term phenomenon of declining share of wage and salary income as compared to profit share. The CEA was exhorting industry leaders to do their share to ensure the growth boom was shared more equitably.

The CEA's cautionary comments can be read alongside the surprising GDP growth data for the second quarter of this year. At 5.4% it was much lower than expectations. Some of the slowdown is being attributed to slower capital spending growth by the government due to elections. But surely the bigger contributor is slowing down of consumer spending, especially in urban areas. Prominent FMCG companies like Nestle, Hindustan Lever and others reported stagnant or falling sales during the July to September quarter. Of course, urban consumers might be shifting to other less expensive brands, or reducing quantities purchased and also discretionary spending. But the FMCG company fortunes are a bellwether indicator of urban spending. It is clear that the urban consumer is facing adverse macro factors, with inflation eating into purchasing power, and wage stagnation keeping income growth limited.

The implication of all this is that aggregate GDP growth, expected to revive to above 6.5% by next year, and continuing robust growth of company profits must somehow become more inclusive. In the classical textbook analysis, we look at the share of labour and capital in the growing national income. If both shares keep pace with national income growth that is good. But a declining share of labour income has adverse consequences for consumer spending, and also income inequality. One could argue that the same workers could also own company shares via mutual funds and their savings. But then dividend income is still a minuscule part of household income for most workers. So, wage and salary income is their main source.

There can be no diktat that India Inc should increase the compensation share to its workers. Besides it is re-

lated to the larger issue of the changing pattern of employment itself. There has been an increase in contract workers and also gig workers (who cannot be even considered employees). The strong emergence of Artificial Intelligence means many companies and businesses are probably downsizing and resorting to more automation. At the same time India Inc often complains about the acute shortage of skilled and semi-skilled workers. The share of the workforce engaged in agriculture has actually increased during the pandemic phase, thanks to reverse migration and industrial downsizing. The share of workers in industry has stagnated for far too long. And so have wages. As per a report of WorkIndia, more than 57% of blue-collar jobs in India pay less than Rs 20,000 a month. That is probably justified because of low average productivity. We are thus caught in a cycle of low productivity, low skills, low pay and low employment. Which causes industrial and services growth to be more capital intensive, which in turn increases the skill shortage, and the weird coexistence of high unemployment and scarcity of skilled manpower.

At some point the issue of fair compensation is not only important for sustaining purchasing power and consumer spending growth, but also one of equity and justice. The medium-term solution is extensive government support for skilling via on-thejob training and providing incentives to employers. large scale internships, student loans and relaxing the onerous burden of labour laws which have thwarted growth in employment. The CEA is to be applauded for bringing the issue of fair compensation to the forefront.

> The writer is a noted Pune-based economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

JEST THIS Eating chocolate may reduce diabetes risk

hen my wife and I in- pear if you can't stop drinking. prefer milk chocolate to dark vite friends for din-

You are better off drinking a

chocolate.

the study's co-author Qi Sun. "Even though dark and milk chocolate have similar levels of calories and saturated fat, it appears that the rich polyphenols in dark chocolate might offset the effects of saturated fat and sugar on weight gain and diabetes." The participants in the study were mostly white, so the results may not apply to all races. Indeed, if white people benefit from eating dark chocolate, perhaps dark people can benefit from eating white chocolate. (Now you know why I'm not a scientist.) It's worth noting that previous studies have shown a correlation (not causation) between eating dark chocolate and a reduced risk for cardiovascular disease. Chocolate consumption has also been linked to lower blood pressure and improved blood cholesterol.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCH

The only objects of practical reason are therefore those of good and evil. For by the former is meant an object necessarily desired according to a principle of reason; by the latter one necessarily shunned, also according to a principle of reason.

- IMMANUEL KANT
- The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion, by prejudice.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1936: Abdication of King Edward VIII, Edward VIII, failing to win acceptance for his desire to marry American divorcée Wallis Warfield Simpson, became the only British sovereign to voluntarily resign the crown, his abdication formally approved this day in 1936.
- 1941: Adolf Hitler declared that Germany was at war with the United States following the Japanese attacks on the U.S., British, and Dutch positions in the Pacific and in East Asia.
- 1946: UNICEF-a United Nations program devoted to improving the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children-was established
- **1972:** Apollo 17 astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt became the last humans to walk on the Moon.
- **1978:** Nearly \$6 million in cash and jewels was stolen from the air cargo building of the German airline Lufthansa at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City; at the time, the Lufthansa heist, as it became known, was the largest-ever cash theft in the United States.
- **1981:** American boxer Muhammad Ali fought his last professional bout, losing to Trevor Berbick in a decision
- **1997:** Kyoto Protocol adopted. The Protocol is a part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international treaty that calls for the restriction of greenhouse gasses by the signatories. The United States signed the treaty but did not ratify it.
- **1998:** The Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives recommended three articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton. to which would be added a fourth article the following day, for actions taken in connection with his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.



PIECES EACH DAY ARE ENOUGH TO DERIVE ANY HEALTH BENEFITS

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

(0)

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

dit@orissapost.com

columns (between 600-1000

ner, they often show up bearing small gifts. The most common gifts are wine and chocolate. I really appreciate these gifts, because they show how much our friends care about our health

Are wine and chocolate really good for you? It depends on which scientist manages to bamboozle you.

Well, they're not really trying to deceive you — they just happen to come up with contradictory results from their research studies. According to one group of scientists, a glass of wine each day will make you healthier. According to another group, a glass of wine will make your doctor wealthier.

In general, however, the health risks associated with drinking alcohol greatly outweigh any benefits, especially since many people are unable to control themselves. Even if drinking a small glass of wine may offer minimal benefits. these benefits quickly disap-

glass of carrot juice, because in the history of the world, there have been only a few cases of carrot juice addiction. And all of them involved rabbits.

Moderation is also advisable when it comes to chocolate. You don't want to turn into a chocoholic. Just a few pieces each day are enough to derive any health benefits. One of these benefits, according to a new study from Harvard University, is diabetes prevention.

The study, published in The BMJ, a medical journal, suggests that consuming dark chocolate may reduce your risk of getting Type 2 diabetes by 21 per cent. As you're probably aware, Indians and other South Asians have a higher risk for Type 2 diabetes than other ethnic groups. Diabetes runs in my family and I've been diagnosed as pre-diabetic, so the Harvard study makes me wonder why my doctor hasn't prescribed more chocolate for me. Unfortunately, I

'Our findings suggest that not all chocolate is created equal," said the study's lead author Binkai Liu. "For anyone who loves chocolate, this is a reminder that making small choices, like choosing dark chocolate over milk chocolate, can make a positive difference to their health.'

To conduct their study, the researchers looked at health data collected over 30-plus years from 192,000 adult participants. They found that people who consumed at least five servings of dark chocolate per week showed a 21 per cent lower risk of Type 2 diabetes. People who consumed milk chocolate did not get the same benefit. Instead, they just got fat. (Weight gain was connected to increased consumption of milk chocolate, but not dark chocolate.)

"We were surprised by the clear split between dark and milk chocolate's impact on diabetes risk and long-term weight management," said

So if you happen to be coming to my house for dinner, please don't bring wine. Bring chocolate instead — the darker, the better.

Phase of uncertainty

Sir, The manner in which Islamic rebels conquered Syria's capital Damascus and forced President Bashar al-Assad to flee the country is not only surprising, but it may also mark the start of a new era of uncertainty for West Asia as a whole. The excitement with which Syrians welcomed the opposition soldiers demonstrates that Assad has become even more unpopular. His disfavour stemmed from his brutal governance. Syria has been dealing with insecurity and upheaval for nearly 13 years. Iran has suffered a significant setback with the seizure of Syria by rebel forces. It is doubtful that Iran will sit in peace after the demise of the administration it sponsored in Syria. Even if the rebels win Syria without massive violence, the chances of durable peace are slim because Turkey wants to administer the country its way. Although India's economic ties with Syria have not grown significantly, both countries have joined forces in the battle against terror. Not only that, Assad has always supported India over the Kashmir issue. It remains to be seen what kind and how much Syria's posture will alter considering the new circumstances. Indian-Turkish relations have recently improved. While Turkey's stand on Kashmir has softened, India has not attempted to block Turkey's membership into BRICS

Political gimmick

Sir, By invoking Article 67(B) of the Constitution, the Opposition INDIA bloc is planning to table a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, the main reason being dissatisfaction with his handling of Upper House proceedings. The Opposition has accused him of being partisan, interrupting their speeches, not allowing debate opportunities and showing favouritism towards the ruling party. The Opposition claims that for this they have the support of 70 MPs from Congress, TMC, AAP, SP, and other bloc members. It has to be noted that this comes amid rising voices of discontent within the INDIA bloc over Rahul Gandhi's leadership. When the alliance itself needs immediate remedy for its disunity the no-confidence motion is nothing but a gimmick to divert the attention of the public. *M Pradyu*, ,KANNUR

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR















FAMILY IN PERIL

Joicy awaits word on kin in Russia's war zone



Stranded somewhere in a war-torn region of Ukraine now under Russian control, Binil and his relative Jain TK lost their mobile phones and other valuables, further compounding their hardships, and have been seeking help from authorities for their return

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur (Kerala), Dec 10: Binil TB. an electrician from Thrissur. left for Russia seven months ago, hoping to secure a better job and higher wages while his wife was expecting their first child. Sadly, he couldn't share the joy of his son's birth four months ago.

Stranded somewhere in a war-torn region of Ukraine now under Russian control, Binil and his relative Jain TK lost their mobile phones and other valuables, further compounding their hardships, and have been seeking help from authorities for their return, according to relatives.

Joicy John, a resident of Kurancheri near Wadakkanchery in Thrissur district, and wife of Binil, has been knocking on the doors of the authorities in an attempt to bring them back home

A mother to a four-monthold baby boy, Joicy has been overwhelmed with anxiety after receiving Binil's last audio message Monday

In the message, he revealed that Russian authorities had ordered him and his cousin-inlaw, Jain, to report to the war

Joicy has approached the state government, **Union Minister and Thrissur MP Suresh Gopi, all other MPs** from the state and the Indian Embassy in Moscow, to ensure the early release of her husband and relative

from the war zone

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front. Her worries have deepened with reports that Binil is currently in an area under relentless airstrikes.

Joicy has approached the state government, Union Minister and Thrissur MP Suresh Gopi, all other MPs from the state and the Indian Embassy in Moscow. to ensure the early release of her husband and relative from the war zone.

"The embassy officials have said they are awaiting communication from the Russian authorities," Joicy said, expressing frustration over the month-long wait.

She added that the last message from Binil mentioned they had been instructed to move to the war front.

