

**BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2024** 

Actor Shruti Haasan grabs attention for shutting down a social media user who asked about her marriage plans LEISURE | P2

#### VOLUME 14, ISSUE 251 I www. orissapost.com

South Korean police try to search President Yoon Suk Yeol's office but could not enter the main building INTERNATIONAL | P10

Gold prices rally to reclaim the ₹80,000-level in the national

capital driven by increased buying

from jewellers and stockists BUSINESS | P11

# Opener Smriti Mandhana's elegant century goes in vain as India lose to

#### Aus by 83 runs in the third Women's ODI to suffer a 0-3 series whitewash

SPORTS | P12

#### 12 PAGE | ₹5.00

**BJD** questions CM silence on B'desh territorial claims

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Opposition BJD Wednesday criticised the BJP-led state government's silence on remarks by a Bangladeshi leader, who said the country has legitimate territorial claims over West Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha.

The issue was raised in the Assembly by BJD member Ga-

"A Bangladeshi leader has said the country has legitimate claims over Odisha, Bengal and Bihar. While West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baner jee strongly reacted to it, I am surprised that Odisha CM Mo han Charan Majhi is silent,

"I do not know whether the Odisha CM is aware of the development or not. If he is aware and still silent, then it is unfortunate," Behera added, seeking a statement from Majhi. The BJD leader also questioned, "Is it Odisha's 'Asmita' (pride) to remain silent over such a re mark against the state?" In a strong statement, Ba nerjee had called the claim "absurd". "When you come to occupy our land, don't think we will have lollipops," Banerjee

PNN & AGENCIES

neswar Behera.

Behera said.

said Monday.



#### HOME COMING: Syrian families arrive to cross into Syria from Turkey at the Cilvegozu border gate, near the town of Antakya, southern Turkey

#### Malhotra assumes charge as RBI Guv Mumbai:



as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank

Sanjay

Malhotra Wednesday took charge

of India. Malhotra, a career bu-Jharsuguda/Rourkela, Dec reaucrat, arrived at the Central bank's headquarter this morn-11: A man, who was out on bail

# Rape accused on bail kills survivor

# Winter Session ends 16 days earlier than slated

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The Winter Session of the state Assembly was adjourned sine die Wednesday, 16 days ahead of its scheduled conclusion. Speaker Surama Padhy adjourned the House sine die for an indefinite period. The session which began November 26, was scheduled to continue till December 31. However, it ended with just 12 working days. During the remaining period, there are a few

Constitution displayed in the Assembly complex on the occasion of the Constitution Day.

The issues of shortage of potatoes and Polavaram dam were also raised by the opposition Congress and BJD several times. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's statement on the alleged sale of government jobs during the previous BJD administration created a ruckus in the House.

Berhampur, Dec 11: At least four people, including three women, were killed and 28 others sustained injuries when a pickup van they were travelling in overturned in Gajapati district Wednesday, police said. The accident took place at Chiting Ghat in Mohana police station area.



4 killed, 28 injured

as van turns turtle

ing, where he was welcomed by senior RBI staffers. The Central bank confirmed Malhotra's appointment through a post on the microblogging site X and also shared a few pictures. Malhotra, who recently served as the Revenue Secretary, signed the documents to take the charge of the important institution that performs a variety of roles. Deputy Governors Swaminathan J. M Rajeshwar Rao, and T Rabi Sankar were present when he assumed charge. Analysts are expecting the RBI to cut interest rates at the forthcoming policy review in February, and are of the opinion that Malhotra's appointment cements the possibility. P9

#### Blast kills Taliban refugee minister



Taliban refugee minister and two others. Interior Ministry officials said. The explosion struck inside the min-İstry, killing Khalil Haqqani, the refugee minister, officials said. The officials provided no further details. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media. Khalil Haqqani is the uncle of interior minister who leads a powerful network within the

Sirajuddin Haqqani, the acting Taliban. Haqqani was the most high-profile casualty of a bombing in Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power three years ago. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

after being jailed for raping a minor girl, killed the victim, chopped her body into pieces and threw the body parts in different places, police said Wednesday.

PNN & AGENCIES

According to the police, the accused, identified as Kunu Kissan (29) from Gadagaonmal village under Lephripara police limits in Sundargarh district, was arrested for allegedly raping the minor in Sundargarh district in August last year. The victim had lodged a rape case with Dharuadihi police station. He was released from the prison December 4 last year.

"A missing complaint was filed December 7 by the girl's family. We had taken up the investigation," Jharsuguda Superintendent of Police Parmar Smit Parshottamdas said.

CCTV footage showed the girl travelling on a motorcycle with two persons, whose faces were covered as they were wearing helmets. he said.

Though the girl was a native of Sundargarh district, she was staying at Jharsuguda town in her aunt's house and working at a beauty parlour.

"Using AI technology, we were able to trace the accused in Sundargarh. During interrogation, he admitted that he had killed the girl and threw her body parts in two different places," the SP said. The accused first slit the

throat of the victim using a sharp knife along National Highway-143, connecting Rourkela and Deogarh, and threw her body parts at Tarkera Nali and Balughat of Brahmani riv-

search operation in Brahmani river to trace the body parts.

er, he said. Police, with help of

Odisha Disaster Rapid Action

Force (ODRAF), launched a

After hours-long search operation, the body parts of the girl, including her head, were found, the SP said. The police arrested the accused and an associate of his and further investigation is underway

During interrogation, the accused said he was planning to kill the girl since his release from jail in December last year on bail so that she doesn't give her statement before the court. the SP said. The victim was scheduled to testify in the court December 15.

He feared that he would be convicted in the case if the victim gave statement before the court, and had accordingly changed his motorcycle registration for executing the plan, the officer said. The accused and the victim had known each other for a long time, police sources said, adding that a DNA test will be conducted of the victim's body parts.

holidays BJP MLA Ashok Mohanty said the House was adjourned sine III die since there was no official work left. BJD

legislator Pradip Disari, however, claimed, "The BJP government closed the House out of fear. They ran away from the Assembly fearing the opposition." During the session, the House passed a total of three bills including the Appropriation Bill.

The session had begun on a stormy note on the very first day with the Opposition members creating a ruckus over absence of 'secular' and 'socialist' from the preamble of the Indian

The House Tuesday witnessed noisy scenes with the opposition protesting against alleged non-payment of salaries to around 60,000 women supporting staffers under the 'Mission Shakti' scheme.

On the last day of the session, issues like the Centre's move to delink the Waltair division from the East Coast Railway Zone also led to a war of words between the members of both treasury bench members and opposition MLAs.

Senior BJD member Ranendra Pratap Swain, however, objected to closing of the session before a discussion on the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was introduced in the House

"The accident took place when 36 residents of Ramagiri village were going to Chandra giri in the pickup van to attend a funeral ceremony. The vehi cle overturned when the driver applied brakes suddenly. The exact cause of the accident. however, is being investigat ed," Mohana police station inspector-in-charge Basant Kumar Sethi said.

The deceased were identified as Basanti Bhuyan, 65, Chandrama Bhuyan, 61, Radha Kudumba, 58, and Haribandhu Gamang, 60.

While two persons died at Chandragiri CHC, two others succumbed to their injuries at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, where they were re ferred for better treatment, a police officer said. The condi tion of at least five injured persons was stated to be critical sources in the hospital said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

# Trump calls Trudeau 'Guv of the great state of Canada'

#### DURING LAST WEEK'S DINNER AT MAR-A-LAGO, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORTEDLY TOLD HIM TO MAKE CANADA THE 51ST STATE OF THE UNITED STATES

#### AGENCIES

Washington, Dec 11: US President-elect Donald Trump took a jab at Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the social media platform Truth Social, describing him as the Governor of Canada.

Trudeau flew to Mar-a-Lago last week for a dinner with Trump to discuss the President-elect's warning to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Canada

if its government failed to stop the flow of illegal immigrants and illicit drugs from the country into the United States.

In a post on Truth Social mocking the Canadian prime

minister, Trump said, "It was a pleasure to have dinner the other night with Governor Justin Trudeau of the Great State of Canada."

During the dinner, when Trudeau said that such a tariff would destroy the Canadian economy, the President-elect reportedly told him to make Canada the 51st state of the United States. The Canadians passed off the comment as a joke, but Trump has continued to play up the dig. Trump repeated this in an interview with NBC News over the weekend and again in the post Tuesday.

"I look forward to seeing the



#### Donald J. Trump 😋 @realDonaldTrump · 7h

It was a pleasure to have dinner the other night with Governor Justin Trudeau of the Great State of Canada. I look forward to seeing the Governor again soon so that we may continue our in depth talks on Tariffs and Trade, the results of which will be truly spectacular for all! DJT

Q 1.5k 🛱 3.39k 🗘 12.4k 🗍 🟦 🚥

Governor again soon so that we may continue our in depth talks on Tariffs and Trade, the results of which will be truly spectacular for all! DJT,' Trump said in his post.

The president-elect's mockery of Canada and its leader is the latest salvo after his promise to impose steep tariffs on

Canadian exports, The New York Times reported.

Donald Trump is returning to world stage. So is his trolling.

Throughout his first term in the White House and during his campaign to return, Trump has spun out countless provocative, antagonising and mocking statements. There were his belittling nicknames for political opponents, his impressions of other political figures and the plentiful memes he shared on social media.

Now that he's preparing to return to the Oval Office, Trump is back at it, and his trolling is attracting more attention — and eyerolls.



Your secretarial staff is here, sir. They want to know if the historic no-trust motion against you will go on record or not















# elsure

Mumbai:

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#### **SELENA GOMEZ TALKS ABOUT** LONELINESS IN HOLLYWOOD

Actress-singer Selena Gomez, who has earned the best supporting actress Golden Globe nomination, has spoken up on the issue of the feeling of loneliness and getting isolated in Hollywood, reports People magazine. For others feeling lonely in Hollywood, Selena is ready to offer a helping hand.

#### PAMELA'S BAYWATCH SWIMSUIT TO BE SHOWCASED IN EXHIBITION

Hollywood star Pamela Anderson's iconic fierv red swimsuit from Bavwatch will be displayed at an exhibition at London's Design Museum. The 57-year-old wore the red bathing suit during her stint on the hit TV show between 1992 and 1997, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



#### JNE FORECAST Ganesha Speaks.com

accuracy • reliability • trust

Today, you will show every

one what you're capable of. You are likely to come up with great ideas and work strategies. which will prove productive. However, if appreciation doesn't come your way, Ganesha savs you must learn to take disappointment in your stride.

#### TAURUS

This day you will be compelled to be resigned to your fate. Ga-nesha does not see your own will power in operation today. Though you would be surrendering yourself to the whims of destiny, do not expect anything good to come out of it. You are likely to take wrong decisions and go of course. This is one of those days when you are liable to feel extremely lost and lonely. Have no fears. The day will pass, like any other day.

#### GEMINI

You will end up having an argument with people owing to your aggressive nature. These people could slander your reputation on account of your enemity. However

you will be able to defeat them. They will have to give up against your intellectual superiority. Be wary, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will make new friends. You will have a jolly time with them, but some worry or tension will nag you. But Ganesha says that all worries will go away by evening, when you relax with friends.

You will be seized by a desire to do something new for a change today. Your mood will be bright throughout the day. You will be able to achieve success owing to your energy and enthusiasm. The planets are in your fayour, hence you can accept the challenges coming your way and prevail over them, says Ganesha.

#### 

Expenditures will be like oil spills- wasteful and dirty. But cosmic energies and positivity are gathering wind today, and you should do well to make full use of them in your personal and professional life, savs Ganesha

#### 

Libra : Ganesha savs today is the right day to get closer to your loved one. You will spend the evening with your beloved. Today you will be mentally very energetic too. Make the most of the day.

# Shraddha recalls her tough times

ther

Mumbai: Shraddha Kapoor is Shakti Kapoor's daughter and despite belonging to a film from his background, it was quite difficult for Shraddha to get work sional work, in the industry initially. Shatrughan While everyone talks about nepotism, Shraddha re-Sinha also used to grab veals that

headlines due her fa-Shatrughan 'guilty' for two-timing Poonam, Reena

was involved with two women Shakti in his life. He was romantical-Kapoor ly linked with his co-star Reena was Roy when he announced his marquite riage with Poonam Sinha. Now, afclear ter all these years, in an interview with Lehren Retro, Shatrughan accepted two-timing with his wife and

Reena Roy. He said, "I have definitely made mistakes in my life. It was natural for a boy, who had come all the way from Patna to get lost in the glitz and glamour of the industry. I didn't know how to deal with stardom. People get lost in all this. I didn't have any guardian to guide me. However, after Poonam came in my life, she helped me a lot.<sup>3</sup>

Explaining about his situation while he was in a love-triangle, the veteran actor said, "I don't want to take the name, but whatever was happening with this person. I am grateful to her. I have received lots of love from her, and have learnt a ot. I have no complaints.

about the fact that she has to make it on her own. In a recent interview, Shraddha revealed how her father never requested anyone to cast her when she became an actress.