"I have lost all peace of mind as it has been since seven months they had left," Joicy, a nurse at a private medical college in Thrissur, currently on maternity leave, told PTI. Binil (32) and Jain (27) are

ITI mechanical diploma holders and had gone to Russia April 4, hoping to work as electricians, and plumbers in Russia.

However, upon arrival, their Indian passports were confiscated and subsequently they were deployed to the war zone as part of the Russian Military Support Service,

Joicy said. Initially, Binil and his relative were promised a monthly salary of ₹2 lakh in Russia, but they have not received any payment so far.

In June, during a camp relocation, Binil lost his luggage and mobile phone, cutting off contact with his family for two months. It was only in the last week of August that he managed to call home using Wi-Fi at a camp and update them on his situation.

'They lost their ATM cards and other important documents. It's unclear if they are receiving any salary, but they haven't been able to send a single rupee home so far," said Joicy, who is now caring for their newborn baby and Binil's elderly parents

204 projects face actions under GRAP

DELHI

Authorities took action against 775 illegal dumping sites, sealed 259 diesel generators, and addressed more than 24,000 complaints during the peak implementation period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: A total of 260 sites were flagged for dust violations, 204 faced Environmental Clearance action, and 35 received closure orders under the Graded Response Action Plan to combat Delhi's hazardous air quality, officials said Tuesday.

Authorities took action against 775 illegal dumping sites, sealed 259 diesel generators, and addressed more than 24,000 complaints during the peak implementation period, thev said.

In their ongoing efforts to combat severe pollution levels, Delhi's environmental bodies have enforced stringent measures under various stages of the GRAP.

According to official data, in the construction and demolition (C&D) sector, 6,741 sites (=500 sqm) were inspected for compliance with dust mitigation norms, of which 260



were found non-compliant and flagged. Environmental Clearance was imposed on 204 projects (=500 sqm), while 35 projects were issued closure orders, officials said.

Additionally, 974 inspections were carried out to identify illegal dumping sites, resulting ir 775 actions taken against illegal dumpers. Furthermore, 31 challans were issued for violations related to municipal solid waste burning, and 246 complaints of open burning were addressed, the data revealed, they said.

Delhi's air quality reached alarming levels November 17. with the Air Quality Index

(AQI) touching 450, entering the severe-plus category for the first time this year.

In response, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region (CAQM) imposed Stage IV restrictions -- the strictest level of action -- under the GRAP.

These Stage IV restrictions came into effect on the morning of November 18, when AQI levels reached a hazardous 494. marking the city's second-worst air quality in six years.

From October 16 to December 7. significant measures were taken under the Road Dust Management initiative.

A total of 18,217 anti-smog guns were deployed to sup press dust particles, 13,163 water sprinklers were utilised to curb dust re-suspension on roads, and 4,416 mechanical road sweeping machines were operated extensively.

Additionally, 1,35,350 km of roads were mechanically swept to reduce particulate matter the data revealed.

In the industrial sector, 88 industrial units were physically inspected under GRAP Stage IV guidelines

Compliance monitoring of Diesel Generator (DG) sets led to the inspections of 1,748 DG sets, with 259 of them sealed for violating environmenta regulations.

In the hotel and restaurant sector, 570 inspections were conducted to ensure compliance with fuel type usage regulations, with 36 violations recorded.

The data also highlighted that 24,367 complaints were registered across various platforms, including the 311 App and Green Delhi App.

Of these, 5,839 complaints were successfully resolved, showcasing an active grievance redressal mechanism.

Additionally, 52 linear con struction projects violating air pollution norms were identified and flagged, while 44 heaters were distributed to economical ly weaker sections to provide community support during the cold season, it added.



help a devotee climbing the steps of the Sabarimala temple, in Pathanamthitta district. Kerala. Tuesday. Dec. 10, 2024. PTI Photo

Over 250 bird species spotted From tragedy to triumph, Shruti embarks on a new journey

during annual winter count

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: The annual winter birdcount has highlighted the rich avian diversity of Delhi-NCR, recording over 254

bird species in a single day, including rare Griffon, Slender-billed said Monday. Organised

15 teams

experienced

sightings like the Little Bunting, Eurasian and Gull, organisers Sunday by than more

Despite a of winter impacting population sizes, the of birdlife remains or even in previous

birders. the Delhi Winter Birdcount 2024 emphasised the importance of preserving diverse habitats amid urbanisation.

of

According to the organisers, this year's count surpassed previous years' figures, when

winter impacting population sizes, the diversity of birdlife delayed onset comparable better than ears

> time in the region. Other notable species included vagrant birds like the Eurasian Griffon and Slender-billed Gull, along with rare winter visitors such as the Jack Snipe. Greater Spotted Eagle, and Baillon's Crake.

Shruti lost nine of her relatives, including her parents and sibling. in Despite a delayed onset of the June 30 landslides in Chooralmala and her fiance in a road ble or even accident later

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Dec 10: Shruti, who lost her entire family in the Wayanad landslide disaster and later her fiancé in a road accident, began a new chapter of hope Monday by joining government service. The state cabinet recently

for the first decided to provide a government job to the young woman, who had endured back-to-back tragedies with the loss of her loved ones.

As promised, she joined the Revenue Department as a clerk in the mountainous district.



Local political leaders accompanied Shruti to her designated office as she started her career

Speaking to reporters later, she expressed heartfelt gratitude to the government and everyone who supported her during her difficult times.

"I am not naming anyone specifically. Everyone supported me thoroughly. I am sincerely thankful." Shruti said. She also mentioned that she

she joined would surely the Revenue continue her Department as a clerk in the job despite facing health mountainous issues following the recent road accident in

which she and her fiancé, Jenson, were involved.

Jenson (27), who had selflessly stood by Shruti after she lost her entire family in the devastating landslides, succumbed to his injuries in September.

district

Tragedy had struck Shruti July 30 when her family of nine, including her parents and sister, were killed in the landslides that devastated Chooralmala and Mundakkai villages in the Meppadi pan-

chayat

The Jenson state cabinet was her onrecently decided to ly support provide a government during b to the young woman, those who had endured tragic back-to-back tragedies times, with the loss of her to whom loved ones

Shruti had been engaged June 2 after a

10-year-long courtship. She also lost approximately ₹4 lakh in cash, around 15 sovereigns of gold, and her newly built home, which was washed away in the landslides that claimed over 200 lives.

Before starting her new role, Revenue Minister K Rajan called Shruti to extend his best wishes for her new assign-

ment Later, in a Facebook post Chief Minister Pinarayi Vi jayan reaffirmed the LDF government's commitment to supporting disaster victims and guiding them toward a hopeful future.

Shruti, who lost her loved ones in the Chooralmala-Mun dakkai landslide disaster joined the Revenue Depart ment as an officer today, ful filling the promise made to her by the government, the Chief Minister said.

The CM recalled the tragic loss of nine members of Shruti's family, including her parents and sister, in the landslide, and the subsequent death of her fiancé, Jenson, in an accident.

"The government had assured her that she would not be left alone. Today, that promise has been fulfilled as Shruti begins her new role,' Vijayan stated in his Facebook post.

Delhi govt accepts DTC workers' demands

Chief Minister Atishi promised to hike salaries of Delhi Transport Corporation drivers and conductors, with a periodic revision in their dearness allowance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: Delhi Chief Minister Atishi announced Monday that all Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) drivers will be trained to operate electric buses as part of the city's plan to transition its entire bus fleet to electric vehicles. She also assured that senior drivers, particularly assistant ticket inspectors, would be given priority for employment in the new electric bus fleet.

Addressing a press conference, Atishi stated that the Delhi government had agreed to several key demands made by DTC workers, who had recently gone on strike to protest their working conditions.

"DTC bus services play a crucial role in Delhi's transportation system. There are 4,500 contractual drivers and 17.850 contractual conductors in DTC. Recently, they went on strike.



all drivers can provide their details, and an online list will be released to make the process more transparent. The new policy aims to ensure that workers are assigned to depots nearer to their homes ATISHI | CM, DELHI

We listened to their demands, which are absolutely justified. I want to thank them for ending the strike and responding to our appeal after two days of protests. We are working on addressing their demands," she said.

One of the primary issues raised by the workers was the transfer of female DTC employ-

ees stationed at the Sarojini Nagar Pink Bus Depot.

Atishi said that the government had resolved this issue by transferring the workers back to their original depots, addressing a major point of contention that led to the strike. Another significant concern was the workers' request for postings closer to

their homes. Atishi explained that the Delhi government had introduced a new policy aimed at rationalising duty stations for drivers and conductors. "An online form will be created so that all drivers can provide their details, and an online list will be released to make the process more transparent," she said. The new policy aims to ensure that workers are assigned to depots nearer to their homes, she added.

In response to the workers' demand for improved compensation, the Delhi government has given in-principle approval for a proposal to increase the salaries of contractual drivers and conductors, the CM said.

Kejriwal woos Delhi's auto drivers ahead of polls

New Delhi: In a bid to bolster grassroots support in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly polls, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday announced five guarantees for the city's autorickshaw drivers, including a ₹10 lakh life insurance scheme. His other promises include ₹1 lakh assistance for the wedding of a daughter, ₹2,500 uniform allowance twice a year on Holi and Diwali, and free coaching for auto drivers' children to prepare for competitive exams. Kejriwal made the announcement after breaking bread with the family members of auto driver Navneet in the Kondli constituency. He was accompanied by his wife Sunita Keiriwal. Sharing photos of the meeting on X, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said, "Arvind Kejriwal, the brother of Delhi's auto drivers, and his wife Sunita Kejriwal today visited the house of an auto driver brother, met his family and had food with them.' Emphasising AAP's commitment to the welfare of auto-rickshaw drivers, Kejriwal unveiled five guarantees that would be implemented if the party is re-elected to power. "I am announcing five guarantees for all auto-rickshaw drivers: Life insurance of up to ₹10 lakh, accident insurance of up to ₹5 lakh, ₹1 lakh assistance for the wedding of a daughter, ₹2,500 uniform allowance twice a year on Holi and Diwali, and free coaching for children to prepare for competitive exams.'















national



I am announcing five guarantees for all auto-rickshaw drivers: Life insurance of up to ₹10 lakh, accident insurance of up to ₹5 lakh, ₹1 lakh assistance for the wedding of a daughter, ₹2,500 uniform allowance twice a year on Holi and Diwali, and free coaching for children to prepare for competitive exams ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP SUPREMO

23 FUGITIVES EXTRADITED FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

A total of 23 fugitives have been successfully extradited from different countries in the last five years during which India has made 178 such requests including for persons involved in terrorist activities, Union Minister Nityanand Rai informed Lok Sabha Tuesday





Saddened by the demise of S M Krishna, senior public leader and former Chief Minister of Karnata-

ka. He served as our External Affairs Minister, too MAMATA BANERIFE WEST BENGAL CM

Historically. we have shared boundaries with Bangladesh. Myanmar, and West Bengal. We (Assamese people) are a minority in 12 districts HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

2.65 lakh physically challenged persons have been covered under the State

Pension Scheme and ₹278.17 crore was paid to beneficiaries in 2024-25 BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

Abhav Kumar India's next envoy to Georgia

New Delhi: Senior diplomat Abhay Kumar has been appointed India's new ambassador to Georgia. Kumar, a joint secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), is currently serving as deputy director general of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly, according to the MEA. Kumar joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 2003 after completing his postgraduate degree in geography from the Jawaharlal Nehru University

Maha: Sarpanch killed, 2 detained

Chhatrapati Sambajinagar: A village head was abducted and murdered by some persons, after which angry villagers blocked roads in Beed district of Maharashtra, police said Tuesday. Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange joined the protesters at Massajog



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jainur/Lucknow. Dec 10: Members of various Hindu organisations and civil society groups Tuesday staged protests across India against attacks on community members in Bangladesh.

While hundreds of people from various outfits, including the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), held a protest march at Delhi's Chanakyapuri, a similar rally was taken out in Lucknow condemning the attacks on Hindus in the neighbouring country.

At Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh, protesters marched to the deputy commissioner's office to show solidarity with the Hindus in Bangladesh, while in Jammu, a large number of protesters took to the streets demanding the intervention of the Centre and the United Nations in the matter.

Similar protests, which coincided with world Human Rights Day, were also staged in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Ranchi. Guwahati, Bhubaneswar and Kolkata, among other places.

In Delhi, security was stepped up outside the Bangladesh High Commission in Chankyapuri where a large number protesters gathered to raise the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh.

Demanding the intervention of United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in the

Hindu outfits across North **India protest**

ATROCITIES ON HINDUS IN B'DESH

matter, the protesters carrying placards called upon Bangladesh to stop the alleged "genocide" of Hindus in the country.

Several personalities, including Sadhvi Ritambhara, Keshav Murari from ISKCON, former Delhi Police Commissioner SN Srivastava, ex-Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Veena Sikri, and Buddhist spiritual leader Rahul Bhante, among others, addressed the rally. A memorandum was also submitted to the Bangladesh High Commissioner by the members of Civil Society of Delhi, emphasising the his-

torically strong and cordial relations between India and Bangladesh, a statement said. In Lucknow, the Bangladesh Hindu Raksha Sangharsh Samiti took out a public outrage ral-

ly from Lucknow University to Hazratganj Square in which members of dozens of Hindu organisations took part. The protesters

submitted a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu to District Magistrate

Suryapal Gangwar. Speaking on the occasion, RSS'Akhil Bharatiya Sampark Pramukh Ramlal warned Bangladesh to immediately stop the atrocities on Hindus or face serious consequences. In Jammu, a rally organised by Deshbhakt Sarva Samaj saw the participation of hundreds of people from various walks of life, including members of Hindu outfits like Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Vishva

Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, and Sant Samaj, among others. The protesters strongly condemned the alleged attacks on Hindus and other minority communities in Bangladesh. urging the community to stand united in defence of their religion and culture.



People take part in a protest march against the recent violence in Manipur and reimposition of AFSPA in parts of the state in Imphal

Opnn, govt clash in Parl over Soros, Adani issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: Seeking to corner the Congress, the BJP Tuesday again raised in Parliament the issue of alleged links of Congress leaders with George Soros backed outfits involved in "anti-India" activities, triggering vociferous protests from the Opposition which accused the government of stalling proceedings to divert attention from the Adani issue.

As both Houses were adiourned without transacting any major business amid noisy scenes, the Congress blamed the government for the ongoing impasse in Parliament. It alleged that the BJP was "hiding behind" billionaire investor Soros and levelling "silly" allegations to save business tycoon Gautam Adani. Agitated Opposition members who have



been accusing Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar of partisan conduct Tuesday submitted a notice for moving a motion to remove him as Vice President. As soon as the Rajya Sabha met at noon after the first adjournment. Leader of the House J P Nadda raised the issue of alleged links between the Congress leadership and Soros, claiming that they were conniving to destabilise the country.

This led to an uproar in the House, with Opposition members raising slogans against the BJP and the treasury benches demanding answers from the Congress. This is the first time that the BJP raised the issue in Rajya Sabha in the presence of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. The Congress' Deputy Leader of the House Pramod Tiwari rejected Nadda's allegations and raised the Adani issue.

As stated by a US attorney, the Adani Group paid ₹23,000 crore as bribes, he alleged, demanding a discussion on the issue.

In the Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accused the Congress and its leadership of colluding with US billionaire Soros and anti-India forces, triggering noisy protests and plunging the Lok Sabha into chaos after which the House was adjourned for the day.

Portion of Noori Masjid demolished for 'encroachment' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Fatehpur (UP), Dec 10: Amid tight security, a portion of the 185-year-old Noori Masjid in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur dis trict was demolished by local authorities Tuesday claiming it was illegally constructed two-three years ago and was obstructing the widening of the Banda-Bahraich Highway.

The mosque's manage ment committee chief, how ever, claimed that the Noori Masjid in Lalauli town was built in 1839 while the road around it came up only in 1956, and said they have already moved the Allahabad High Court which will take up the petition

December 12. The district administration claimed that the portion demolished was illegal and had come up in the last two-three years citing satellite and historical images of the mosque's site. The Public Works Department (PWD) had, in connection with the widening of Banda-Bah raich Highwav No. 13, given a notice to remove some parts of the mosque due to their "illegal construction", but the mosque management did not implement it, according to officials. "About 20 metres of Noori Masjid, which was ob structing the widening of Banda-Bahraich Highway No. 13 was demolished by a bulldozer Tuesday in the presence of offi cials and now its debris is being removed," Lalauli police sta tion in-charge Inspector Vrindavan Rai told PTI. In response to a question, he said. "Law and order remains strong. All shops within a radi us of about 200 metres around the mosque have been closed and an area of 300 metres radius has been sealed." Lalauli virtually turned into a police cantonment during the demolition exercise due to heavy de ployment of security personnel The precautionary step comes in the backdrop of incidents of communal tension and opposition to demolition action by authorities in the state.

EU shares evidence of Indian entities breaching G7 sanctions

village in Beed district and demanded stringent action against the culprits. Jarange warned that Maratha community members - the slain sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh was a Maratha - will take law into their hands if the killers were let off. Two persons have been arrested for allegedly killing Deshmukh, who was in his mid-30s, police said.

Rekha Sharma files nomination

Chandigarh: Former National Commission for Women chief and BJP nominee Rekha Sharma filed her nomination for the Raiva Sabha bypoll from Harvana here Tuesday. Being the lone candidate in the fray, she is set to get elected unopposed. Chief Minister Navab Singh Saini, state BJP president Mohan I al Badoli and Minister Krishan Lal Panwar were among those who accompanied Sharma when she submitted her nomination papers before the returning officer at the Haryana Assembly secretariat here.

Teen raped

Jabalpur: A man has been arrested for allegedly raping a 12-year-old girl after she refused to withdraw a complaint of molestation against him in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district, police said Tuesday. The 43-year-old accused was arrested Monday for the crime that occurred December 5, Superintendent of Police (SP) S Upadhyay told reporters. The official said the accused had been released on bail a few days ago in a molestation case registered against him based on a complaint lodged by the girl.

Trial to conclude in a month: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: The Supreme Court Tuesday took note of the CBI's latest status report and expressed confidence that the trial in the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College Hospital at Kolkata was likely to conclude in a month. After perusing the CBI's re-

port, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar noted the trial was proceeding on a daily basis -- Monday to Thursday -- at the Special CBI Court in Sealdah. It observed of the total 81 witnesses, the prosecution had recorded statements of 43 witnesses.

The bench further directed the parties to share their recommendations and suggestions on preventing gender-based violence and developing safety



protocols for doctors and medical staff at hospitals across the nation with the court-appointed national task force (NTF). The bench directed the NTF to file a report within 12 weeks from Tuesday for its consideration. "All recommendations and

suggestions be sent to the National Task force and a reply be filed by the states and UTs (union territories) to the last report of the NTF," the CJI said.

ic credentials to his name,

Krishna played his part with

aplomb as the Chief Minister

in promoting the tech sector in

Karnataka and giving a fillip to

From being a minister on

different occasions in the state

and at the Centre and a Lok

Sabha and Rajya Sabha mem-

ber to heading the Congress in

this cosmopolitan city.

The body of the post-graduate trainee doctor was found in the hospital's seminar room August 9 following which the Kolkata police arrested civic volunteer Sanjay Roy the next day in connection with the crime. While taking a suo motu notice of the case, the bench constituted the NTF August 20 to formulate a protocol to ensure safety and security of medical professionals in the wake of the crime.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: The European Union has provided India with inputs on alleged involvement of certain Indian entities in supplying "high priority" goods with possible military application to Russia in violation of Western sanctions, people familiar with the development said

EU Sanctions Envoy David O Sullivan said he visited India in October to discuss with Indian authorities "systemic solutions" to stop the "illicit flow" of the common high priority items to Russia.

There was no immediate comment from the Indian side on the matter. India has been maintaining that as a matter of policy, it does not accept unilateral sanctions and only recognises those imposed by

the UN. "I travelled to India in October 2024 for the second time to discuss with Indian authorities systemic solutions to stop the illicit flow of common high priority items to Russia," Sullivan said in response to a query.

It is learnt that he provided certain details to the Indian authorities about the Indian firms supplying products to Russia circumventing the sanctions imposed by G7 and EU sanctions on Moscow. The alleged violations by the Indian entities have come to light after Washington imposed sanctions on 19 private firms from India for their alleged role in providing "dual-use" technologies to Russia.

EU sources said two entities based in India are subject to "specific export restrictions".

S M Krishna: A suave politician who scaled many heights

FROM BEING A MINISTER ON DIFFERENT **OCCASIONS IN THE STATE AND AT THE CENTRE AND LOK SABHA, RAJYA** SABHA MEMBER TO HEADING THE **CONGRESS IN KARNATAKA -- KRISHNA** INDEED HAD A LONG INNINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 10: The suave and sophisticated Somanahalli Malliah Krishna, known as SMK by his friends and inner circle, held positions not many politicians did in his five decade career and built 'Brand Bangalore,' as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

With outstanding academ-

had a long innings.

He served as a member of the legislative Council, Assembly, Speaker, Deputy Chief Minister, Union External Affairs Minister and Governor.

Born in Somanahalli in Karnataka's Mandya district May 1, 1932, Krishna kicked off his electoral foray in style winning as an independent candidate from Maddur seat against Congress stalwart K V Shankar Gowda in the 1962 assembly elections. He later associated himself with the Praja Socialist Party before joining the Congress.