The actress said during an interview with GQ India, "Despite being from the industry, my father (Shakti Kapoor) wasn't making any calls to get me work. He was always a strong advocate of individual-He said, 'I it on my you have to too. Face your tles. Don't rely on me.' This made me experience rejection and failure on a very personal level. Until Aashiqui 2 happened, it was very difficult to convince people to cast me." On work front,

ism

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do it

bat

made

Shraddha was last seen in Stree 2 which was a massive success at the box office. It also starred Rajkummar Rao, Abhishek Banerjee, Aparshakti Khurrana and Tripa-Pankaj thi.

AGENCIES

Shruti shuts down netizen

**Chennai:** 

who is currently busy shooting her upcoming film Coolie, recently grabbed attention for her clever response to a social media user who asked about her marriage plans.

During an interactive Q&A session on Instagram, the actress was yet again questioned about her marriage plans by a curious fan. The user remarked, "Last time I also asked the same question, but you didn't respond. When will vou marry?

Shruti did not lose her candid demeanor as she replied with a sharp vet humorous tone, "No, and stop asking.' Her response quickly went viral and many of her fans praised her strong attitude. This is not the first time the ac tress has

Hvder abad: Despite a challenging year, including the loss of her father and her ex-husband Naga Chaitanya remarrying Sobhita Dhulipala, Samantha Ruth Prabhu continues to radiate

positivity. The actress recently shared a post on her Instagram, predicting what 2025 holds for the zodiac signs Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn.

radiates

positivity

According to the forecast, these signs can expect a busy year, progress in their craft, financial stability, a loving partner, completion of big goals, opportunities to relocate, multi-

ple income sources, and even fertility for those trying to Samantha conceive

Samantha also shared the post with 'AMEN' written on top, expressing her hopes that these predictions come true for her. In a follow-up story, she posted a quote stating that some years are for winning, while others are for building character. These

cryptic messages came after her ex-husband, Naga Chaitanya, remarried Sobhita Dhulipala.

Samantha has reportedly always dreamed of becoming a mother. Even three months before her separation from Chaitanya, she was planning to start a family. Despite the challenges she's faced, her desire to become a mom remains strong. AGENCIES

few years ago, one fan asked the same question about her marriage plans, and this. has Shruti Haasan.

she reacted by stating, "I don't think I am going to, to be completely honest. I think it is time we move on from The actress started fac the ing

faced such questions from her fans. A

question again partic ularly after

her highly publicized breakup recently. AGENCIES

#### **SCORPIO**

The day does not begin on a very good note as you seem to be in a belligerent mood. Be calm and patient as your hot temper may spoil a good deal. Limit your conver sations and discussions with colleagues and friends, advises Ganesha, Practising meditation and yoga will bring you some respite towards the end of the day.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

No pains, no gains. So, when you go through a lot of turmoil and toil hard for your work, the rewards are definitely going to be fruitful, says Ganesha. Time for get together and soiree with family and friends! In a nutshell, a day with lot of fun activities.

#### CAPRICORN

Your hands are full with plenty of projects and assignments. Finish them off as soon as you can and spend rest of the day refreshing your mind. Communicating with people of all walks of life will make you enhance your horizon of knowledge, feels Ganesha.

#### AQUARIUS

You are in for a challenging dav today. But, luck is by your side and you will be able to come out of the storm hale and hearty, assures Ganesha. If you are a businessman, you may enter into some major business venture, sign important contracts and take up new projects.

#### **PISCES**

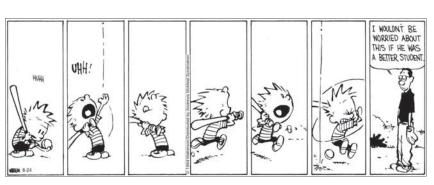
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You need to tread cautiously today when it comes to matters related to business. Do not make any decisions in haste, or it could come back to haunt you at a later date. All financial dealings will need to be carefully monitored. Do not indulge in speculative activities or undue risk taking.

#### ONE MORE WORD, IF YOU HAD GOTTEN I DON'T MY TEXT MARRIED, HERE IS THE SERMON I WAS NOW AND I'LL ALSO HIT YOU WITH THE WANT TO WAS IN HEAR IT! GENESIS GOING TO PREACH. WEDDING CAKE 34:9 DAYS

#### CALVIN AND HOBBES

PEANUTS



#### 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.

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#### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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#### FUN DOST

**CROSSWORD** 

# THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Jowntown

# 14 cos got ₹4,097cr power relief in 10 yrs

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar. Dec 11: The state government has exempted electricity dues amounting to ₹4,097.67 crore for 14 industries under various schemes during the last 10 years, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo told the Assembly Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question from senior Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, the Deputy CM, who is in charge of the Energy department, said the electricity duty for these 14 industries was exempted since the financial vear 2015-16 under schemes such as the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) and the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy. According to the statement submitted by Singh Deo, the state government exempted the highest electricity dues of ₹3,599.88 crore for Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda, under the SEZ Policy, 2015, while Central PSU Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Paradip received an exemption of ₹314.03 crore. Additionally, Angul-based Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) was granted a waiver of ₹103.16 crore in electricity duty.

Apart from these exemptions, the Deputy CM further informed the House that the state government has also exempted electricity dues (through rebate on interest for pending bills) amounting to ₹1,324.83 crore for 36 industries under the One-Time Settlement Scheme, 2022 of the Energy department.

Under this scheme, the government waived electricity dues of ₹550.12 crore for Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), a unit of SAIL, ₹440.12 crore for IMFA Limited, Choudwar, and ₹203.91 crore for Central PSU National Aluminium Company (Nalco), the Deputy CM said.



Among others, the power bills of JSPL, Angul (₹35.76 crore), Aditya Aluminium Limited, Sambalpur (₹17.79 crore), Tata Steel Limited, Kalinganagar (₹16 crore), and Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh (₹10.13 crore) were also exempted by the state government, he informed.

According to data provided by the engineer-in-chief-cum-principal chief electrical inspector, power dues worth ₹1,096.32 crore were pending against 23 industries as of October this year, Singh Deo added.

The largest outstanding amount of ₹285.02 crore is pending from Jindal India Thermal Power Limited, Talcher in Angul district, followed by Visa Steel Limited, Jajpur, which has not paid ₹246 crore in electricity dues, he stated.

Similarly, Dhenkanal-based GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited, Maithan Ispat Nigam Limited, Jajpur, and Shyam Metalics & Energy Limited, Sambalpur have not paid power bills of ₹179.35 crore, ₹85.31 crore, and ₹83.25 crore, respectively.

Other industries with pending electricity dues include Oswal Chemicals and

#### **BJD MLA demands** pension for scribes

BJD legislator Goutam Buddha Das Wednesday raised the demand in the Assembly for pension and increased health coverage for journalists in the state. The first-time MLA, who was earlier a journalist, made the demand during the Zero Hour. "As I have worked as a journalist for more than 25 ears, I personally know the problems faced by them. The previous BJD government had launched a health insurance scheme for the journalists and later enhanced the coverage from `3 lakh to `5 lakh per year," Das said. He demanded that the state government raise journalists' health coverage to `10 lakh per annum and include parents of the journalists under the scheme. The government should also make a provision for an annual pass system for working journalists so that they can freely enter the Secretariat for news coverage, he said. At present, only accredited journalists are allowed into the Secretariat, he said, adding, "The

annual pass system has been stopped since the outbreak of Covid-19 pan-demic. It has not yet resumed." He also demanded that the government bring a law for protection of working journal ists, and establishment of a press academy. Later, speaking to reporters, he said, "After retirement, journalists face a lot of hardship. The pension amount they receive from EPF is negligible. So there is a need to make a provision of pension for them.

Fertilisers Limited, Paradip (₹79.95 crore), AMNS, Paradip (₹56 crore), Bhaskar Steel & Ferro Alloys, Sundargarh (₹23.67 crore), and Yazdani Steel & Power Limited, Jajpur (₹13.68 crore).

lator Manas Kumar



ers, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Wednesday alleged that the previous BJD government used women as

"vote bank" Parida, who is also the minister in charge of Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti,

said this while replying to a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion in the Assembly. 'Mission Shakti' is a scheme for empowering women through promotion of SHGs to take up various socio-economic activities which were launched in 2001. "The Leader of Opposition

has alleged that the BJP is conspiring. Whoever says this has himself put women on the mountain of conspiracy and left them in a hanging position. The BJD government turned Mission Shakti movement like a polio-infected child," Parida said.

Parida's statement came

#### expressed concern over the plight of thousands of women agitators who have been spending winter nights under open sky on the streets.

The women belonging to different categories of Mission Shakti supporting staffers,

have been sitting on dharna for three days on Mahatma Gandhi Marg near the Assembly building demanding

their pending salaries for the last six months. However, the state government is of the opinion that their service period has expired in April this year and the previous BJD government did not renew their services. BJD members like RP Swain, Arun Sahoo and Sujata Sahu lambasted the BJP government and accused it of conspiring against the Mission Shakti movement. Congress Legislature Party leader RC Kadam and Cuttack-Barabati MLA Sofia Firdous blamed both the BJD and the BJP for the plight of women.

### **58 COLD STORAGES IN STATE SOON**

The state govern-ment will soon set Dutta, Singh Deo, who is also the Agriculture up 58 cold storages in and Farmers' Empowas many blocks on PPP erment Minister, said mode, Deputy Chief cold storages would be Minister Kanak Vardset up to solve potato shortage in Odisha. han Singh Deo told the Assembly Wednesday. "Efforts are on to ensure adequate supply Replying to a question from BJP legisof potatoes. After the

cold storages become

functional, we will not have to depend on other states for potatoes. And West Bengal will no longer blackmail us," Singh Deo said.

He said the cold storages would function on hybrid mode. "It could be run both on solar power and

on electricity so that the chances of their failure due to high electricity tariff will be less," the Minister said.

Singh Deo said the government was giving 50 per cent subsidy on tariffs to cold storages.



IN MEMORIAM: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi pays tribute to noted Tamil poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharati on his birth anniversary during the 'State-level Indian Language Festival' at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond is also seen

## Pradhan urges Nadda to set up NIPER in Odisha

*The initiative would greatly* benefit pharmaceutical and biotech sectors across eastern India, says the Sambalpur MP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Wednesday urged Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda to set up a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Odisha.

In his letter to Nadda, the Sambalpur MP said establishment of NIPER in the coastal state would greatly benefit the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors across eastern India. "The Odisha Bio-Tech Park in Bhubaneswar is the first-of-

its-kind facility in eastern In-

water, electricity and effluent treatment needed to support biotechnology industries,' Pradhan said, describing it as an ideal location for the establishment of NIPER. He also pointed out that the proposed NIPER would help

bridge gaps in pharmaceutical education and research, foster innovation, and create a skilled workforce, ultimately boosting India's global competitiveness in the pharmaceutical industry

dia, offering key resources like

Moreover, setting up of the NIPER in Odisha would sup port the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme in the pharmaceutical sector and con tribute to the goals of 'Atman irbhar Bharat', he said. Prad han urged Nadda to consider Odisha as the next location for NIPER which would be a signif icant step forward in advancing pharmaceutical education and research in the country.



# **Opportunity to Contribute** towards Nation-building

# Let us strengthen the National Statistical System

सत्यमंव जयते **Government Of India** 

NSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducts Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) to provide data on employment scenario in India



Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

Unemployment Rate (UR)

All Citizens are requested to co-operate with the enumerators of National Statistics Office (NSO) and provide accurate data

### Identity of the individuals participating in the survey is kept confidential in all Reports/microdata of MoSPI

For PLFS Report of NSO, MoSPI, please visit www.mospi.gov.in, microdata available at https://microdata.gov.in/nada43/index.php/home

@www.mospi.gov.in 🙆 🛛 🖸 @GolStats ()/GolStats 💿 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 🛇 Ministry of Statistics & Pl

## **OrissaPOST**

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

### owntown

#### **₹10L BRIBERY 3** accused in CBI remand for 5 days POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: A local court here Wednesday allowed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take the three accused in ₹10 lakh bribery case for five-day remand for further interrogation, while dismissing their bail petitions. The court's decision followed the Central agency's appeal for a remand of 10 days, as the trio's three-day remand ended Wednesday

A senior CBI official said an Income Tax (I-T) team reached the City Wednesday to probe the aspects of illicit financial transaction. They would scrutinise the bank accounts of arrested men, including Chanchal Mukherjee - Group General Manager (GGM) of a Central PSU - and two others, to investigate any possible involvement of foreign funding.