A graduate of Maharaja's College, Mysore, he obtained a law degree from the Government Law College here. Further, he studied at Southern



Methodist University, Dallas, US, and later at George Washington University, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. During his stay in the US, he had campaigned for Democrat candidate John F Kennedy contesting in the US presidential election.

After winning the election, Kennedy remembered Krishna's contribution in pulling in votes from the Indian diaspora for him. Kennedy sent a thanksgiving note, "I hope that these few lines will convey my warm appreciation for your efforts during the campaign. I am most grateful for the splendid enthusiasm of my associates. I am only sorry I have not been able to personally thank you for the excellent

work which you performed on behalf of the Democratic ticket. Without your unrelent ing efforts and loyalty, victory would not have been possible last November 8th."

In India, Krishna worked as a Professor of International Law at Renukacharya Law College

He made his Parliamentary debut in 1968 as a 'Socialist' MF and became a member of the fourth Lok Sabha. Krishna was elected to the fifth Lok Sabha too but preferred to return to state politics in 1972 when he was elected to the Legislative Council and inducted as Minister for Commerce, Industries and Parliamentary Affairs, a charge he held between 1972 and 1977.

Karnataka -- Krishna indeed









national



Today, as one reflects on the ideals enshrined in the UDHR adopted on this day in 1948, we reaffirm our collective resolve to contribute to building a world where justice and human dignity are the bedrock of society DROUPADI MURMU PRESIDENT

NIA ARRESTS KEY ACCUSED IN LAOS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The NIA Tuesday made a major breakthrough in the Laos human trafficking and cyber slavery case with the arrest of an absconding accused, who was nabbed with support of the Delhi Police's Special Cell



of the day

Electricity Minister Senthil Balaji has already explained in a detailed manner. and Adani have no ties at all. Are you prepared for a

JPC probe on the issue M K STALIN | TN CM

For us, the Mahajan Commission Report is final. Once the Mahajan Report has been accepted, the matter is settled

DIDDARAMAIAH KARNATAKA CM

Lalu Ji has insulted women by making such a remark against our chief minister. This shows his mindset. We don't give importance to what Lalu Ji claimed DILIP JAISWAL



If you take a loan and can't pay, YOU will be harassed by the bank If the government takes a loan, runs

freebies and can't pay, TAXPAYERS are harassed (more taxation!) Freebies are paid by your taxes. And, there is nothing. Absolutely NOTHING you can do about it. Given this state of helplessness: I advice folks that you should at least have the OPTION of living/ working abroad.

I am not an anti-nationalist. I am a rationalist, who gives practical advice to honest taxpayers

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Court summons actor Dharmendra

New Delhi: A Delhi court has summoned veteran Bollvwood actor Dharmendra and two others in a cheating case related to the Garam Dharam Dhaba franchise. according to the complainant's lawyer. Judicial magistrate Yashdeep Chahal passed the order against the 89-year-old actor on a complaint filed by Delhi businessman. Sushil Kumar, who alleged that he was lured into investing in the franchise, the lawyer D D Pandey said. The judge said there was a prima facie case of cheating and criminal conspiracy against the actor and the co-accused persons, Deepak Bhardwai and Umang Tiwari, and directed them to appear before the court February 20, 2025.

Top court takes note of HC UP: Seven killed in truck-pickup judge's remark at VHP event

New Delhi, Dec 10: In a significant development, the Supreme Court Tuesday took note of news reports over the purported controversial statements of Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav at a VHP function and sought details from the Allahabad High Court on the issue.

The development assumes significance amid the rising clamour seeking action from Chief Justice of India Saniiv Khanna against the high court judge for his remarks. "The Supreme Court has taken note of the newspaper reports of a speech given by Mr Justice Shekhar Kumar Yaday, a sitting judge of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. The details and particulars have been called from the High Court and the matter is under consideration (sic)," an official statement said.

At a VHP function December 8, Justice Yadav said the main aim of the uniform civil code was to promote social harmony, gender equality and secularism. He was addressing a provincial convention of the legal cell and high court unit of the VHP in Allahabad High Court.

A day later, videos of the judge speaking on provocative issues, including the law working according to the majority were circulated widely on social media, prompting strong reactions from several quarters, including Opposition leaders who questioned his reported statements, labelling it as hate speech. Lawyer and convenor of the NGO, Campaign for Judicial Account-

Farmers to resume 'Delhi Chalo' march Dec 14

ability and Reforms, Prashant

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Dec 10: Farmers, mainly from Punjab, would resume their 'Delhi Chalo' protest foot march December 14 over non-fulfilment of long-pending demands and gave a call for mass gathering at the two interstate borders along Haryana Friday to express solidarity over completing 10 months of



The development assumes significance amid the rising clamour seeking action

from Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna against the high court judge for his remarks

Bhushan Tuesday wrote a letter to CJI Khanna seeking an "in-house enquiry" into the conduct of Allahabad HC judge. Bhushan said the judge

breached judicial ethics and violated the constitutional principles of impartiality and secularism. According to Bhushan, the remarks undermined judiciary's role as a neutral arbiter and eroded public trust in its independence.

"A strong institutional response is needed to restore public faith in the judiciary," the letter said, "we call upon your office sir (the CJI), to restore the faith of the people in

the apex court on the issue. Similarly, the Bar Association of India passed a resolution condemning the statement of the high court judge. "The Bar Association of India calls upon the judge to retract his statements and tender a suitable apology for his remarks and urges the Chief Justice of India and companion judges

the institution of the judiciary

by immediately setting up an

in-house committee to enquire

into acts of judicial impropriety

by Justice Yadav and by with-

drawing all judicial work from

Justice Yadav." On December

8, CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat

wrote to the CJI stating the

judge's speech was a violation

of his oath, demanding, "no

place for such persons in a

Karat sought action from

court of justice"

of the Supreme Court to deal with this issue in a stern and emphatic manner. It also emphasises that events conducted by organisations not concerned with the administration of justice as a matter of principle should not be permitted on any court premises," it said.

vehicle collision

Hathras (UP), Dec 10: Seven persons lost their lives and 14 others were injured in a head-on collision between a container truck and pickup vehicle here Tuesday, a senior official said.

According to police, the accident took place at the Jaitpur village under the Hathras Junction police station. Hath ras District Magistrate Rahul Pandey told PTI, "Seven persons have died in the accident. This includes three men, three women and a child.'

He added that seven injured persons are undergoing treatment at the district hospital in Hathras, while seven others have been referred to a higher medical centre for treatment. Speaking to reporters, the DM said the pickup vehicle was going towards Etah and it collided head-on with a container truck.

He added that people of a family were travelling in the pickup vehicle. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a post on X termed the loss of lives as "extremely sad and heart-wrenching."

"District administration officials have been instructed to carry out relief operations expeditiously and immediately take the injured to the hospital for proper treatment. I pray to Lord Shri Ram to give a place to the departed souls at his feet and provide speedy recovery to the injured," Adityanath said on X.

Adityanath also instructed that a financial assistance of ₹2 lakh each be immediate ly provided to the families of the deceased, and ₹50,000 each to the seriously injured, officials said.

Maha village passes resolution to use ballot papers in future polls



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Dec 10: Kolewadi gram sabha in Maharashtra's Satara district has resolved to conduct future elections on ballot papers, becoming the second village in the state to pass a resolution against EVMs.

The village comes under the Karad (South) Assembly constituency, earlier represented by senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan. He lost the electoral contest in November against BJP candidate Atul Bhosale by 39,355 votes

The resolution was passed after residents of Kolewadi expressed doubts over the votes cast through Electronic Voting Machines. This resolution was passed days after a section of villagers from Markadwadi in Solapur's Malshiras constituency tried to conduct mock 're-polling" using ballot papers expressing doubt on the credibility of EVMs. Their bid was thwarted by the administration and police, leading to the registration of cases

"The resolution was passed December 2 in the gram sabha meeting respecting the sentiments of villagers who demanded that upcoming elections be held on ballot papers and not on EVMs," Shankarrao Patil, husband of the village sarpanch Ratnamala Patil, said Tuesdav

Patil said villagers were surprised as Prithviraj Cha-

he village comes under the Karad (South) Assembly constituency, earlier represented by senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan

e lost the electoral contest in November against BJP candidate Atul Bhosale by 39,355 votes

of votes in Kolewadi during assembly elections. A Gram Sevak also confirmed the passing of the resolution.

"The Kolewadi gram sabha passed a resolution stating that future elections should be conducted through ballot papers without EVMs," a villager said. He said the Election Commis sion should revert to the ballot paper mechanism in view of a "collective demand"

"We have resolved that the people of Kolewadi will vote only if the process is conducted using ballot papers. We won't vote if EVMs are used in future elections," he said.

If the administration doesn't allow us to vote on ballot papers, we will boycott the polling process, he added. Satara district collector Jitendra Dudi said his office had not received a copy of the purported resolution from the gram panchayat.

"Since we have not received the copy, it would not be appropriate for me to comment. Once we receive the copy, we will take the required measures, he said.



BEST BUS CRASH



As many as 22 vehicles were damaged in the incident which took place at around 9.30 pm Monday on the SG Barve Marg in Kurla (West)

van failed to get a desired lead

3 killed as bus falls into gorge

Shimla: A private bus with over 30 passengers on board fell into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district Tuesday, killing three people and seriously injuring 15 others, police said. The bus driver among three died when the bus, on its way to Kullu's Anni from Karsog, fell into a gorge near Shawad village, they said. Anni subdivision is on the border of Kullu and Shimla district.

3 of family die in road accident

Dehradun: Three members of a family from Delhi died Tuesday after the car they were travelling fell into a gorge in the Satpuli area of Uttarakhand's Pauri district. police said. The deceased were identified as Vinod Singh Negi (59), his wife Champa Devi (57) and their 26-year-old son Gaurav, they said. The accident occurred at Dwarikhal near Gumkhal while the family was on their way from Delhi to their ancestral village, Kuthargaon, in Pauri district.

the protest.

Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher Tuesday told the media at the protest site that a group of 101 farmers would march towards Delhi December 14 for agricultural demands in front of the Parliament.

He said Wednesday they would pray in Sikh shrines to express solidarity with the protesters and for the success of the movement. Protesting farmers suspended their foot march to Delhi December 8, two days after their first attempt, after some of them suffered injuries in teargas shelling by security personnel deployed at Shambhu, the entry point of Haryana. The farmers have been

marching in support of their long-pending demands, including legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops, loan waiver and reforms to improve conditions in the agricultural sector.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 10: Police have arrested the driver of a BEST bus involved in an accident here, which claimed seven lives and left 42 others injured, and booked him for 'culpable homicide not amounting to murder', officials said Tuesday.

As many as 22 vehicles were damaged in the incident which took place at around 9.30 pm on Monday on the SG Barve Marg in Kurla (West), they said. The bus operated by the civ-

ic-run Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST)

undertaking hit several vehicles and pedestrians following which the driver, identified as Sanjay More, was detained. An official Tuesday said the driver has been placed under arrest and will be produced in a court here.

The injured persons were undergoing treatment in various medical facilities, including Bhabha Hospital, Sion Hospital and Seven Hills Hospital, the official said, adding the condition of some of them was critical.

The injured included four police personnel, who were on bandobast duty at the time of the incident. Their condition was stable, he said.

Locals had caught the bus driver immediately after the accident and the police subsequently took him into custody, he said. He was taken to a hospital for a medical test. His blood samples were also collected to examine whether he was under the influence of alcohol, the official said.

The police have registered a case against the bus driver under sections 105 (punishment for culpable homicide that does not amount to murder) and 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) of the Bharativa Nyaya Sanhita and relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, he said.



Indian Navy and ISRO carry out Well-deck recovery trials of Crew Module for Gaganyaan mission. The trials were carried out at Eastern Naval Command using welldeck ship off the coast of Vishakhapatnam

Lalu's remark on Nitish's Mahila Yatra stirs row

The BJP and JDU leaders claimed that Prasad insulted women in the state with his comment. **Criticising him, Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary** said, "We knew Lalu ji is physically ill. But today he has shown that he has a sick mind"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Dec 10: RJD president Lalu Prasad Tuesday took a dig at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's proposed statewide 'Mahila Samvad Yatra', saying it was to "ogle at women", triggering sharp reactions from the ruling BJP and JD(U).

The BJP and JDU leaders

claimed that Prasad insulted women in the state with his comment

"Aankh Sekne Jaa Rahe Hain Apna" was Prasad's quizzical reply, which used to be a Bihari slang, to berate Kumar when asked about the CM's plans to embark on the 'Mahila Samvad Yatra'

Criticising him, Deputy CM



Samrat Choudhary said, "We knew Lalu ji is physically ill.

president Dilip Jaiswal said the comment showed the veteran leader's mindset.

"Lalu Ji has insulted women by making such a remark against our chief minister. We don't give importance to what Lalu ji claimed," he said in a statement.

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Giriraj Singh, who had formerly served in Kumar's cabinet, voiced disgust over the remark of the RJD supremo, exclaiming "Chhi! Chhi! Chhi! (shame)" Talking to reporters in Delhi, Singh said, "Only Lalu Prasad can sav such bad things about Nitish Kumar. Lalu is a selfish man whose whole life has been tainted."

JD(U) leader Neeraj Kumar said, "Lalu ji you should show your eyes to the Congress. How dare you to speak about Nitish Kumar.

The truth is that when you were in jail, your body was imprisoned in Hotwar jail and your mind was imprisoned in Charwaha Vidyalaya (school for cattle grazers).'

The CM is all set to embark on the 'Mahila Samvad Yatra from December 15 to review the progress of the government's 7-Resolves programme and feel the pulse of the people through interaction with women with an eye on next year's assembly polls.











But today he has shown that

he has a sick mind." Bihar BJP





international



I will fight for Serbia and serve only my Serbian people and all other citizens of Serbia, I will never serve foreigners, those who seek to defeat, humiliate, and destroy Serbia ALEKSANDAR VUCIC PRESIDENT, SERBIA

SRI LANKA PREZ DISSANAYAKE TO VISIT INDIA FROM DEC 15-17

Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will undertake a two-day visit to India from December 15, in his first overseas visit after assuming office, it was announced Tuesday



of the day

Our presidency (in the European Union) will be, among others, co-responsible for the shape of the

political landscape, what will the situation look like probably during the negotiations that, perhaps - there are still question marks here - will begin in the winter of this year

DONALD TUSK | PM, POLAND

The national plan is not an empty promise but a genuine commitment to decisively tackle corruption. Corrup



tion has undermined institutions. drained resources, and eroded public trust

DANIEL NOBOA PRESIDENT, ECUADOR

The world can change drastically in a week. No one could predict the collapse of the Assad regime in that way

LLOYD AUSTIN DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

SHORT TAKES

Trump picks **Dhillon as AAG**

Washington: US Presidentelect Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Harmeet K Dhillon as Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice. "I am pleased to nominate Harmeet K Dhillon as Assistant Attornev General for Civil Rights at the US Department of Justice," Trump announced Monday on Truth Social, a social media platform owned by him. Dhillon, a Sikh. is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia Law School, and has clerked in the US Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Pak's ex-ISI chief indicted

Islamabad: In an unprecedented move, Pakistan's former spymaster Lt Gen (retd.) Faiz Hameed has been indicted on multiple charges, including engaging



It is the first time a sitting Israeli prime minister

takes the stand as a criminal defendant, an embarrassing milestone for a leader who has tried to cultivate an image as a sophisticated and respected statesman

REUTERS

Tel Aviv, Dec 10: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took the witness stand for the first time Tuesday in his long-running corruption trial, saying he was being hounded for his hawkish security policies.

Netanyahu, 75, is Israel's first sitting prime minister to be charged with a crime. He is testifying at the same time Israel is engaged in a war in Gaza and facing possible new threats posed by regional turmoil, including in Svria

Last week judges ruled that Netanyahu, indicted in 2019, must testify three times a week, forcing the longtime Israeli leader to juggle between the courtroom and the war room at Israel's Defence Ministry, min-

utes away from the courthouse. The leader of the right-wing Likud party, Netanyahu assailed the Israeli media for what he called its leftist stance and accused journalists of having hounded him for years because his policies did not align with a push for a Palestinian state.

"I have been waiting for eight years for this moment to tell the truth," Netanyahu told the three-judge court. "But I am also a prime minister. I am leading the country through a seven-front war. And I think the two can be done in parallel."

Prosecutors accuse Netanyahu of granting regulatory favours worth around 1.8 billion shekels (about \$500 million) to



Netanyahu denies charges he sought favourable news coverage

Trial highlights divisions in Israeli public and politics

Bezeq Telecom Israel (BEZQ.

He is also accused of negotiating a deal with the owner of Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper for better coverage in return for legislation to slow the growth of a rival paper.

testimony.

In lengthy replies, he portraved himself as a staunch defender of Israel's security. withstanding pressures from international powers and a hostile domestic media.

TRIAL IN UNDERGROUND COURTROOM

I have been waiting for eight years for this moment to tell the truth. But I am also a prime minister. I am leading the country through a seven-front war. And I think the two can be done in parallel

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU PM, ISRAEL

TA) in return for positive coverage of himself and his wife Sara on a news website controlled by the company's former chairman.

Netanyahu denies the allegations against him and has pleaded not guilty. He stood rather than sat in the witness box throughout his morning

Netanyahu smiled confidently when he entered the Tel Aviv District Court around 10 a.m. (0800 GMT). The trial was moved from Jerusalem for undisclosed security reasons and convened in an underground

courtroom. Before Netanyahu took the stand, his lawyer Amit Hadad laid out for the judges what

Israeli warplanes pound Svria

the overthrow of President Bashar Assad. Associated Press reporters in the capital heard heavy airstrikes overnight and into Tuesday on the city and its suburbs. Photographs circulating online showed destroyed missile launchers, helicopters and warplanes. There was no immediate comment from the insurgent groups led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS - that have taken control of much of the country. Their lightning advance brought an end to the Assad family's half-century rule after nearly 14 years of civil war. There are concerns over what comes next

the defence maintains are fundamental flaws in the investigation. Prosecutors, Hadad said,"weren't investigating a crime, they were going after a person."

A few dozen protesters gathered outside the courthouse, some of them supporters and others demanding he do more to negotiate the release of some 100 hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza.

France begins military withdrawal from Chad

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Paris, Dec 10: France has started the withdrawal of its military from Chad with the departure of two warplanes that were based in the capital N'Djamena, the French army said, two weeks after Chad said it was ending its defence cooperation pact with Paris.

In a surprise move, the government of Chad - an ally of the West in the fight against Islamist militants in the region ended the defence cooperation pact Nov. 28.

Terms and conditions of the withdrawal and whether any French troops will remain in the central African country altogether have yet be to agreed, but Tuesday the first Mirage warplanes returned to their base in eastern France.

"It marks the beginning of the return of French equipment stationed in N'Djamena," Army spokesperson Colonel Guillaume Vernet said after two Mi rage fighter jets left Chad.

France has already pulled its soldiers out of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger following military coups in those West African countries and spreading anti-French sentiment.

The departure from Chad will end decades of French military presence in the Sahel region and ends direct French military operations against Is lamist militants there

France still has about 1,000 troops in Chad. Vernet said a calendar to drawdown its operations would still take several weeks for the two countries to finalise.

There were no indications Paris received advance notice of Chad's decision to end its defence cooperation although a French envoy to President Emmanuel Macron delivered a report last month containing proposals on how France could reduce its military presence in Chad. Gabon and Ivory Coast.

Rebel-backed figure takes charge as Syria's interim PM



Mohammed al-Bashir, a figure little known across most of Syria who previously ran an administration in a small pocket of the northwest controlled by rebels would lead the interim authority until March 1

REUTERS

Damascus, Dec 10: - Syria's new interim leader announced Tuesday he was taking charge of the country as caretaker prime minister with the backing of the former rebels who toppled President Bashar al-Assad three days ago.

In a brief address on state television, Mohammed al-Bashir, a figure little known across most of Syria who previously ran an administration in a small pocket of the northwest controlled by rebels, said he would lead the interim authority until March 1. "Today we held a cabinet

meeting that included a team from the Salvation government that was working in Idlib and its vicinity, and the government of the ousted regime," he said. "The meeting was under the headline of transferring the files and institutions to caretake the government.²

In the Syrian capital, banks reopened for the first time since Assad's overthrow. Shops were also reopening, traffic returned to the roads, construction work ers were back fixing a round about in the Damascus city cen tre and street cleaners were out sweeping the streets

There was a notable decrease in the number of armed men on the streets. Two sources close to the rebels said their command had ordered fighters to with draw from cities, and for police and internal security forces affiliated with the main rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Shams (HTS) to deploy there.

The steps towards normalisation came despite intense airstrikes from Israel targeting bases of the Syrian army. whose forces had melted away in the face of the lightning rebel advance that ousted Assad.

Israel, which has sent forces across the border into a demil itarised zone inside Svria. ac knowledged on Tuesday that troops had also taken up some positions beyond the buffer zone, though it denied they were advancing towards Damascus. It mounted airstrikes on bases of the now dissolved

Svrian armv NEW LEADER HAS LITTLE PROFILE

The new interim Syrian leader has little political profile beyond Idlib province, the small, largely rural region of the northwest where rebels had maintained an administration during the long years that Syria's civil war front lines were frozen.