Notably, the CBI had laid a trap near a luxury hotel in the City Saturday and caught the accused GGM receiving a bribe of ₹10 lakh which was delivered to him by the accused director of the said company in Bhubaneswar. The CBI sleuths r recovered the bribe money.

#### WEATHER СТС BBSR Max Temp 28.1° 26.0° Min Temp 18.2° 15.5° 65% Humidity 72% Nil Nil Rainfall FORECAST PARTLY CLOUDY SKY WITH HAZE.

N	<b>/ARKE</b>	T WAT	CH	
11	NDEX	VARIATI	ON	
RSES	SENSEX	81526.14 24641.80	•	16.09
Bou	NIFTY	24641.80	4	31.75
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	84.98	4	0.02
CURR	EURO	89.15	¥	0.43
OURSES	GOLD	₹ <b>78,935</b>	•	₹597
<b>N</b>	SILVER	₹ <b>96,150</b>	•	₹625

#### CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVI

I, Sujit Kumar Pradhan S/o Rajendra Pradhan,

#### **FREE TEA FOR DRIVERS**

# **STA's move to reduce** winter road accidents

The initiative, which runs between 3am and 6am, has been implemented on several major highways across the state

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, Dec 11: In a bid to curb road accidents during the winter season, particularly during late-night and early-morning hours, the State Transport Authority (STA) has introduced a proactive measure to ensure the safety of drivers. As part of this initiative, free tea is being distributed to drivers along highways to help them stay

alert and refreshed. The initiative, which runs between 3am and 6am, has been implemented on several major highways across the state. The Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) are coordinating this effort in collaboration with local volunteers. Identified hotspots such as roadside dhabas and toll gates serve as distribution points where tea is offered to drivers of long-distance vehicles, including buses, trucks,

and taxis STA officials, staff, and volunteers are also utilising these interactions to educate drivers about the risks of driving under fatigue, drowsiness, and road hypnosis. Drivers are being informed about accident-prone areas, commonly referred to as black spots, and advised to remain cautious, especially



during foggy conditions that significantly impair visibility. Transport Commissioner

Amitabh Thakur has issued directives to all RTOs through the Joint Commissioner (Road Safety) to ensure the continuity of this initiative until December 31. This directive aligns with the Commerce and Transport department's broader goal to enhance driver awareness and improve road safety standards across the state.

Thakur said that winter driv ing conditions present unique challenges, including dense fog that reduces visibility and increased vehicular movement in forested and hilly regions due

to seasonal picnickers. The STA has identified several factors contributing to road accidents, such as driver inexperience, negligence, fatigue, improper parking, and violations of road safety norms.

Additionally, road hypnosis-a condition where a driver remains physically alert but mentally unresponsive due to monotony-has been flagged as a significant cause of accidents.

Statistics indicate a spike in road accidents during December, particularly during nighttime and early morning hours. To combat this trend, the STA has intensified its efforts to ensure that drivers remain well-rested and vigilant. Alongside distributing tea, awareness campaigns are being conducted to sensitize drivers about safe driving practices.

The STA's initiative aims to bring about a noticeable reduction in road accidents during the winter months, thereby ensuring safer travel for all road users. The department remains committed to exploring and implementing innovative measures to safeguard lives on the roads.

#### Workshop on coastal protection at RDWU

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: A workshop dedicated to coastal environment protection was held Wednesday at Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU). The event was jointly organised by the university's departments of Biotechnology and Political Science. in collaboration with the Odisha Environment Congress (OEC).

The workshop was presided over by university vice-chancellor Aparaiita Chowdhury. with former Utkal University vice-chancellor Vinayak Rath as the chief guest. The keynote address was delivered by, Odisha Environmental Society (OES) secretary Jay Krushna Panigra hi. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and students.

Rath expressed concern over the increasing threats to Odisha's coastal areas and highlight ed the potential negative impacts of proposed infrastructure projects, such as the construction of a coastal highway. "The development of the coastal highway will affect the environment and local communities," Rath noted.

Panigrahi provided insights into the adverse effects of climate change on Odisha's coastal ecosystem, stating, "Climate change is increasingly disrupting the fragile ecosystem along the coast." OEC organising secretary Sudarsan Das spoke on the state's environmental laws. Other notable speakers included OES general secretary Bhrugu Buxipatra. who highlighted the role of youth in protecting the environment.



# Prez confers Nat'l Panchayat Awards



Odisha emerges as a significant achiever, securing accolades in seven categories

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Panchayat Awards to 45 recipients in New Delhi on Wednesday, recognizing their exceptional contributions to sustainable and inclusive development. Odisha emerged as a significant achiever, securing accolades in seven categories.

Speaking at the event, President Murmu emphasized the crucial role of villages in India's progress, stating, "With 64 per cent of our population residing in villages, their development and empowerment are essential for India to become a developed nation. Self-reliant and capable local bodies form the foundation of a developed India." She urged Panchayats to enhance self-reliance by developing local revenue sources, fostering self-confidence, and strengthening Gram Sabhas.

Highlighting the role women in governance, she remarked, "It is encouraging that women representatives are driving positive changes at the grassroots level through Panchayati Raj institutions.'

Among the winners, Kel uapalli Gram Panchayat in Ganjam received the Healthy Panchayat Award for its ro bust health initiatives, while Sahapur Gram Panchavat ir Ganjam was honoured for its infrastructure advancements Chhatrapur Block Panchayat also in Ganjam, earned the Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Puraskar for exemplary governance.

Koraput district was recognised as the Best District Panchayat for communi ty-driven initiatives, and Sundargarh's Kasira Gram Panchavat won the Gram Ur ja Swaraj Vishesh Panchaya award for sustainable energy efforts. Additionally, Kendrikela Gram Panchayat was commended with the Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchava Puraskar, and the State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD & PR) received the Best Panchayat Institution Award.

#### 7 green energy projects get nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The state government Wednesday approved seven renewable energy projects worth ₹1,386.09 crore

single-window com-The mittee (SWC) of the Energy department headed by Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev approved these projects with a cumulative capacity of (H&UD) Minister Krushna 192.41 mega watt (MW) aimed Chandra Mahapatra Wednesat strengthening Odisha's sustainable energy infrastructure, day visited the Temporary

# H&UD min visits TTS site in City



POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Housing and Urban Development to develop a biogas plant that will use the waste collected at the site. "We are here to find solutions to the garbage problem. The treatment process has started to reduce odour and lessen the volume of waste stored at the station," Mahapatra said.

Additionally, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) ceased transporting waste to the Bhuasuni landfill as of May 17, 2023, following directives from the National Green Tribunal. Presently, BMC generates approximately 800 tons of waste daily, with 384 tons being wet waste and 416 tons dry waste. Waste man agement is facilitated through 37 Micro Composting Centers (MCCs) for wet waste and 22 Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) for dry waste. The TTS processes over 550 tons of waste daily, using windrow technology for 250-300 tons of wet waste, recovering recyclables for authorized recyclers, and converting non-recyclables into Refused Derived Fuel (RDF) for transport to the Rajgangpur cement plant. From December 2023 to date, BMC has processed 150.000 tons of waste, including 100,000 tons of RDF sent to Dalmia Cement Factory.

# Odisha shines at 9th Int'l Gita Mahotsav in Haryana



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Odi-

jar) and Mahishasurmardini to life. The Kandhei Nacha (puppet dance) from Ganjam cuisine, and tourist attractions, drawing admiration from Indian and international visitors alike.

Daily performances of clas sical Odissi and folk dances such as Gotipua, Ghoda Nacha, Dhemsa, Ghumura, and Bajasal bring Odisha's vibrant traditions to life. Each dance narrates stories deeply rooted in the state's cultural and his torical legacy.

The folk dances Dalkhai and Rasarkeli, traditionally performed during festivals like Nuakhai and Puspuni, received widespread applause for their dynamic rhythm and expres sive storytelling. Internation al visitors have been especially impressed by the intricate cho reography and the narrative depth of the performances. The festival, first held in 2016, is a celebration of cul tural and artistic heritage This year's edition runs un til December 15, with Odis ha's pavilion, inaugurated December 5, standing out as a testament to the state's commitment to preserving and promoting its artistic legacy on a global stage.

Resident of Sumandi, P.O.- Solabhagapentho, Dist.- Ganjam, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No.-A/5541 dated 10.12.24 that now onwards I shall be known as SUJIT PRADHAN for all future purposes.

By virtue of Affidavit No. - 3392, dtd. 3.12.2024 before the Executive Magistrate, Jajpur Road, I, Sanapala Narayanamurty, S/o-Sanapala Daleppa of Yethurallapadu, Andhrapradesh -532474 at Present Mahatabnagar, Gosala, Jajpur Road, Dist-Jajpur hereby declare that my son name has changed from Sanapala Yaswanth to Yaswanth Sanapala. Henceforth, my son will be known as Yaswanth Sanapala for all purposes. Sanapala Narayana Murty

an official statement said.

The projects with a cumulative capacity of 192.41 MW are expected to strengthen the state's sustainable energy infrastructure

The approved projects include a 99 MW wind power project, five ground-based solar projects of 91.77 MW and one rooftop solar project of 1.64 MW. it said.

These projects will leverage Odisha's natural potential for renewable energy generation, emphasising the state's commitment to achieving its renewable energy goals under the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy-2022, the department said

Speaking on the occasion, Dev emphasised the importance of renewable energy in driving sustainable economic growth. He reiterated the government's commitment to facilitating investments and ensuring timely implementation of approved projects.

So far, the SWC has given approval for investment proposals worth ₹9,781.47 crore for a total capacity of 1,441.79 MW in the renewable energy sector.

Transit Station (TTS) near Sainik School to review garbage management efforts. The minister stated that the processing of the significant amount of waste at the site would be completed within a month.

Minister Mahapatra emphasised that the ongoing treatment process aims to minimize odour and ensure a long-term solution in the future. He noted that less waste would be stored at the station moving forward, and a meeting under Chief Minister Mohan Majhi would be convened to establish a permanent plan to address the issue. The minister also highlighted

a contract signed by Indian Oil

sha's classical dance, Odissi, and its vibrant folk dances have captivated audiences at the ongoing 9th International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra. Harvana. The cultural stage at the Odisha pavilion has emerged as a major attraction, drawing praise from visitors for its rich artistic offerings.

Highlights of the performances include the Odissi dance recital 'Ahe Nila Shaila'. which beautifully showcased Jagan nath culture. Folk dances such as Dalkhai and Rasarkeli had spectators tapping their feet, while the Pashu Mukha dance brought mythological themes like Hari-Arjuna (Nabagun-

district was particularly popular with children, adding a playful charm to the showcase.

Culture Minister Surjya Banshi Suraj lauded the performers, stating, "Odisha's dance traditions are timeless. They reflect the essence of our rich Odia culture and heritage. The mesmerising performances at the Gita Mahotsav offer audiences a unique opportunity to connect with Odisha's cultural legacy.

As the state partner for this year's Gita Mahotsav, Odisha has gone beyond dance to highlight its cultural diversity. The pavilion features exhibitions of traditional arts, crafts, textiles,

#### **INT'L MOUNTAIN DAY**

### Event highlights importance of mountain & forest conservation

#### RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: International Mountain Day. observed every December 11, underscores the crucial role of mountains in sustaining life on Earth. This year's theme. 'Protecting Forests on Mountains," emphasises the importance of safeguarding not just the peaks themselves but the ecosystems surrounding them.

To commemorate the day,

the non-profit organisation Bullseye partnered with students and villagers from Kandalei, situated near the Chandaka-Damapada Elephant Sanctuary, to promote mountain preservation.

Chairman of Bullseye Trilochan Beura spoke about the urgent need for mountain conservation. "Mountains are the lifeblood of our planet, and protecting the forests that exist on them is crucial to maintaining our environ-



mental balance," he said

The event featured environmentalist Susanta Sahoo as the chief guest, who delivered an inspiring address on the importance of mountains. "Mountains are not only nature's greatest creations but also hold deep

cultural and spiritual significance," Sahoo noted. He added that mountains are often regarded as sacred, symbolising strength, stability, and divine presence in many societies.

Sahoo also highlighted the ecological importance of mountains in regulating rainfall, noting, "Mountains account for about 30 percent of nature and play a critical role in rainfall patterns, as their elevation forces moist air to rise, leading to precipitation." He underscored that mountains are essential for both environmental balance and cultural heritage

The programme was organised by social activist Priyabrata Panda, alongside Principal Bichitra Kumar Maihi and Sub ash Ojha. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Kandalei villagers, reflect ing the collective responsibility of communities in preserving mountain ecosystems

#### CON TACI **BOOKING ST** FOR CLASSIFIED OUR ADV TS ER ISEMEN

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









# state

# Nayagarh elephant deaths spark concern



**OrissaPOST** 

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

OST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Dec 11: The forests of Nayagarh district and Mahanadi Wildlife Division are increasingly becoming unsafe for elephants as Khurda forest division's Ranpur range and Nayagarh forest division - both in this district - have reported 18 jumbo deaths in last 13 years.

According to reports, most of these majestic creatures are falling victim to poaching. Six elephant deaths were recorded in Ranpur forest range, while Nayagarh forest division and Mahanadi Wildlife Division reported 12 fatalities together. The timeline of deaths reveals a disturbing trend.

Reports suggest that barring Ranpur forest range, one death each occurred in 2011-12 and 2012-13, two deaths in 2014-15, four in 2015-16 (the highest during this period), one death in 2017-18, two deaths in 2019-21 and one in 2023-24 in Navagarh district and Mahanadi Wildlife Division.

The highest number of elephant deaths (four) occurred in 2015-16. This alarming pattern

#### suggests lapses in forest management and lack of proactive measures to protect elephants.

Wildlife activists and locals have criticised the Forest department for its alleged indifference towards elephant conservation. Allegations of poor oversight, unmotivated personnel, and insufficient action to address recurring threats have further fueled dissatisfaction. Moreover, the lack of systematic efforts to raise awareness or implement effective solutions has left people deeply concerned. The most troubling aspect of this crisis is the persistent mystery surrounding the causes of elephant deaths. This has left the conservationists perplexed whether enough is being done to ensure the safety and survival of these gentle giants. Efforts must intensify to uncover the root causes, prevent further losses, and

protect the elephants that symbolise India's rich wildlife heritage, said a few wildlife activists. Lack of food and water in forests is becoming increasingly evi-

dent. Further, human settlements encroaching on forests obliterate the traditional paths and hab-

itats, resulting in escalation of human-wildlife conflicts.

Notably, a tusker was spotted near the residential offices of Nayagarh divisional forest officer (DFO) and the District Collector a few months ago. Similarly, during the harvest season for paddy and sugarcane, several elephant herds from the forests of Ranpur forest range in Khurda forest division, forests of Nayagarh and Mahanadi Wildlife Division frequently approach the nearby villages, causing significant damage to crops and properties. However, most of the farmers do not get adequate compensation for crop losses caused by elephants. This often leads to man-animal conflicts as reports suggest that some farmers, out of anger, have resorted to harming

or killing elephants. The pachyderms frequently die due to poisoning and electrocution on their migratory paths. A recent instance of such an incident occurred in Biluapada Ghati area of Baisipalli proposed reserve forest under Dasapalla forest range. In this case, a tusker was killed by electrocution. Similarly, animals are often targeted using poisoned food, traps, and even gunfire. When contacted, environmen-

talists and wildlife activists Bibhuti Prasad Das, Sanjay Sahu and Antarvami Sahu suggested crucial measures to prevent such tragedies. They emphasised the need for providing adequate food and water to elephants in forested areas.



BOAT RACE: Fishermen from 10 villages participate in a boat race at Satiguda reservoir in Malkangiri district on the occasion of district level cultura festival Malyabanta Mahotsav, Wednesday

#### Man killed in bear attack

Dabugaon: A bear mauled a man to death at Medana village under this block of Nabarangpur district early Wednesday morning. The deceased was identified as Banamali Majhi, 54. According to reports, Majhi had gone to a nearby field to relieve himself when the wild animal attacked him. His screams alerted locals, who chased the bear but the latter disappeared into the nearby forest. The locals then rushed a criticallyinjured Majhi to Dabugaon community health centre (CHC) in an ambulance, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Hiranya Majhi, the younger brother of the deceased, filed a complaint with Dabugaon police who registered a case (36/24) and started an investigation. The body was handed over to the family after a post-mortem was conducted

## Jumbo attacks claim 2 in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Dec 11: Two people, including a woman, were killed in separate incidents of elephant at tacks in this district Wednesday.

Sources said Mandodaga Sahu, a woman from Baghuabol village under Bagadia police limits in Chhendipada forest area, was harvesting paddy on her farmland when an elephant from a 22-member herd came there, grabbed her with its trunk and trampled her. Tensions flared in the village as locals surrounded the police and forest officials, demanding compensation for the kin of the



deceased. The protesters allowed the body for conduct of a post-mortem after they got assurances from officials that her family would be provided with ₹60,000 and other government assistance within 24 hours.

In another incident, Brundabana Sahu, 59, from Boudabada village under Kaniha police limits, was killed by a tusker on National Highway 53 near Bhalubasanala. The incident occurred when Sahu was on his way to Bajrakote Haat early Wednesday morning. Enraged locals blocked the road for four hours demanding compensation for the victim's family and a government job for one of the family members. The blockade was withdrawn after officials assured the protesters of compensation.

#### **108 Ambulance** staffers shut down **GPS in protest**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Dec 11: Staffers of the government's 108 Ambulance service have launched a protest raising several demands at the Sub-divisional Hospital here Wednesday.

They have demanded wage revision, reduction in duty hours, and most importantly, reinstatement of the sacked 100 employees. The staffers have shut down GPS facility in the ambulances, resulting in complete disconnection of contact with the control centre. The agitating 108 Ambulance employees said that they are prepared to provide the services without GPS till their demands are conceded. However, it is not

#### AKASH RANJAN RATH

hilika, famous for its rich natural heritage and beautiful ecosystem, is Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, a Ramsar site, and one of the biodiversity hotspots in the country. It's a unique habitat that

supports 24 species of mammals, 221 species of birds, 61 species of reptiles, 30 species of decapoda, and 136 species of mollusca. Some critically endangered and endangered species such as Pallas' fish eagle, spoon-billed sandpiper, bar-tailed godwit, Barkudia insularis, finless porpoise, Irrawaddy, bottlenose, humpback dolphins, fishing cats and many more are found here. Chilika is

#### Chilika: A fragile ecosystem at risk of collapse sea mouth. It's a diverse habitat of fresh

and salt water, shoreline, rocky islands, salt marshes and spits, sandbars and rivers like Daya, Bhargavi, Ratnachira, Luna, Kusumi, Bada, Rushikulya meet the sea here. The ecosystem provides livelihood to more than two lakh fishermen in various wavs.

Already climate change, habitat destruction, illegal prawn culture, pesticide contamination and poaching are going on for decades, causing serious damage to this fragile ecosystem. Any further pressure on it will affect the health of the lagoon and ultimately lead to its disappearance.

The majority of residents of this region belong to vulnerable communities, primarily



al highway (NH-516A) over Chilika, connecting Gopalpur and Satapada, in such a sensitive region will undoubtedly impact its ecological health. The construction of concrete structures, vehicular pollution (noise, artificial light, plastic waste) and 24\*7 activities will introduce significant environmental stress. Additionally, activities such as drilling, risk of oil spill, smoke emissions could cause irreparable damage to Chilika's fragile ecosystem over time.

rawaddy dolphins are highly sensitive to noise and artificial light. In Chilika lagoon, they are geographically isolated and are accustomed to this area. Habitat fragmentation and various forms of pollution are likely to have a significant impact on their behaviour, migration, communication, hunting and resting periods. Likewise, migratory and residential birds will experience stress, particularly at night during their feeding, resting and perching time. Same will happen with nocturnal mam-

#### mals and other species.

The potential consequences of such a project include a decline of diversity due to reduced bird activity, drop in fish population and possible endangerment of dolphins, which are vital to the lake's biodiversity. This proposed project could severely impact the livelihood of residents. Tourism could also partly impact as some visitors may opt to explore this Ramsar site on vehicle. Boating transport will be hugely affected rendering thousands jobless.

Just like the pollution in the areas surrounding the Mahana di, Kathajodi, Daya and other bridges, the peripheral zones of this bridge too will become polluted with polythene, ciga rette butts, alcohol and water bottles, wrappers and remnants from worship rituals.

> The writer is ex-Honorary Wildlife Warden, Puri.

#### AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND **AWARENESS INITIATIVE** Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue: Friday, 13th December 2024; 6:30 p.m. onwards. at The Sarovar Court, Ispat Market, Ambagan Circle, Bank street, Sector 19, Rourkela - 769 005, Odisha.

possible for general public to establish contact with ambulance without active GPS facility.

Due to the disruption in the free emergency health services, patients are forced to look for alternative arrangements to get their patients to the hospital, which could be life threatening for critical patients.

also home to over 700 species of plants including seven rare and 11 endemic ones

Almost 80-90 per cent of Irrawaddy dolphin population resides here because they prefer water less than 20m deep, abundant food supply, better water quality, isolation and to stay close to fresh water and comprising poor fishermen who rely entirely on Chilika for their livelihood. Their dependence spans various activities including fishing, boating for transportation and tourism like bird and dolphin watching. A large scale project such as

the proposed two-lane coast-

Man held

in Balasore for theft in

Bangalore

Balasore: A 22-year-old man

was arrested in

this district for

allegedly stealing

ewellery worth

over₹70 lakh

from the house

of a doctor in

Like other cetaceans, Ir-

For registration, please contact: Raniit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035. Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. No walk-ins will be allowed.



An interstore Education and Awareness Initiative isit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/initermediaries.htm). For any queries, complaints & girevance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and 1 or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on https://scores.gov.in. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portal they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on https://smartodr.in/login.

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefull



# March 2025 deadline for Jamunanaki bridge



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Dec 11: If things go as per plan, the Jamunanaki bridge, which was supposed to be completed before the Hockey World Cup 2023, will be completed in March 2025, according to sources at the Public Works department.

The bridge being constructed at a cost of ₹22 crore is aimed at connecting Rourkela with Kuanrmunda. However, there has been an inordinate delay in the construction work. The bridge, which was supposed to be completed before the Hockey World Cup last year, could not be completed after one year and eleven months.

Now, the department expects it to be completed by March 2025, though only half of the construction is over till date.

Once the bridge is completed, it will provide access to Biramitrapur through Kuanrmunda. Being constructed with District

Mineral Foundation (DMF) Bangalore where fund, the bridge originates from he worked as a Jamunanaki in Kuanrmunda domestic help, and lands near Panposh Sports police said Hostel.

Wednesday. The Significantly, the construcaccused was tion of the bridge began in nabbed from his village in Khaira 2021 and the initial deadline area of the district for its completion was before on Tuesday, they the Men's Hockey World Cup.

said. The incident "The workers are going down came to light when up to 100 ft under water, as the a jewellery shop design necessitates, and this owner at Khaira is causing the delay," said asalerted the police sistant chief engineer of PWD about a man who Manoj Mahanand. He was hopetried to sell gold ful that the bridge would be and diamond over by March 2025. Explaining ornaments, an further about the delay in the officer said. work, he said, "We are unable When the shop to work for six months during owner enquired and after the monsoon as this is more about the a very deep place. Besides, the jewellery, he fled, deep sinking is also delaying raising suspicion, police said. He the work. was traced with Once the bridge is completed,

the help of CCTV residents of Chhend will gain camera footage, direct access to National Highthe officer added. way 143, said sources.

				ror Road RW/BLS/2	
No. 0-832 <b>Iden</b> 1. Name of the Work 2. Total No. of Work 3. Estimated Cost 4. Class of Contract 5. Time of Completic 6. Other Details	s : s :	Roads 53 Nos. Estimated C 'D', 'C' & 'B'	ost Rs.5.689	to Rs.49.304 lakh	.024-25
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.		y of Tender or Bidding To	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of oper of tender in the Offic the Addl. Chief Engin R.W. Division, Balas
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending	03/SERW/	13.12.2024	21.12.2024	21.12.2024	21.12.2024
Engineer, Rural Works	BLS/ 2024-	at	upto	upto	at
Division, Balasore	25	11.00 A.M.	5.00 P.M.	1.00 P.M.	5.30 P.M.
Further details can be OIPR-25108/11/0003/		website ww		-	er, R.W. Division, Bal
DEDADTHE	_	_		ODISHA	
DEPARTME OFFICE OF THE BLC					LIGUDA, DIST.: KORA
	e-Proc	urement	Notice N	lo. 01/2024-2	5
No. 4997/2024 No. i-355: The Block Dev behalf of Governor of Oc	PER elopment Office	CENTAC	SE RATE	e-TENDER	Date: 04.1

system for the construction works detailed in the table Details of the Tender Project

SI. No.	Name of the Work	Name of the Scheme	Approximate Value of Work Excluding GST	Class of Contractor	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents	Period c Completio	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Construction of Addl. Class Room at Block Colony PS, Semiliguda	S&ME Deptt.	11,38,615/-	"C" & "D"	11,400/-	6000/-	6 (Six) Cale Months	
	Construction of Addl. Class Room at P.Muthai PS, P.Muthai GP	S&ME Deptt.	11,65,590/-	"C" & "D"	11,700/-	6000/-	6 (Six) Cale Months	
	Construction of Addl. Class Room at Anchalika High School, Kunduli	S&ME Deptt.	12,79,043/-	"C" & "D"	12,800/-	6000/-	6 (Six) Cale Months	
(3 No:	s. of Work only)							
SI. N	o. Descript	ion			С	ritical Dates		
(i)	Period of availability of bid docume	nts for Onli	ne bidding	: 09.12.2024	1 to 23.12	.2024 upto 17	7.30 hours	
(ii)	Last date & time of seeking clarification	ation		: 23.12.2024 upto 17.30 hours				
(iii)	Last date & time of online bidding			: 23.12.2024 upto 17.30 hours				
(iv)	Date & time of opening of online Bi	Date & time of opening of online Bid				hours		
(v)	Transparent Lottery (If required)		: 24.12.2024	1				
va e-	id documents consisting of specificat alue, bid security/EMD, cost of bid do -procurement portal/website https://ww	cuments, i	equired class of	contractor, o	completion	n time etc. a	re available	
OIPR-	-19066/11/0001/2425			Sd./- F	Nock Dev	elopment O	fficer Semil	



# power post



#### FOCUS LAW

You must abstain from thinking about someone when you cannot think well of him

THE MOTHER

# House of Cards

ome 54 years after Hafez al-Assad seized power in Syria, rebels overthrew the dynasty his son Bashar squandered. Bashar al-Assad's downfall was made possible partly by the fact that his Iranian and Russian patrons were distracted by their own existential problems. But it was Assad's own shortcomings that hastened the regime's collapse. Hemmed in by a parasitic economy and an ossified political system that brooked no dissent, Assad lacked the strength to reform much of anything.