Xi rebuffs Trump's

Damascus: Israel carried out a wave of heavy airstrikes across Syria as its troops advanced deeper into the country, a Syrian Opposition war monitor said Tuesday. Israel denied its forces were advancing toward Damascus after they pushed into a buffer zone inside Syria following

in political activities, violating the Official Secrets Act, and misusing authority and government resources, the army said Tuesday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, the process of Field General Court Martial (FGCM) was initiated against Hameed August 12, 2024. The former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief was charged under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act and "in first place Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd) has been formally arraigned on charges of engaging in political activities, violations of Official Secret Act detrimental to safety and interest of the state, misuse of authority & government resources and causing wrongful loss to a person(s)."

Russia moves to delist **Taliban as terrorist**

Moscow: The lower house of the Russian parliament gave initial approval Tuesday to a long-discussed bill that would set the stage for Moscow to remove the designation of the Taliban in Afghanistan as a terrorist group. Under the bill passed by the State Duma in the first of three required readings, the official terrorist designation of an organisation could be suspended temporarily by a court. The legislation also needs to be approved by the upper house and signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law. The Taliban were put on Russia's list of terrorist organisations in 2003, and any contact with such groups is punishable under Russian law. At the same time, Taliban delegations attended various forums hosted by Moscow.

threat over tariffs

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and

Beijing, Dec 10: Gearing up for Trump 2.0 era, Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday cautioned there will be no winner in a tariff or tech wars the two leaders had "commubetween China and the US and vowed that Beijing would firmly safeguard its interests. week.

"Tariff wars, trade Xi wars and technology wars run counter to says China historical trends economic will safeguard laws, and there its sovereignty, will be no winners," Xi said while interests meeting the heads of 10 major international

organisations, including the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) here.

During the meeting, Xi stressed on China's principles for engaging with the US, "China will always insist on focusing on its own affairs and resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests. Meanwhile, China's determination to promote high-level opening up will not

the official media reports here. Xi's comments came in the backdrop of US President-elect Donald Trump's remarks in an NBC interview that he "got along very well" with Chinese President Xi Jinping and that

nication as recently as this China did not confirm the conversations between Xi and Trump, who is set to take over power January 20. During his elec-

campaign, tion Trump had threatened to impose 60 per cent on Chinese exports to the US and also warned of imposing 10 per cent more tariffs if Beijing fails to curb fentanyl, the drug 50 times more potent than heroin and regarded as the root cause for addiction in

the US China announced an investigation into US chipmaker Nvidia over suspected violations of the country's anti-monopoly law Monday. The investigation is widely seen as retaliation for Washington's latest curbs on the Chinese chip sector.





Firefighters battle the Franklin Fire in Malibu, Calif., Tuesday

Yoon ordered to drag out MPs: Officer

REUTERS

Seoul, Dec 10: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol gave an order to "drag out" lawmakers from parliament after he declared martial law Dec. 3, an army commander said Tuesday amid concerns of a power vacuum with Yoon's office saying it had "no official position" on who was running the country.

Yoon is now the subject of criminal investigations on insurrection charges. He has apologised for the failed attempt to impose martial law but has not accepted growing calls for him to step down, even from some members of his own party. Yoon said Saturday he was



entrusting his legal and political fate in the hands of his ruling People Power Party (PPP). The party said Tuesday that it was discussing Yoon's potential resignation as early as February and holding a snap election in

Army commander says Yoon ordered to 'drag out' lawmakers

Yoon subject of criminal investigations, travel bar

Botched martial law attempt triggered political crisis

Opposition says impeachment the only way forward

April or May.

Yoon's surprise martial law declaration stunned the country and plunged Asia's fourth-largest economy and a major US ally in the region into a constitutional crisis, sending shockwaves through diplomatic and economic fronts Yoon's office, when asked

by Reuters who was running South Korea, said it had "no official position to offer" but referred to past statements by the foreign and defence ministries.

The defence ministry spokesman said Monday Yoon was still commander in chief and the for eign ministry spokesman said state affairs including foreign affairs "were being conducted under a process laid out in the Constitution and the law."

Kwak Jong-geun, the commander of the Army Special Warfare Command, told a parliament committee that he had received multiple telephone calls from Yoon as the events unfolded overnight after the martial law declaration.

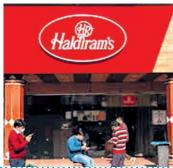




While this digital revolution offers incredible opportunities, our government believes it is equally important for our consumers to feel confident and make informed choices. and for the e-commerce platforms to gain the trust and the confidence of the consumer is equally very, very, very important

THREE FIRMS IN RACE TO PICK MINORITY STAKE IN HALDIRAM

Three firms are now in the race to acquire a minority stake of around 15 to 20 per cent in Haldiram Snacks Food, India's largest packed snack and sweets company and restaurant operator. Blackstone and Bain Capital-led consortiums were already in the race to pick up a stake. Now, with the entry of Alpha Wave Global, it has now become a triangular contest.



PRALHAD JOSHI | MINISTER FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS

of the day

The logistic cost in India is 16 per cent and in China it is 8 per cent, in USA and European

countries. it is 12 per cent. The government has decided to reduce the logistic costs... in my ministry, we have the target that within 2 years, we will take this logistic cost to 9 per cent

NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER



centre in India as it provides huge market, skilled workforce and young population

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

Motivated by the progress that we made in driving exports out of India...

we are going to advance our commitment to enable USD 80 billion in exports by 2030 AMIT AGARWAL

SVP, EMERGING MARKETS, AMAZON

SHORT TAKES

ADNOC gets CCI clearance

New Delhi: Fair trade regulator CCI Tuesday said it has approved Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's (ADNOC) proposal to acquire Covestro for USD 16.4 billion. Abu Dhabi's state-owned oil firm ADNOC is an energy and petrochemicals group. "The proposed transaction relates to the acquisition of up to 100 per cent of the share capital of Covestro AG by ADNOC PJSC, ADNOC International Ltd and ADNOC International Germany Holding AG (ADNOC Germany) by way of an all-cash voluntary public takeover offer to all Covestro shareholders.

Equity mutual fund inflow drops 14% Under new Guy, RBI to cut rates in Feb: Analysts

Heightened volatility in stock markets driven by various macroeconomic factors, geopolitical events and US election results led to fall in inflow

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New Delhi, Dec 10: Equity mutual funds witnessed an inflow of ₹35,943 crore in November, marking a drop of 14 per cent on a month-on-month basis, amid heightened volatility in stock markets driven by various macroeconomic factors. geopolitical events and US election results.

Despite this, it marked the 45th consecutive month of net inflows into equity-oriented funds, reflecting the growing popularity of mutual funds among investors, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) released Tuesday.

Moreover, monthly contributions from the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) remained flat at ₹25,320 crore last month against ₹25,323 crore in Octo-

ber. "There was heightened volatility due to various macroeconomic factors, geopolitical events and the US election results. This resulted in investors opting for a wait & watch approach while allocating larger amounts and thus decline in lumpsum flows including flattish SIP numbers for November 2024," Akhil Chaturvedi, CBO, Motilal Oswal AMC, said.

Overall, the mutual fund industry experienced an inflow of ₹60,295 crore in the month under review, which was way lower than ₹2.4 lakh crore in October. This could be due to a huge decline in inflows in debt funds to ₹12.915 crore in No-



vember from ₹1.57 lakh crore in the preceding month. Despite the decline, the in-

dustry's net assets under management rose to ₹68.08 lakh crore last month from ₹67.25 lakh crore in October.

"Defying a tumultuous month in the equity market, the mutual fund industry's assets reached a new pinnacle of ₹68.08 lakh crore, driven primarily by robust inflows into growth-/equity-oriented schemes. The unwavering monthly SIP inflows remained above ₹25,000 crore in November, showcasing the investors' long-term vision and commitment to their financial goals, despite the short-term market fluctuations," Venkat Chalasani. Chief Executive.

AMFI. said. As per the data, equity-oriented schemes witnessed an inflow of ₹35,943 crore in November as compared to record inflow of ₹41.887 crore in October.

"Weak global cues, China's recent economic stimulus, and escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia impacted Indian equity markets in November 2024, which witnessed relentless selling by foreign portfolio investors. The impact of this was seen on the Indian mutual fund industry as well, which witnessed 14.19 per cent drop in equity inflows in November on a month-on-month basis," Ashwini Kumar, Senior Vice President and Head Market Data, ICRA Analytics, said.

Within the equity schemes, sectoral or thematic category attracted investors with the highest net inflow of ₹7.658 crore during the month under review. However, flow in the segment was less compared to ₹12,279 crore in October and ₹13,255 crore in September. This was followed by flexi cap funds which saw inflow of ₹5,084 crore last month.

Inflows into large-cap funds declined 26 per cent to ₹2,548 crore in November from ₹3,452 crore in the preceding month, while mid and small cap funds registered month-on-month growth of 4.3 per cent to ₹4,883 crore and 9 per cent to ₹4,112 crore, respectively.

The month saw 18 new fund offerings (NFOs) collecting ₹4,052 crore while October saw 29 NFOs garnering ₹6,078 crore. Of this, new index funds launched in November were 10 as compared to 17 launched in October, Mayukh Datta, Chief Business Officer, ITI Mutual Fund, said.

There has been a shift from low-risk categories like largecap and hybrid funds to higher-risk options like small-cap funds, while NFO activity slowed down last month.

Gold continues to glitter with investors showing their affinity towards yellow metal in November as well. Gold ETF category witnessed a net inflow of ₹1,257 crore in November, which was lower than ₹1,961 crore seen in the preceding month.

While the fund mobilized was less compared to October, the redemption number was higher. This signifies that investors would have chosen to book profits with gold trading at elevated levels and impending marriage season, where the demand for physical gold is high," Himanshu Srivastava Associate Director- Manager Research. Morningstar Investment Research India. said.



Mumbai, Dec 10: The appointment of Sanjay Malhotra as the new RBI Governor 'cements' the possibility of a rate cut at the next policy review in February, analysts said Tuesday.

Outgoing Governor Shaktikanta Das was 'sticking to his guns' on rates as seen at the December 6 meeting where the rate setting panel headed by him continued with a status quo on rates, they said.

Monetary policy under Malhotra, who is also a career bureaucrat, will be 'more accommodative', analysts at Japanese brokerage Nomura said, adding the rate cut at the February meeting is 'cemented'.

The brokerage added that the growth-pushing rate cut is also warranted at the next meeting.

Over the past few weeks, a 'stark divide' seemed to be emerging between the government and the RBI on the need for countercyclical monetary policy, the brokerage said, pointing out that both Finance Minister Nirmala SItharaman

and Commerce Minister Pivush Goyal had criticised the RBI for keeping policy tight.

Domestic brokerage firm Emkay said it 'does not rule out' a rate cut in February but will be more comfortable taking a firm call closer to the policy window It noted that the decision to

appoint Malhotra came down to the wire, and indicates the government's comfort on having a bureaucrat rather than a technocrat at the RBI's helm.