Bashar was never groomed to lead Syria. His elder brother, Bassel, was their father's heir apparent. But after Bassel's untimely death in 1994, Bashar was summoned home from his ophthalmology residency in London.

When Hafez died in 2000, he bequeathed his son a strong and stable state. Syria's days as a pariah were over. It no longer clashed with America by shooting down Navy pilots. After Hafez pledged troops to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, he became a partner in the quest for peace, developing a close rapport with US President Bill Clinton.

Many hoped Bashar's exposure to the West, which his father lacked, would help him moderate the ruling Ba'ath Party in power since 1963. Initially, Bashar seemed to embrace the role of reformer, releasing political prisoners and allowing intellectual salons to flourish.

But he abruptly changed tack, stifling dissent and allowing corruption to run rampant. To compensate, he diverted Syrians' frustrations by demonizing foreign bogevmen. He blamed Jews for betraving Jesus. He opened his country to foreign jihadists, facilitating their travel to Iraq to fight Americans. And he proved willing to emulate his father's violent proclivities. When Lebanese Prime Minister Rafig Hariri refused to toe the line, Bashar threatened to "break Lebanon" and conspired with Hezbollah to assassinate him.

Bashar was shackled to the Ba'ath regime his father cobbled together from minorities to rule over the Arab Sunnis, who comprise around 64 per cent of the Syrian population. The Ba'ath also appealed to provincial Sunnis who had long faced discrimination by urban elites. Any reform would jeopardize the supremacy of Assad's Alawi sect, a Shia offshoot accounting for around 12 per

cent of the population. By 2006, even Syria's most fervent Western supporters had broken with Assad. French President Jacques Chirac, an ally of Hafez, confessed that Bashar "seemed to me incompatible with security and peace." Some nicknamed him the "blind eye doctor." Others dubbed him

'Fredo," after Don Corleone's blundering middle son in The Godfather. So, when revolts erupted throughout the Arab world in 2011, it was logical to believe the contagion would reach Syria. But Bashar was either oblivious to Syrians' grievances or chose to ignore them. Weeks before they took to the streets, he told the Wall Street Journal, "we are outside of this," and that Syria was "stable" because he was "closely linked to the beliefs of the people.'

But when the regime's rural base turned on it, protests erupted. To blunt he rebellion, Assad leaned on urban elites, who disdained the bumpkins, and on the working class, who never identified with rural grievances.

This did not suffice to save Bashar, however, and he was compelled to turn to the Russians for air support and Iran-backed militias, especially Hezbollah. After several years of fighting, Bashar was able to claw back control of most territory comprising the spine of the country, from Aleppo in the north to Damascus in the south, where most Syrians live. Like his father, Bashar was afforded a second chance; unlike his fa-

ther, he frittered it away. Unable to secure political reform, his supporters now clamored for economic change, homing in on the distribution of resources and reconstruction. But a regime with so many similarities to the Sopranos could never concede its coveted rents, even if doing so would have brought social harmony. Like the fictional mafia family, Assad's regime relied on kickbacks from wealthy business owners and shaking down foreigners. When the World Food Program neglected to pay bribes at Syrian ports, its rice shipment rotted in storage. Similarly. Bashar's uncle once intimated to an American diplomat that Syria would purchase Boeing planes if he was appointed the sales agent. With sufficient revenue streams, the regime forged a trickle-down economic model, placating society with subsidised commodities while enriching itself with ill-gotten gains. But the civil war shrank the revenue base from which to extract domestic rents, and there were no more foreigners to extort. Today, Syria earns almost twice as much from illicit exports of the amphetamine captagon as it does from legal trade. With the economy contracting and cuts to subsidies making everyday staples unaffordable for the average wage earner, around 70 per cent of Syrian households say they cannot meet their basic needs.

# **JUDICIAL DISOBEDIENCE**

hallenging the derecognition order dated 26 April 2023 issued by the Department of Posts in favour of the National Federation of Postal Employees and its biggest affiliate namely the All India Postal Employees Union, Group-C for alleged violation of CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993, the later filed multiple court cases in the High Courts of Calcutta, Madras, Karnataka and Jharkhand praying for immediate restoration of recognition. Consequently, though Jharkhand HC on 12.04.2024 stayed the impugned order dated 26.04.2023, the Department of Posts moved to the Supreme Court which has delayed the implementation of the stay order. Similarly, the long-running Ayodhya land dispute case, resolved by the SC in 2019, had been mired in decades of delays and interim orders that were often ignored by parties. These orders, intended to maintain the status quo and prevent escalation, were frequently breached. prolonging the litigation process and leading to nationwide tensions. Another notable case was Sahara vs SEBI, where the SC ordered the Sahara Group to refund investors' money in a major financial dispute. Sahara's repeated appeals and delays resulted in a multi-year standoff, eroding investor trust and demonstrating how influential parties can evade or de-

fer compliance. Several such court orders, whether interim or final, are frequently disregarded by parties who exploit legal loopholes to delay compliance. particularly in high-stakes cases. This disregard not only denies justice to the aggrieved but also creates a dangerous precedent for undermining the very institution meant to uphold the law. Understanding the scope of judicial disobedience, its legal implications, and potential remedies is essential to safeguard the integrity of the iudicial process. According to the National

To counter judicial disobedience and expedite justice, it is essential to strengthen existing enforcement mechanisms and instil a culture of respect for court orders

purpose of the original order.

has wide-reaching conse-

quences, some circumstances

provide legitimate grounds for

challenging or delaying court

orders. For instance, parties

may seek relief from orders

they believe are erroneous or

contrary to facts. Similarly,

if enforcing an order would

cause irreparable harm, par-

ties can request a stay from a

higher court. Such exceptions

are integral to preserving jus-

tice and ensuring that orders

are fair and based on sound

judgment. However, these

legal provisions can be mis-

used, with some parties filing

appeals or petitions as a delay

tactic, ultimately harming the

opposing party's interest and

To counter judicial disobe-

dience and expedite justice, it

is essential to strengthen exist-

ing enforcement mechanisms

and instil a culture of respect

for court orders. Courts can

adopt stricter measures, such

as imposing more substantial

fines and prison terms for

contempt cases, ensuring that

contemnors face consequences

that deter others from defying

judicial mandates. Increasing-

ly, some courts are exploring

asset garnishment and wage

deductions as punitive mea-

Establishing a dedicated

compliance unit within the

judiciary could provide a sys-

tematic approach to tracking

sures for contempt.

obstructing timely justice.

While judicial disobedience

Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), tens of thousands of cases remain unresolved each year because parties fail to comply with orders, compounding the problem of judicial backlog. An estimated 30% of civil cases are delayed due to non-compliance, often spanning years and leaving litigants in legal limbo. A 2022 survey conducted by the Centre for Public Policy Research indicated that nearly 65% of litigants felt that the impact of court orders was undermined by poor enforcement, with half of these cases involving substantial financial or personal loss due to delayed compliance.

The legal framework in India grants robust powers to the judiciary to enforce compliance with its orders. Articles 141 and 144 of the Constitution establish that the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts and that all authorities are duty-bound to assist in its enforcement. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, provides the judiciary with the power to penalise individuals for civil or criminal contempt, which includes willful disobedience of court orders. However, despite these provisions, actual instances of stringent punishment for disobedience remain limited. Courts often exercise caution, granting extensions or allowing appeals in the interest of procedural fairness, which can lead to delays that ultimately undermine the

This unit, composed of legal and administrative professionals, would monitor cases where compliance is delayed, issue reminders, and coordinate with law enforcement agencies to ensure the swift implementation of orders. Such an initiative could significantly reduce backlogs and alleviate delays, particularly in cases involving interim or restraining orders. Additionally, creating dedicated fast-track courts for contempt cases may help deter disobedience by ensuring that contemnors are swiftly brought to justice without interfering with the progress of primary cases. Improving coordination between courts and law enforcement agencies is also crucial. In civil cases, particularly those involving property or financial disputes, timely action by police and local authorities can prevent parties from violating court orders. Enhanced training and clear guidelines for law enforcement personnel on handling court orders can improve the response rate and reduce

and enforcing court orders.

instances of non-compliance. Another essential step is reducing the levels of appeal, particularly in cases involving interim orders. The legal system offers multiple layers of appeal, often used by litigants to delay compliance. By limiting appeals for interim orders or requiring that they be pursued only in exceptional cases, the judiciary can ensure that parties do not exploit procedural safeguards

as stalling tactics. The issue of judicial disobedience threatens the rule of law and weakens public trust in the legal system. Only through effective enforcement of court orders can the judiciary fulfil its promise to serve as the ultimate guardian of justice in society

The writer is General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, Odisha State Coordination Committee. Bhubaneswar

NATION

### SPECTRUM Whither social & economic justice

s the nation celebrates the 75th anniversary of

ists wanted to delete the word 'secular' from the Preamble of the Constitution which, however, the Supreme Court recently turned down as it rightly thought that "secularism represents one of the facets of the right to equality, intricately woven into the basic fabric" of the Constitution. On the economic front, in spite of the country becoming the fifth largest economy there is a widening disparity between the rich and the poor sections. There is no doubt that disparities in wealth and income have increased over the years and reports clearly point to the fact that this is widening more so in the last two decades. Unfortunately, the policies and programmes of the government are not fully geared towards the vulnerable and marginalised sections. The question arises here: why has this happened? Have successive governments adhered to the principles laid out in the Constitution?

Day, it cannot be denied that in recent years reassertion of the question of nationalism has led to disunity among the people. The propagation of Hindu nationalism and ignoring the minorities has further deepened fissures in unity, which is very much needed for society to flourish. Delving into the past and finding fault with the earlier rulers will not strengthen society; there is a need to advance the country on the basis

A radical shift in policy planning and implementation is the need for both political and socio-economic transformation to be ushered in. The onus obviously lies in our political leaders to evolve, keeping in view the interests of the masses. The earlier this happens it's better for the common man whose well-being should be of utmost concern. Thus, social and economic justice, as outlined in the Constitution, should be the basis of a country's developmental strategy Only time will tell whether there would be the desired shift in judiciously following Constitutional principles and values in the coming years. But if this does not happen, socio-economic justice would be hampered, and the societal structure may be retarded with grave consequences. A debate on the Constitution is slated this weekend in the Lok Sabha and next week in the Rajya Sabha. Political parties and Members of Parliament need to carry out their responsibilities and duties to do justice to it.



Barak Barfi

**HEMMED IN BY** 

ECONOMY AND

**A PARASITIC** 

**AN OSSIFIED** 

SYSTEM THAT

**BROOKED NO** 

LACKED THE

**STRENGTH TO** 

**OF ANYTHING** 

**REFORM MUCH** 

**DISSENT, ASSAD** 

POLITICAL

**THE LEGAL** SYSTEM **OFFERS MULTIPLE** LAYERS OF APPEAL, **OFTEN USED BY LITIGANTS TO DELAY** 

**COMPLIANCE** 

Nor are the poor the only ones who suffered under Assad. A regime built on capturing resources eventually turned on the entrepreneurs and business leaders whose legitimate companies sustained it.