Nearly all the analysts said that very little is known of Malhotra's economic views. and Emkay cited their discussions with bankers to note that he is straightforward in poli cy communication, and in his past role at the Department of Financial Services, he would push banks to adopt and focus on technology.

"With the new Governor coming from the Ministry of Finance, market participants could be inclined to think that might lead to a stronger role for the government in monetary policy decisions," analysts at Swiss brokerage UBS said.

India to continue resilient growth in 2025: S&P

New Delhi, Dec 10: S&P Global Ratings Tuesday said the Indian economy is set for "resilient growth" in 2025 and projected inflation pressure to recede which will lead to "modest" easing of the monetary policy by the RBI.

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In its India outlook for 2025, S&P also retained India's growth forecast for current fiscal at 6.8 per cent, followed by 6.9 per cent growth in 2025-26. "The Indian economy is set for resilient growth in 2025 on

ease monetary policy modestly

during 2025 as inflationary pres-

Last week, RBI retained

benchmark interest rates at 6.5

per cent to control inflation but

cut the cash reserve ratio (CRR)

by 50 basis points to infuse li-

India's economy grew 8.2 per

It said the GDP growth print

for fiscal Q2 (June-September

2024) was weaker than expected

sures recede, Rana said.

quidity into the system.

In its India outlook for 2025, S&P also retained India's growth forecast for current fiscal at 6.8 per cent, followed by 6.9 per cent growth in 2025-26

at 5.4 per cent.

Sensex, Nifty close flat in volatile trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 10: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed flat in a volatile trade Tuesday amid bouts of buying and selling in select heavyweight stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged up 1.59 points to close at 81,510.05 with 16 of its components closing higher and 14 ending lower.

The index opened flat and climbed 217.88 points or 0.27 per cent to hit an intraday high of



to hit its 52-week high of ₹304.30 apiece on the bourse.

Waaree Energies scrip climbed 5.55 per cent to settle at ₹3,136.50 per piece, after the company said it has secured an order to supply solar PV modules of up to 1 GW capacity from a domestic firm. which is into renewable ener gy projects.

"Indian equity indices ended on a muted note for the third consecutive session on Monday, with Nifty around 24,600. The Sensex was up by 1.59 points to 81,510, while the Nifty was down by 9 points to settle at 24,610. Further, markets are likely to remain subdued ahead of domestic and US inflation readings due later in the week. Ameya Ranadive Chartered Market Technician, CFTe, Sr Technical Analyst, StoxBox.

Dr Morepen forays into wellness niche

New Delhi: Dr Morepen Tuesday foraved into the growing wellness segment with the launch of a weight management initiative. The company, a fully-owned subsidiary of Morenen Laboratories, is looking to establish itself in the segment which is currently valued at around ₹12.000 crore and growing at an annual rate of 16 per cent. The company has launched its wellness product -- LightLife -- designed to tackle India's growing obesity crisis. India's obesity rate is increasing and this segment is expected to touch USD 52.3 billion by 2032, "reflecting the urgency to address weight management with solutions that are both safe and effective," Dr Morepen CEO Varun Suri said.

er, and pockets of weakness such as the urban middle class the back of strong urban conheld back. Manufacturing sumption, steady service sector growth and ongoing investment growth which puts some downin infrastructure," Vishrut Raside risk to our forecast of 6.8 na, Economist at S&P Global per cent growth for fiscal 2025, it said. We expect the central bank to

There are various challenges for the economy, including post-pandemic weakness in the public sector and household balance sheets, a highly competitive global manufacturing environment and weak agriculture sector growth.

The fiscal impulse was slow-

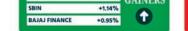
Creating enough jobs for India's higher labour force participation. further infrastructure and technology improvement, and stronger public and household balance sheets can support economic growth, Rana said.

81,726.34 in the first half. However, the index fell 325 points to hit a low of 81,508.46 due to profit booking in the second half. A recovery in select heavyweights Infosys, ICICI Bank and SBI helped it recover losses in the pre-close session.

Falling for the third day, the NSE Nifty dropped by 8.95 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 24,610.05. In the intraday trade, it slipped 108.35 points or 0.44 per cent to hit a low of 24,510.65.

"The domestic market concluded on a flat note, a rebound from the lows suggests buy-ondip strategy," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The broader market outperformed, maintaining its



positive trend led by mid and small-caps. The BSE IT index reached record high of 45,154.10 in anticipation of improvement in US IT spending.

From the 30-share pack, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Infosys, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra. Kotak Mahindra Bank and Titan were among the gainers.

Bharti Airtel, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro were the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent and the midcap index gained 0.30 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, realty rose 1.22 per cent, focussed IT by 0.84 per cent. IT by 0.70 per cent, metal by 0.41 per cent, and commodities and financial services by 0.36 per cent each.

-0.79%

-0.73%

Telecommunication, Utilities. Power. Services and Capital Goods were among the laggards.

Meanwhile, shares of Religare Enterprises rose 3.75 per cent to close at ₹288 apiece,after the Reserve Bank approved the open offer of the Burman family -- the promoters of FMCG major Dabur -- to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in the NBFC firm. During the day, it bounced more than 9 per cent

The benchmark index began the trading session on a sub dued note, reaching its daily high within the first hour be fore gradually trending downward for much of the day, Ranadive said.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, and Seoul settled higher, while Hong Kong ended in negative territory.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude fell 0.17 per cent to USD 72.02 a barrel.

Bharat Forge raises ₹1,650cr via QIP

New Delhi: Auto components major Bharat Forge Ltd Tuesday said it has raised ₹1,650 crore with the closure of its qualified institutional placement (QIP). The issue, which closed on Monday, was priced at ₹1.320 per share while the floor price as per regulatory requirements was ₹1,323.54 a share, the company said in a statement. The issue witnessed significant interest across domestic and qualified institutional investors resulting in more than ten times demand of the issue size, it added. The OIP proceeds will be utilised for debt repayment and funding of earlier announced inorganic growth initiatives, the company said.

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cent in 2023-24.

Ratings, said.

Mumbai, Dec 10: Flexible contracts with suppliers and access to cost-effective cloud solutions are giving home-grown mid-segment hotel brands a competitive edge against international counterparts in India, according to a whitepaper by cloud-based hospitality technology solutions provider

Hotelogix According to the whitepaper, home-grown mid-market brands with small inventory can experience rapid growth in tier II, III, and IV cities, as it is exceedingly challenging for international brands to establish operational capabilities in those areas where 80-85 per cent of demand is domestic.

India's home-grown mid-segment hotel brands control about 60 per cent of the total branded rooms available in the country, it mentioned.

These domestic mid-market brands have also begun exploring management contracts and franchise models as a growth strategy, providing a significant competitive advantage over international chains, it said.

Being Indian brands, they understand local people, culture, and tradition better than their bigger international rivals, the paper added.

Despite the allure of established international names, these hotels have survived and thrived in the last couple of years, their journey, though challenging, is a testament to their resilience in the dynamic, competitive, and attractive Indian hotel industry

The Hotelogix whitepaper is based on insights from industry

Home-grown hotels enjoy edge over int'l peers: Report

professionals and stakeholders. Further, it stated that the advantage of home-grown mid-segment brands is their ability to deliver customised

services instantly based on guest needs, which is a major advantage as international brands often offer experience owing to their sheer size and not-so-flexible policies.

Mid-scale home-grown hotel brands can easily blend local culture, and cuisines, among others, to craft a compelling narrative around offering differential guest experiences, it noted. To some extent, the whitepaper said, the homegrown brands score over bigger international players in this area of operation.

Domestic brands have a better understanding of the local ecosystem, and by leveraging the local elements, they can quickly determine how to create value and profit for their hotel partner, it stated.

In this scenario, property owners and travel agents in tier III and IV cities are more likely to work with growing mid-segment domestic brands. which can offer domestic travellers personalised experiences and are also flexible on service inclusions and amenities.

However, the domestic brands also face a set of challenges in attracting and retaining employees, it said.

Retaining staff can be challenging for home-grown brands due to the perceived stability, higher remuneration and benefits offered by international chains, it added.

Even expanding in tier I cit ies is the most challenging for homegrown mid-market brands as metros are saturated with established international hotel chains that have a strong brand presence and customer loyalty it said.

For mid-scale home-grown brands, competing with these well-known players can be overwhelming, especially when trying to attract high-value customers, it added.











PORTS **OrissaPOST** WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 11, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR Crunch time for Gukesh Batters eye form in Brisbane game

INDIAN CHALLENGER BANKING ON RESOLVE TO OUTWIT CHINESE WORLD CHAMPION



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Dec 10: A handy lead has slipped through his grip but Indian Grandmaster (GM) D Gukesh will rely on his steely resolve to bounce back when he takes on enigmatic defending champion Ding Liren in the 13th game of the World Chess Championship that has been quite a roller-coaster ride for the players.

The 18-year-old Gukesh, who

SHORT TAKES

Afghan extends

Trot's contract

New Delhi: Jonathan Trott will

coach for another year after

the country's cricket board

continue as Afghanistan's head

extended Tuesday his contract

comes a few months ahead of

next year's Champions Trophy,

where Afghanistan will make

their maiden appearance. The

batter has been Afghanistan's

43-year-old former England

head coach since July 2022,

and under his guidance, the

team have made impressive

strides in international cricket.

Under Trott. the team achieved

significant milestones, including

through 2025. The announcement

is the youngest challenger to the title, and the 32-year-old defending champion from China have been locked in an intriguing battle in which both have held leads for not too long. They will resume the battle Wednesday after a day of rest. The scores are currently

eted crown. After squandering away a full point lead with just three

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: A bril-

liant all-round performance by

Sushree Divvadarshini (102

n o and four wickets) helped

Odisha defeat Kerala by four

wickets in a match of the BCCI

Senior Women's ODI Trophy at

the Gujarat College Ground in

After being put in Kerala

were bowled out for 198 in 44.4

overs. Odisha, then riding on

Sushree's knock reached the

Ahmedabad, Tuesday.

I have missed out on a lot of chances, hopefully I can utilise those that come my way in the remaining games

D GUKESH

Sushree scripts easy

win for Odisha eves

tied at 6-6 with the first to games to go, the 12th round reach 7.5 assured of the covloss was heart-breaking for the young Indian and many experts believe that he will go for an aggressive approach in his

last game with white pieces under classical time control.

With just two games to go. the championship match is heading towards an exciting finish. Both players are tied on six points each.

"This game is a bit of a disappointment. Luckily I have a rest day tomorrow (Tuesday), I will just try to play good games," Gukesh had said after losing the 12th game Monday. "Obviously it is not a pleasant

experience to lose," he added. It won't be off the mark to say that nerves are likely to play a crucial role in the final two games.