Consider the case of Samer al-Dibs, a scion of the pre-Ba'ath elite who ruled Syria from 1860-1963. His family is active in industries ranging from paper manufacturing to banking. He never supported the protests in 2011 and was even willing to represent the regime at international conferences. But in parliamentary elections this past July, the regime deprived him of the seat he had held for 17 years, denying him the prerogatives that he and others leveraged to expand their businesses.

So, when the rebels launched their blitzkrieg 12 days ago, such figures refused to support the regime. And, consumed with more pressing conflicts against Israel and Ukraine, Bashar's Iranian and Russian patrons lacked the resources to rescue him again. But it was his hubris and refusal to embrace economic and political reform which ultimately doomed his rule.

The writer is a former research fellow at New America and a former visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### WISDOM CORNER

**L** The snow goose need not bathe to make itself white. Neither need you do anything but be yourself

LAO TZU

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time

MARK TWAIN

Discontent, blaming, complaining, self-pity cannot serve as a foundation for a good future, no matter how much effort you make

ECKHART TOLLE



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**RELIGION HAS ENTERED INDIAN POLITICS, AND RIGHTIST FORCES ARE USING IT TO EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR** FOLLOWING **A NEW** NATIONALISTIC PATH

L the Constitution, a number of questions come to mind regarding the country's adherence to it and the role of political leaders over the years. The Constitution framers wanted to provide an enabling vehicle to take a feudal and segmented society with a stunted economy into progressive paths so that India can emerge strong. It also needs to be mentioned here that the Constitution makers rejected the notion of any particular faith or cultural tradition becoming the basis of India's nationalism and treatment of its citizens.

Unfortunately, the present times are witnessing dichotomy within the ruling dispensation. Religion has entered Indian politics, and rightist forces are using it to explain the need for following a new nationalistic path. Critics of secularism have now gained prominence and embarked on a massive drive to define the majority by highlighting instances of minority appeasement.

It needs to be mentioned here that a section of fundamental-

Coming to the question of unity, which President Droupadi Murmu stated recently in her address to both houses of Parliament on Constitution of secularism and harmony. Upholding India's heritage is no doubt important and should be promoted in a rational and judicious manner. But there is need to move towards a progressive society with a modern outlook and base our governance on the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. This means the concerns of the majority of our citizens, who have to struggle for an existence, would have to be given topmost priority and accordingly plans and programmes have to be formulated in that direction. Unfortunately, this is not happening as the vulnerable and backward sections have to struggle for mere

existence

INFA

#### Champion of Earth

Sir, India's veteran ecologist and nature scientist Madhav Gadgil has been named as one of the six 'Champions of the Earth' by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for 2024. He is renowned for his seminal work in the ecologically fragile Western Ghats, which is a unique global biodiversity hotspot, Gadgil made an extensive study on Western Ghats chairing the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel in 2011 and came out with a list of grave findings for the region. The panel's report which is popularly known as the Gadgil report recommended in 2011 that the entire hill range be declared an ecologically sensitive area and recommended a ban on mining, quarrying, industries, new thermal power plants, hydropower projects, and large-scale wind energy projects. Gadgil's bold and honest recommendations faced opposition from some of the state governments, political bigwigs, industries and local communities. Braving all odds he championed for the protection of the planet and the environment. Gadgil's research has helped to protect marginalised people, promote community-driven conservation of ecosystems and influence policymaking at the highest level.

*M Pradyu,* KANNUR

#### China's climb down

Sir, It is good to know that China has begun to understand its limitations across the border. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement in the Parliament has clearly outlined New Delhi's firm commitment towards stitching bilateral relations and, at the same time, remaining resolute on quite a few of its already announced stands on the issue. Notwithstanding its earlier bravado, following the fresh understanding in October on the Ladakh standoff, Beijing has certainly climbed down over its stance. Jaishankar underlined the main principles that should govern the new found bonhomie between the two sides. Going back on the present status quo, especially with respect to the LAC, cannot be tolerated, and honouring all past agreements on the disputed issue cannot be compromised, at any rate by India. Of late, the leaders of both sides have had a flurry of diplomatic activities to stabilise bilateral ties, and that seems to have paid off.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

Orissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and











### Varanasi celebrates 3 years of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor



RESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP), Dec 11: A series of religious and cultural events are being held to mark the anniversary of the inauguration of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2021

The celebrations began December 10 and will continue until December 13.

Chief Executive Officer of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Vishwabhushan Mishra, said, "The grand and divine inauguration by the prime minister completed three years, and a series of religious programs began December 10 to commem-

orate this milestone.' He detailed the events, saying, "Special classical rituals, including Panchmukhi Ganesh Ji worship, Saptachiranjivi invocation. Navagraha worship. and Maha Mrityunjaya Homa. were conducted December 10 at the Dhundhiraj Ganesh Temple near the corridor. The rituals were officiated by renowned scholars Vishweshwar Shastri Dravid and Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid.'

Further, a 'Maha Rudra Path' will be conducted in the temple premises December 12. All deities in the Kashi Vishwanath Dham will be ceremoniously anointed as per traditional scriptures December 13.

"A 'yajna' will be performed

# POOR RECORDS, LACK OF GLOVES **UP Mid-day Meal Scheme**

TWO STATES

faces major shortcomings

#### INDO-ASIAN NEW SERVICI

New Delhi, Dec 11: Inadequacv in record maintenance and non-availability of gloves and aprons for cooks have emerged as major shortcomings in the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme in some districts of Uttar Pradesh, the Parliament was informed Monday.

Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary, in a written reply, said that social audit of the Mid-day Meal, given under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN), showed inadequacy in record maintenance in districts of Uttar Pradesh such as Sitapur, Lakhimpur Khiri, Mau, Gonda, and Balrampur. Non-availability of gloves and

Cultural performances will grace the temple courtyard aprons for cooks was identified December 13, coinciding with as the major shortcomings in districts Lakhimpur and Har-"The Shivarchanam Sandhya doi, the Minister said in reply program will feature renowned to a question by Ruchi Vira of artists, including sitar maestro Samajwadi Party. Devvrat Mishra, singer Neeraj Minister Chaudhary said that

Uttar Pradesh has reported that under the PM POSHAN Scheme, social audit was conducted in



1.500 schools for the years 2022-23 and in 1,575 schools for the year 2023-24, in all 75 districts as per the guidelines laid by the Central government; and the process for 2024-25 is underway.

He said under PM POSHAN a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), every local authority, or any other authority or body, authorised by the state government, is supposed to conduct periodic social audits on the functioning of the scheme.

He said that the Mid-Day

Meal Rules, 2015 provide for mandatory testing of food samples by Government Food Research Laboratory or any laboratory accredited or recognised by law to ensure that the meals meet nutritional standards and quality

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is given the responsibility for the issue of food grains for the meals. The FCI appoints a Nodal Officer for each State to take care of various problems in the supply of food grains under the PM POSHAN Scheme, he said.

#### MUSLIMS IN JAUNPUR ADOPT HINDU SURNAMES

such as namaz and fasting, but has started caring for cows and now owns nine of them.

ligion, just my surname, to honour my ancestors," he said. However, none of the family members have changed their surname.

The campaign has inspired others in the village which has

# HP to launch natural farming of maize

Free

certification

has been

farming

OrissaPo

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERIVCE

UTTAR

PRADESH

Shimla, Dec 11: Himachal Pradesh, whose economy largely banks on agriculture and horticulture, is going to promote maize flour produced through natural farming.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu recently said the maize flour would be marketed under the brand name Himbhog'

More than 4,000 quintals of maize have been procured from 1,506 farmers practicing natural farming across the state, with the excep tion of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur disprovided to over 1.5 tricts. lakh farmers and an

The highest proadditional 36.000 farmers curement was done are being connected from Solan district with natural (1,140 quintals) followed by Chamba (810 quintals) and Mandi (650 quintals), an official statement

said. He said Himachal Pradesh is the first state to offer the highest minimum support price (MSP) for wheat and maize. The government is providing ₹40 per kg for wheat and ₹30 per kg for maize produced through natural farming

The government is currently promoting natural farming across 35,000 hectares, benefiting 1.98 lakh farmers.

Free certification has been provided to over 1.5 lakh farmers and an additional 36,000 farmers are being connected

The Chief Minister said the government has strengthened the infrastructure at 10 'mandis' to facilitate the marketing of natural farming produce so that people do not have to face any inconvenience while selling their produce.

He said the government is also focusing on linking agricul-



ture with employment through phase three of Rajiv Gandhi Startup Yojana started with a budget of ₹680 crore.

Emphasising the importance of agriculture and horticulture in the state's economy, the Chief Minister said about

90 per cent of population of the state resides in villages To strengthen the rural economy the govern ment is intro ducing several initiatives, including direct monetary

support to farmers. He said the government is

also purchasing cow milk at ₹45 per litre and buffalo milk at ₹55 per litre, along with increasing the daily MNREGA wage by ₹60 to a historic ₹300.

All these measures aim to improve the economic well-be ing of farmers and ensure farming becomes a sustainable source of income.

Interestingly, farmers in state's landlocked valleys like Pangi in Chamba district and Dodra Kwar in Shimla distric have never used pesticides and fertilisers for growing crops.

Rakesh Thakur, a Dodra Kwar farmer, has been grow ing organic rajma (kidney beans) that command remunerative prices in the domestic market.

Most of the farmers who adopted organic farming are in the Rampur area in upper Shimla district, where pilot organic farming projects were launched in 2005.

Ice skating season begins at Asia's Years of 🗯 Constitution largest natural rink

CBC 25131/12/0019/2425

Shimla, Dec 11: Shim-

la's winter charm was elevated with the commencement of the season's first ice skating session Wednesday. Skat-

around 300 members Juvan, a teenager born and raised in Shimla who has been skating since she was five, shared that school and college students eagerly await the ice skating season each

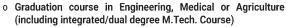
**STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED** Rourkela Steel Plant Rourkela - 769 011, Odisha, India FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS FOR PURSUING **PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (AY 2024-25 JOINING** ABRIDGED VERSION OF CIRCULAR NO. CSR/2024-25/289 Dtd. 09/10/2024 LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION - 31/12/2024

Applications in the prescribed format are invited for grant of the above financial assistance from the eligible students as per details given below

Eligibility criteria for application:

The student should belong to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe/ others, and should be a resident of Sundargarh district, Odisha.

The applicant should have taken admission in academic year 2024-25:





MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES **COIR BOARD GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** 



Six Months Certificate Course of

#### Shankar Netralaya, will be held PRESS TRUST OF INDIA in the temple courtyard for the temple trust priests and staff. Jaunpur (UP), Dec 11: Sever-Mishra emphasised the celebratory spirit, saying, "This al Muslim families in a village is a time to honour the spirihere have adopted surnames tual and cultural heritage of such as Dubey, Pandey, and Tiwari, claiming their ancestors

Kashi. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi December 13, 2021. Modi is also the Lok Sabha MP from Varanasi.

This is a time to

at 1 PM, praying for universal

prosperity and victory of San-

atan Dharma," Mishra added.

A Chaturveda recitation will

also take place, running until

the auspicious Pradosh Tithi.

Singh, and acclaimed bhaian

and Bollywood singer Abhijit

check-up and treatment camp.

organised in collaboration with

Additionally, a free eye

Ghoshal." Mishra noted.

and cultural heritage

VISHWABHUSHAN MISHRA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE

of Kashi

the evening.

honour the spiritual

uals in the Purvanchal region of

were Hindus. This transformation stems from a campaign led by the Vishal Bharat Sansthan, an organisation encouraging individ-

the state "to reconnect with their roots" to end religious conflicts. Naushad Ahmed, now known as Naushad Ahmed Dubey, said, "I discovered my ancestors were Brahmins. My father, Lal Bahadur Dubev. was later known as Lal Bahadur Sheikh.'

A resident of Dehri village in Kerakat tehsil, he asserted that he follows Islamic practices

"I haven't changed my re-

a sizeable Muslim population.

with natural farming.

#### Artisan in Coir Technology: NSQF Level 3. (6 months + 1 month internship) (January '25 to June '25) Last date of receipt of Application 20.12.2024 Eligibility: Applicant should be able to read and write local language.

Selected trainees will be eligible for a stipend of Rs.3000/per month.

MMM

One year Diploma Course in Advanced Coir Technology :NSQF Level 4. (1 year + 3 months internship) (February '25 to January '26) Last date of receipt of Application 10.01.2025 Eligibility: Pre-Degree / 12th standard or equivalent passed.

#### Common requirements for above two courses

- Age : between 18 to 50 years.
- Candidates sponsored by the Coir factory/ Coir Co-op. societies as per the R & L Rules 1958 are given preference.
- 20% seats are reserved for SC/ST candidates.

#### Free Hostel facilities available in following Centres.

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- 3.Alappuzha (only for ladies)

Application form can be downloaded from the website of Coir Board www.coirboard.gov.in



An amount of Rs.500/- per month will be reimbursed to the eligible candidates staying outside (male candidates at Alappuzha and all candidates at Rajahmundry)

NOTE: All communications will be made through email/phone only.

Kochi 06.12.2024

S/d Secretary, Coir Board

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low temperatures are necessary for the ice rink to form. Although water started freezing and a trial session was successfully conducted December 8, the inclement weather delayed the official start.

The sharp drop in temperatures following the snowfall proved beneficial for skating enthusiasts, as the water froze again within two days, creating a thick layer of ice

After a successful trial session 2-3 days ago, the first morning session officially began today, said Rajat Malhotra, organizing secretary of the Shimla Ice Skating Club. "Evening sessions will start in 4-5 days if the weather remains favourable," he said, adding that the crowd will increase once school examinations are over. The Shimla Ice-Skating Club currently has

We may feel la ng to school ut when it ting, we're first ones

aid. uhan (58), a kater with years of xperience, id that one oesn't feel once bld n the rink We are execting that ne season to o on until anuary 26,' e added. Clear skies nd low temeratures

-- typically below 4 to 5 degrees Celsius -- are ideal for freezing the ice. However, construction activities near the rink, particularly the demolition of the Rivoli Theater, which used to block direct sunlight. have created challenges for ice formation.

December 2016 was the warmest in Shimla's history, with maximum temperatures reaching 22 degrees Celsius, severely affecting the ice skating season. That year, only six sessions were held.

In contrast, the maximum number of sessions, 118, was recorded in the 1997-98 season, while the minimum. 12 sessions occurred in 1972.

Climate change, global warming and reckless construction in the area, along with pollution from the nearby bus stand, are posing significant threats to the rink.

OR o Post Graduation course of at least two years duration in Engineering/ Medical/ Agriculture/ Business Administration. Details of professional course, in the academic year 2024-25 in a recognized institution should be as follows:i. For Graduation Courses of at least four years duration (B.Tech/

- B.Sc (Engg.)/B.Sc (Ag)etc.). ii. For Graduation Courses of less than 4-years duration (e.g.
- Lateral entry in B.Tech./B.Sc (Engg.) after Diploma in Engg.). iii. For Graduation courses of more than 4-years duration (e.g. 5 yrs

MBBS, 5-yr integrated/dual degree M.Tech.). OR

iv. For Post Graduate course of at least two years duration (e.g. M.Tech./MD/MS/M.Sc.(Ag)/MBA etc.)

The student, whose parents (taken together) are having annual income from all sources not exceeding Rs.2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand), shall be eligible for the financial assistance.

Basis of Selection: The best twenty students (10 boys and 10 girls) separately for the graduation courses including 5-yr MBBS/5-yr integrated/dual degree M.Tech.) and best 10 students (5 boys and 5 girls) for Post-graduation courses will be selected from amongst the eligible applicants. In case there is a shortfall in number of selected candidates in either of the categories i.e Boys or Girls for which merit lists are prepared separately, then the applicants from the merit list of the other category may be additionally selected for the scholarship keeping the total number of scholarships as 20 in case of Graduation courses and 10 in case of Post-Graduation courses.

Financial assistance amount: The amount of financial amount is Rs.1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) for the graduation courses of 4-yr duration, Rs. 90,000/- (Rupees Ninety Thousand only) for the graduation courses of less than 4 years (e.g. lateral entry in B.Tech./BSc(Engg.)after Diploma in Engg., Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) for courses of 5-yr duration and Rs. 60,000/- (Rupees Sixty Thousand Only) for the post-graduation courses, per student for entire duration of the course. The amount will be released in equal yearly installments @ Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand Only) per Academic Year based on documentary evidence of admission and continuation in the course.

For further details on the basis of selection, financial assistance amount and mode of payment, application format etc., the main circular as referred above may be referred to. The details along with application format are available in the 'News' section of "Career" page at our company's website www.sail.co.in or www.sailcareers.co.in. The duly completed application along with required documents are to be submitted in a sealed envelope at the office of the General Manager I/c, CSR Department, IPD Building, Sector-20, Rourkela - 769 005 latest by 31/12/2024 (4.00 PM).

#### General Manager I/c (CSR), RSP-SAIL

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# national



India's strength is its innovative youth and technology power. We have introduced a new National **Education Policy to nurture a sci**entific mindset. The government is removing roadblocks in the path of the country's youth by introducing reforms

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

#### **AIR FORCE JAWAN SHOOTS SELF DEAD ON DUTY**

An on-duty Air Force sergeant allegedly took his own life by shooting himself with his service weapon at Maintenance Command here in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. Javeer Singh (36), who hailed from Bhiwani in Haryana, shot himself in the head around 2 am, said an official of Gittikhadan police station





Recently when IT Minister (Nara Lokesh) went to America, he went to Google campus

and requested them. And the result of that is today Google has (agreed to come to Vizag). We signed an MoU (agreement) before coming here. We are looking at a big opportunity in Al

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU AP CHIEF MINISTER

All-round development of the people of the state is possible only with mutual cooperation

between the Centre and the state. We all are in favour of this belief. Our government will work to carry forward the healthy tradition of the federal structure

SANTOSH GANGWAR | J'KHAND GOVERNOF



Abhiyan are being launched MOHAN YADAV MP CN

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **NIA searches premises** of Arsh Dala associates

New Delhi: In a crackdown on the terrorist-gangster nexus case, the National Investigation Agency conducted searches on the premises of the alleged operatives of the proscribed Khalistan Terrorist Force and those connected to Canadabased Arsh Dala, in Punjab and Haryana Wednesday. The NIA sleuths swooped down at the premises of suspects linked to arrested accused Baljeet Maur and those connected with Dala and Khalistan Terrorist Force (KTF) in Bhatinda, Muktsar Sahib, Moga, Ferozepur, Sangrur and Mansa in Punjab and Sirsa in Haryana, officials said.

India, UAE to hold strategic dialogue

# **DHANKHAR 'BIGGEST DISRUPTOR': KHARGE**

Addressing a press conference along with leaders of other opposition INDIA bloc parties, Kharge alleged that Dhankhar was acting like a school headmaster, often sermonising experienced Opposition leaders and preventing them from speaking in the House

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Congress and several Opposition parties Wednesday accused Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar of being the "biggest disruptor" in the House and alleged he was acting as a government spokesperson for his "next promotion", as they defended their move to seek the removal of the Vice President. Congress President Mallikar-

iun Kharge launched a no-holds barred attack against the Vice President, who is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, saying his "partisan" conduct in the House prompted them to move a notice for his ouster and that it has harmed the country's dignity. It was for the first time in Parliament's history that a move has been initiated by the Opposition to

remove the Chairman through a no-confidence motion. Addressing a press conference along with leaders of other opposition INDIA bloc parties, Kharge alleged that Dhankhar was acting like a school headmaster, often sermonising experienced Opposition leaders and preventing them from speaking in the House.

"We have no hesitation in saying that the biggest disruptor in the Rajva Sabha is the Chairman himself," he said, adding, "His loyalty is towards the ruling party, instead of the Constitution and constitutional traditions. We can see that he is acting as a government spokesperson for the sake of his next promotion." Alleging that politics has taken precedence

over rules in the Upper House



of Parliament, Kharge said the Chairman's conduct has been contrary to the dignity of the high post he holds. Meanwhile, Dhankhar, who was addressing a programme in Jaipur, said there are forces in the country and outside who are unable to digest India's progress but made no reference to the ouster move by the Opposition.

The Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day without transacting any business amid uproar by the treasury and opposition benches over the no-trust notice against the House Chairman and the George Soros issue.

Leader of the House J P Nadda condemned the Congress for the no-confidence notice, and said it was an attempt by the opposition party to divert attention from the issue of "ties between the top Congress leadership and Soros"

Nadda further said they are trying to divert attention from the real issue by making accusations against the Chair. Defending the House Chairman,

Union Minister for Parliamen tary Affairs Kiren Rijiju said Dhankhar, a son of farmer, has been a protector of the dignity of the House. "Opposition does not believe in democracy. It does not obey the Chair," he said. "You level baseless allegations (against the chair). You have no right to be a member of Rajya Sabha if you cannot honour and obey the Chair." He went on to state that the treasury benches will defend any move to attack the honour and dignity of the Chair. "We will not allow this." At his news conference, Kharge said that in the 75th year of adoption of the Constitution the Opposition parties have been forced to bring the motion as the Chairman's actions in the last three years have been opposed to the dignity of his post.

The Chairman makes comments on the Opposition leaders with a vast experience in different fields and schools them like a headmaster, he said, adding that while the Opposition leaders speak for five minutes, the Chairman himself speaks for 10 minutes

#### India evacuates 75 nationals from Syria

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: India evacuated 75 of its nationals from Syria two days after rebel forces overthrew President Bashar Assad's authoritarian government.

The evacuation, coordinate ed by the embassies of India in Damascus and Beirut, was put into effect following an assessment of the security situation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

'The Government of India today evacuated 75 Indian nationals from Syria, following recent developments in that country," it said in a late-night statement Tuesday.

"The evacuees included 44 'zaireen' from Jammu and Kashmir who were stranded at Saida Zainab. All Indian nationals have safely crossed over to Lebanon and will return by available commercial flights to India," it said.

The MEA said the government accords the highest priority to the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad. "Indian nationals remaining in Syria are advised to stay in touch with the Indian Embassy in Damascus," it said.

The Syrian government collapsed Sunday as the rebels seized control of the capital Damascus after capturing several other prominent cities and towns.

Assad fled the country after the rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) took control of Damascus, marking the end of his family's 50-year rule.

Russian state media reported that Assad is in Moscow and will be given asylum. His nearly 14-year tenure was marked by civil war, bloodshed and brutal crackdown on his political opponents.

The MEA Monday said it is monitoring the unfolding developments in Syria and advocated a peaceful and inclusive Syrian-led political process going forward in that country.

### **DELHI ASSEMBLY POLLS** AAP delegation meets EC

over voter 'deletion' issue



*Kejriwal claimed the EC* gave them several assurances, including that no large-scale deletions would occur before the Delhi elections and strict action would be taken against those filing questionable

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: An Aam Aadmi Party delegation led by its chief Arvind Kejriwal met the Election Commission Wednesday and urged it to halt any deletion of voter names in the electoral rolls ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections.

deletion requests

After the meeting, the AAP national convenor alleged that the BJP was orchestrating a conspiracy to remove voters, mostly from marginalised communities, including Dalits, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Purvanchalis, from the electoral rolls. Kejriwal claimed the EC gave them several assurances, including that no large-scale deletions would occur before the Delhi elections and strict

action would be taken against those filing questionable deletion requests

Responding to the accusations, the Delhi BJP said AAP is looking for excuses to cover up its defeat in the upcoming elections, and the campaign to get illegal voter names removed will continue. Kejriwal said that the EC has assured them that in cases of any voter de letions, a field inquiry will be conducted by the Booth Level Officer (BLO), accompanied by representatives from various political parties.

The former chief minister of Delhi noted that if any individual applies to delete more than five voters' names the concerned sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) will carry out a field inquiry. "The BJP is snatching away the rights of people as an Indian citizer by cutting their votes in Del hi. BJP workers have given applications to cut the names of thousands of voters in many assembly constituencies," the AAP chief alleged.

Delhi BJP president Viren dra Sachdeva hit back, say ing AAP and Kejriwal are in "panic" due to their impending defeat.

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### Cold wave conditions in Delhi, Rajasthan

New Delhi/ Srinagar/ Jaipur: Cold wave conditions have gripped Rajasthan and marked its arrival in Delhi Wednesday as higher reaches of Kashmir witnessed fresh snowfall. Chilly winds marked the arrival of cold wave conditions in the national capital as Delhi recorded a low of 4.9 degrees Celsius, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The minimum temperatures in early December have been recorded below 5 degrees Celsius for the first time in 14 years, it said. According to data, the lowest minimum temperature during this



New Delhi: India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will carry out a comprehensive review of their strategic ties Thursday as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will host his counterpart from the Gulf nation Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for wide-ranging talks. Al Nahyan, also the deputy prime minister, is paying a three-day visit to India to explore ways to further expand ties between the two countries in a range of key areas including trade and investment.

period was recorded December 6, 1987, at 4.1 degrees Celsius. Cold wave conditions are expected to prevail in Delhi between December 11 and 13.