If the scores are still tied in the USD 2.5 million championship, tie-break games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner. Liren has a distinct advantage over Gukesh in games played in lesser time duration.

To regain composure is the name of the game here and Gukesh has shown resolve in the past. Liren, on the other hand, was in a similar situation in the last World Cham pionship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi that he won, rallying as many as three times before eventually clinching the tie-breaker.

Liren's precision was simply immaculate in the 12th game. The Chinese took advantage of the situation right from the word go to earn high praise from many in the elite chess circles.

Five-time World Champion across formats, Viswanathan Anand, called it a 'very impressive game' while Liren himself said, 'it was the best game that I have played in re cent times'

While the mind games will go on in the last two games and a potential tie-breaker. American Hikaru Nakamura and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen feel that the balance had tilted slightly in Liren's favour.

"Ding did not have to calculate a single line in this whole game (12th), he is being able to play the game based on positional understanding where he is very good," said Carlsen on his new YouTube channel.

Debate rages as to whether Indian skipper Rohit Sharma should open the innings or not

AGENCIES

Adelaide, Dec 10: Reeling from their humiliating 10-wicket defeat in the pink ball Test, the under-fire Indian batters, led by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, turned their attention to red ball preparations with an intensive net session here Tuesday.

In the build-up to the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) there has been intense debate as to whether Rohit should go back to the opening position. However, if the net session was any indication, it appears that Rohit will continue to bat in the middle-order. It was Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul who batted first, followed by Kohli, Rishabh Pant and Rohit. The likes of Harbhajan

Singh, Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri have said that Rohit's best spot is at the top of the order. However, Kapil Dev has stated that Rohit would be better off in the middle.

"It's time to look ahead. Preparations for the Brisbane Test starts right here in Adelaide," the BCCI posted on 'X', sharing a video of Team India's practice. Rohit has been struggling with poor form. He has just scored just 142 runs with only one fifty (52) in his last 12 innings. He batted for a long time in the nets aiming to re-

Kohli, who ended his 16-month

century drought with a hundred

in Perth, also failed in here. The

intent as had a watchful start to his net session before slowly finding his flow. Rahul looked more subdued, focusing more on his defence, while Pant played a few pick up shots.

star Indian batter looked full of

Sabalenka bags best player award

ASSOCIATED PRESS

St Petersburg (Florida), Dec 10: Aryna Sabalenka received the WTA 'Player of the Year Award' for the first time here Mondav after winning two Grand Slam titles and finishing 2024 at No. 1 in the rankings.

In other results of voting by tennis media, Emma Navarro was honoured as 'Most Improved Player', Paula Badosa was named 'Comeback Player'. Lulu Sun was 'Newcomer of the Year', and Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini were picked as the 'Doubles Team of the Year'.

OFC ready for EB challenge

gain his rhythm.

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Odisha FC (OFC) will look to maintain their unbeaten four-game streak when they take 11thplaced East Bengal (EB) in their ISL game at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium here Thursday. This will be the second times the two teams will be meeting this season with Odisha FC narrowly winning the first encounter 2-1. However, since then much water has flown through





Rohit Sharma will have to find some form with the bat for his and India's sake

First day MCG tickets sold out

Melbourne: Tickets for the opening day of the fourth Test of the between India and Australia at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) have sold out, highlighting the public's strong interest in the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The Test will begin here December 26. "All available public tickets for Day 1 of the NRMA Insurance Boxing Day Test have been sold," Cricket Australia posted on their 'X' account Tuesday. "There will be a possible final release of a small number of public tickets December 24 for non-members to get their seats," the CA added. The pink ball Test in Adelaide drew a crowd of 1,35,012 across three days, setting a record turnout during a five-day game featuring the two sides.

reaching their first-ever T20 World Cup semifinal this year with stunning victories over Australia and New Zealand.

Record entries for shooting nationals

New Delhi: A record 13,522 shooters are set to participate in the 67th National Shooting Championship Competition (NSCC), starting here Thursday with the shotgun events. While the shotgun (December 11, 2024-January 19, 2025) and pistol (December 13, 2024-January 5, 2025) competitions will be held at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range here, Bhopal's MP State Shooting Academy ranges will hold the rifle nationals from December 15 to 31. A total of 837 shotgun shooters across skeet, trap and double trap events will be competing in five classifications. Rifle competition has seen the maximum entries with 7,013 participants while the pistol nationals will have 5,672 competitors vying for the honours.

Guardiola's last

New Delhi: Pep Guardiola, who signed a new contract with Manchester City in November, has stated that his time in there will be his last managerial stint as a club head coach. "I want to leave it and go and play golf but I can't. A time will come when I feel it's enough and I'll definitely stop then. I'm not going to manage another club. I'm not talking about the long-term future but what I'm not going to do is leave Manchester City now and go to another country to do the same thing," said Guardiola on Desmontadito's YouTube channel. The Catalan's new deal means he will spend more than a decade as City manager.

target and scored 202 for six in 45.1 overs. This was Odisha's second victory on the trot having defeated minnows Arunchal Pradesh in their last encounter.

sha bowlers who maintained

a steady line and length. T

Shani (72, 96b, 11x4) was the

top-scorer for Kerala. How-

ever, she failed to force the

pace and consumed too many

deliveries. Drishya (31, 59b,

2x4, 2x6) was the other Kerala

batter to offer some resistance.

However, overall they failed to

accelerate and could not put up

Sushree (4/28) was the pick

of the Odisha bowlers. The

off-spinner bowled stump-

to-stump to induce errors

from the Kerala batters. She

was well-supported by pacer

a challenging total.

Sushree Divvadarshini poses with the The Kerala batters found women of the match award OP PHOTO the going tough against Odi-

D Janaki Reddy (3/28) who picked up wickets at crucial intervals.

When Odisha batted it was all Sushree (102 n o, 100b, 12x4). She batted in an aggressive manner and her drives on both sides of the wicket were a treat to watch. Even though Odisha lost some early wickets. Sushree stood firm at one end ensuring the Odisha did not fall behind in the required run rate. Janaki also played a useful knock of 28 runs in 48 balls with two boundaries to ensure a comfortable victory

Sabalenka, a 26-year-old from Belarus, won the Australian Open in January and the US Open in September, along with two other titles this season, going 56-14 with nearly \$10 million in prize money. She overtook Iga Swiatek for the top ranking in October.

"It certainly is a great moment for me," Sabalenka said after the ceremony. "This will be just the motivation for me to work harder for next year and win more titles," the Belarusian added.

Badosa sat out the last half of 2023 with a back injury but the 27-year-old Spaniard was back near the top of the sport this year, climbing to No. 12 in the rankings, winning a title in Washington and equalling her best result at a Grand Slam tournament by getting to the US Open quarterfinals.

the 13-team table have climbed two slots registering two wins on the trot. They will be a hard nut to crack on home soil.

both the Ganges and the Mah-

anadi. East Bengal, who were

languishing at the bottom of

OFC are in solid form, currently sitting fifth in the ISL table with 16 points from 11 matches. Under the leadership of head coach Sergio Lobera, the team have shown consistency in both attack and defense.

Addressing the media ahead of the game, Lobera emphasized it is important to win matches to build up momentum. "Winning is always important. The next game is always the most crucial, as each one presents an opportunity for three points. This competition is highly competitive, and even a single point can be significant. So



OFC head coach Sergio Lobera and Jerry Lalrinzuala at the media conference

we have to utilise this opportunity in our quest to finish in the top six at the end of the group matches," Lobera stated.

Lobera however, is wary about East Bengal's potential and expects a tough match. "In the last couple of games. East Bengal have shown good form, they have been playing well lately. Hence it will certainly be a tough game,

but if we play to our potential, we can certainly get three points. asserted the coach.

First team player Jerry Lalrinzuala also had the same opinion. "It will be a tough match as they have strong attacking players, both Indian and foreign. As defenders, we must stay focused and contain them," he stated.

Odisha ride on Pyari's strikes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: Odi sha defeated Maharashtra 2-0 in a match of the 29th Senior Women's National Football Championships-2024 played Tuesday at the Ramkrishna Mission Ashram ground in Narinpur, Chhattisgarh. Captain Pyari Xaxa got both the goals for Odisha.

Pyari put Odisha in the lead in added on time of the first half (45+2) and then doubled the tally in the 54th minute of the game Odisha were the dominant side in the match and controlled proceedings all through. Had the players been more opportu nistic in front of the opposition goal they could have easily won by a bigger margin.

The Odisha defenders were solid throughout and never allowed the opposition forwards to pose any threat.

Good day for Indian shuttlers

for her side.

Cuttack, Dec 10: Seeded players had an easy time in the Odisha Masters 2024 BWF Super 100 badminton tournament which began at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here Tuesday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo attended as chief guest in the inaugural session of the event Tuesday morning. Among others present on the occasion were Barabati-Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdaus and Principal Secretary of the Sports department Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma. A total of 300 players from 29 countries are participating in the six-day event officials said. This is the third edition of the



tournament which is being hosted by Odisha.

Among the matches played on the day Manav Chaudhary defeated Mohammed Munnawar (PFR) by 21-16, 21-16; Zhu Xuan Chen (China) defeated Kiran Kumar Mekala 7-21, 21-9. 21-15. Flora Engineer beat counterpart Harshita Rout 14-

21, 21-10, 21-13, Shashwat Dalal defeated Mohammed Shaikh (UAE) 21-15, 21-14, Tharun Mannepalli defeated Orijit Chaliha 21-5, 21-18, Liu Yu Xuan (China) defeated Rajesh Srikar 21-13, 23-21, Wang Zi Jun (China) defeated Gagan Balwan 21-12, 21-13 and Tarun Reddy overcame Chirag Sen 21-9,21-10.

Govt to start NSLs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: With an aim to tap into the huge talent pool in the country, the Union Sports Ministry is planning to introduce a dozen-odd national sports leagues (NSLs), which it feels would be a game-changing move for the nation that is harbouring ambitions of hosting the Olympics in 2036.

A source privy to the developments said though the timeline is vet to be worked out, the planning process and the identification of the disciplines is in the advanced stage and details will roll out in due course.

'The government plans to introduce the National Sports Leagues (NSLs) under its ambitious Khelo India programme. The Sports Authority of India (SAI), the league (organisers) and the national sports federations (NSFs) of that particular discipline will be aligned before

the leagues are introduced," the source told this agency.

"Following the introduction of the NSLs, there will be only one league in each discipline. It will not be like the NSFs organise one league and the ministry another," the source informed.

Another source told this agency that the established leagues, such as the Hockey India League (HIL) and the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL), among others, which have become hugely popular and don't require government funding, will not be touched.

"Only those leagues which are struggling or the ones that were introduced but could not support themselves because of financial issues, the government will introduce leagues in those disciplines," the source said and added, this is a way to 'spot talent in those sports disciplines'

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