#### EU envoy meets Rahul; bilateral ties discussed

New Delhi: Ambassador of the European Union to India Hervé Delphin and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Wednesday discussed top-ics relevant to the relations and future of their democracies in a world marked by challenges, geopolitical tensions and crises. Delphin met Gandhi at his 10, Janpath residence here. The Congress posted on X pictures of Gandhi and Delphin from the meeting and said, "They had a lively and detailed discussion covering a broad range of topics relevant to the relations and future of our democracies in a world marked by challenges, geopolitical tensions and crises".

#### Apex court relaxes bail conditions for Sisodia

New Delhi: AAP leader and former Delhi deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia won't have to report to the investigating officer twice a week in the corruption and money laundering cases related to the Delhi excise policy after the Supreme Court relaxed his bail conditions Wednesday. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan eased the conditions, calling them unnecessary. "The petition to hear Sisodia's pleas and issued notices to the CBI and the ED seeking their responses. The apex court August 9 granted him bail in both cases linked to the alleged 2021-22 Delhi excise policy case, saying a 17-month long incarceration without trial deprived him of his right to a speedy trial.

Police personnel conduct a security drill to maintain law and order in the view of VHP and Bajrang Dal's 'Dattamala Abhiyan', in Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka

#### Mumbai BEST crash: **Drivers 'overworked'**

Mumbai: Two lawyers have approached Maharashtra's State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) for an "impartial" inquiry into the BEST bus accident, which left seven dead and 42 injured, claiming that drivers of the civic-run transport body are overworked. They said the tragedy in Mumbai's Kurla area occurred as senior officials of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) ignored their drivers' working conditions.

#### **Actress Sapna's** son found dead

Bareilly (UP): Actress Sapna Singh staged a protest in Bareilly after her 14-year-old son was found dead under suspicious circumstances, with police arresting his two friends over the case, officials said Wednesday. She ended the protest Tuesday after more than 90 minutes following the police's assurance that action would be taken.

# **MARRIAGE INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE: TOP COURT** SC enhances compensation to road accident victim

The top court enhanced *the compensation nearly five times from* ₹11.51 lakh -- granted by the Delhi High Court -- to ₹50.87 lakh by factoring in the "loss of income/earning capacity", "pain and suffering", "loss of marriage prospects", "attendant charges" and "future medical treatment"

compensation of ₹50.87 lakh to a 22-year-old woman who suffered mental disability owing to injuries in a road accident as a child for loss of marriage prospect, pain, medical expenses.

The top court enhanced the compensation nearly five times from ₹11.51 lakh -- granted by the Delhi High Court -- to ₹50.87 lakh by factoring in the "loss of income/earning capacity", "pain and suffering", "loss of marriage prospects", "attendant charges" and "future medical treatment".

The woman, when aged seven, met with a near fatal road accident in June, 2009, rendering her 75 per cent permanently disabled on account of moderate intellectual disability. "The appellant (woman), therefore, has not only lost her childhood but also her adult life.



Marriage/companionship is an integral part of the natural life of a human being," a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said.

"Although, in the present case the appellant is capable of reproduction. it is near impossible for her to rear children and enjoy the simple pleasures of marital life and companionship," it said. The top court delivered its verdict on her appeal challenging the November, 2017 order of the Delhi High Court that awarded her ₹11.51 lakh compensation.

The top court noted it was recorded in the testimony of a doctor, who was a witness in

the case, that children with "moderate mental retardation" were generally able to learn skills up to the level of second standard as adults and can work under close supervision only.

The bench said she would remain dependant on someone else for the rest of her life. 'Even though the physical age will increase, but her mental age will be that of a child studying in the 2nd standard/class. Effectively, while her body grows, she will remain a small baby," it said.

The apex court noted that in June, 2009, the appellant was on foot along with her family members, who were on their way home, when a speeding car hit her when they were crossing the road. It noted a claim petition for grant of compensation under the provision of the Mo tor Vehicles Act, 1988, was filed before a Motor Accident Claims Tribunal which awarded a compensation of ₹5.90 lakh.

The appellant subsequently moved the high court seeking an enhancement of the compensation awarded on account of injuries suffered in the accident. The high court enhanced the compensation to ₹11.51 lakh but feeling aggrieved, she moved the apex court.

The top court termed as "erroneous" the high court's approach that the woman would only be requiring a part-time attendant.

The bench, which directed the insurance company to dis burse the compensation awarded to the woman, said it should be entitled to adjust the amount already paid, if any.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Dec 11: Observ-

ing that marriage is an inte-

gral part of life, the Supreme

Court Wednesday awarded a













national





Ex-Chief Minister of Karnataka and former External Affairs Minister S M Krishna was cremated Wednesday with full state honours in his ancestral village Somanahalli in this district. The 92-year-old veteran politician, who had also served as the Maharashtra Governor, died at his residence in Bangalore Tuesday after prolonged illness





We have to work to give rights to all sections of society, especially the deprived and the exploited

HEMANT SOREN | I'KHAND CM

We have submitted 3.000 pages of evidence showing how the BJP is conspiring to delete voters' names on a

mass scale ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP SUPREMO



ing for assembly polls. The issue gained momentum only after the election result although we have mentioned it in our manifesto and meetings OMAR ABDULLAH J&K CM





> Modi minister Piyush Goyal interrupts \*Abba Dabba Jabba\* > Speaker adjourns the house If this is not systematic múrder of democracy. What else is it???

#### SHORT TAKES

#### J&K: Security forces destroy suspected IED

Srinagar: Security forces detected and destroyed a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) on the Handwara-Baramulla highway in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, officials said. A joint patrolling party of police and the Army found a suspicious bag by the roadside at Langate in the Handwara area of Kupwara district, the officials said. They said the bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot and the bag taken to an isolated place. The bomb disposal squad destroyed the suspected IED in a controlled explosion, the officials said.

# **Top court to hear** pleas on Places of Worship Act today

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and

by Ashwini Upadhyay who has prayed that sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, be set aside

> these cases, has cited the 1991 law to argue that such suits are not maintainable.

As many as six petitions, including those filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, have been filed against the provisions of the 1991 law. Swamy wanted the apex court to "read down" certain provisions to enable Hindus to stake claim over the Gyanyapi Mosque in Varanasi and Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura, while Ashwini Upadhyay claimed the entire statute was unconstitutional and no question of reading down arises. The doctrine of reading down a law is generally used to save a statute from being struck down entirely subject to adjudication

over its constitutionality. On the other hand, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind had cited the five-judge Constitution bench judgement in the Ram Janmab hoomi-Babri Masjid title case, noting the reference to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, to argue that the law cannot be set aside now.

claiming these were built after The top court had March 12, destroying ancient temples and 2022, sought the Centre's reseeking permission to allow the sponse to the plea filed by Upadhyay challenging the validity of certain provisions of the law.



The carcass of a blue whale that washed ashore at Pamban beach is being removed in Ramanathapuram district

# Sanjay Malhotra takes over as 26th RBI Guv

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 11: Sanjay Malhotra took charge as the 26th Governor of Reserve Bank of India Wednesday, and promised to focus on deepening trust, growth and ensuring stability.

Malhotra, 56, takes over as the central bank governor at a critical time where inflation has shot above the comfort level, growth has declined to a 7-quarter low and rupee is at all-time low level against US dollar.

"I can assure that we will put in the best foot forward in public interest to deliver what the public of India looks forward to. which is trust, which is growth and which is a stable and certain policy," he told reporters at his maiden interaction as a RBI Governor. The career bureaucrat arrived at the RBI headquarters at the Mint Street around 1000 hours and completed formalities of taking charge in the presence of Deputy Governors M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar and Swaminathan J.

Michael Patra, Deputy Governor in-charge of the critical monetary policy function, was not present. Malhotra said, "We are in a very dynamic



change risks and political uncertainties", and affirmed that the RBI will remain "alert and

agile" to meet the challenges. RBI is a prestigious institution which has done commendable work over its history courtesy the diligence and hard work of its staff members and senior officials, said Malhotra, specifically mention ing his predecessor Shaktikan ta Das' name.

Although there was no explicit mention of inflation in his remarks, Malhotra stressed that the focus will be on "stability" and "trust". Policy certainty can be among the factors which

#### LS passes Railways **Amendment Bill**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Dec 11: The government Wednesday asserted that the Railways Amendment Bill will not lead to the privatisation of the national carrier and alleged that a "fake narrative" is being propagated by some Opposition members regarding this.

The Lok Sabha passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, by a voice vote Wednesday after a debate, which could not be held earlier due to frequent disruptions of House proceed ings during the last week. Responding to the debate on the bill. Railway Minister Ashiwn Vaishnaw targeted the opposi tion, saying their "fake narra tive" regarding railways will fall flat just like the one about the Constitution failed.

"A few members have said the Bill will lead to privatisa tion of railways, an attempt has been made to set a fake nar rative. I want to appeal to them with all sincerity not to do this, their one fake narrative about the Constitution has already failed," Vaishnaw said.

The Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 which seeks to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the previous Parliament session.

With the inclusion of the Railway Board under the 1989 Railway Act, the appointment, qualifications, tenure and criteria for the Chairman and members of the Board will be the responsibility of the central government.

#### **Uproar in LS over** Kalyan's remarks

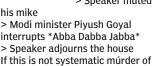
#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: Lok Sabha Wednesday witnessed repeated adjournments as remarks by Kalyan Banerjee against Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia created an uproar which refused to die down despite apology tendered by the TMC member.

Finally, the chair adjourned the House for the day. Trouble arose when Banerjee was Rajasthan cadre) in the finance speaking during a discussion on the amendments to the Dision would be an important saster Management Act.

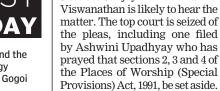


on Manipur



@mr\_mayank





the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, be set aside. Among the various reasons submitted was the contention that these provisions take away the right of judicial remedy to reclaim a place of worship of any person or a religious group. The Communist Party of India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

(Marxist) and Maharashtra MLA Jitendra Satish Awhad have also filed pleas against several pending petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, saying the law protected pub-

lic order, fraternity, unity and secularism of the nation. The matter will be heard in the backdrop of several suits filed in various courts, including those related to the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi, Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura and Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal,

preme Court is scheduled to hear Thursday a batch of PILs challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1991 law that prohibits filing a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed August 15, 1947. A three-judge bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V

K V Viswanathan is likely to hear the matter

the pleas, including one filed

The top court is seized of

#### Justices Sanjay Kumar and New Delhi, Dec 11: The Su-

#### Naxalite killed in encounter

Bijapur: A Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Wednesday, police said. Two security personnel also sustained injuries in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast triggered by Naxalites during the same operation, they said. The gunfight took place in a forest of Munga village under Gangloor police station area when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a police officialsaid.

#### AAP MLA booked

Bharuch: Police have registered a case against AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava and 10 others for their protest at an industrial unit in Guiarat's Bharuch district hours after an explosion there last week claimed four lives, officials said Wednesday, The legislator, for getting "publicity", allegedly incited the crowd and tried to prevent police from taking the bodies for post-mortem, as per the First Information Report (FIR). Vasava and the others have been booked on charges of obstructing on-duty police. inciting people and putting their lives in danger by holding the protest at the unit after the explosion, police said.

Hindus to offer prayers there. The Muslim side, in most of

world right now fraught with geopolitical tensions, climate

can ensure stability. Malhotra said, adding that in his earlier

area for him, despite the suc cesses achieved in the past.

assignment as the Revenue Sec-

retary he focus was on stability

the RBI is what it is because

of the "trust" it has earned for

working with the public's in-

terest in mind, and added that

it would be his endeavour to

strengthen it. Whatever deci-

sions are taken will be done

with public interest in mind,

Malhotra said. He, however,

declined to take any specif-

ic questions from the media.

Resorting to cricket analogies a

favourite with his predecessor

Das, Malhotra said he cannot

start playing his shots on day

he would respond to media

questions after understanding

various issues from RBI's offi-

cers. The next monetary poli-

cy review is scheduled for the

first week of February, offering

Malhotra nearly two months of

time before he makes his maid-

en decision on interest rate and

day was Revenue Secretary

(1990-batch IAS officer of the

ministry, said financial inclu-

Malhotra, who till Tues-

other important issues

The new Governor said that

As an institution, he said,

in policy

one itself.

#### Victim's family demands justice TECHIE SUICIDE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

#### Bangalore/Samastipur/

Jaunpur, Dec 11: The family of the 34-year-old techie who allegedly died by suicide here, has demanded justice for him and strict action against his harassers.

Atul Subhash, who worked for a private firm in the city, had left behind a 24-page purported death note, giving extensive details of what he alleged was vears-long emotional distress of marital issues; multiple cases filed against him and harassment by his wife and rela-

tives, and a judge based in Uttar Pradesh, police said.

Following Subhash's death, a case of abetment of suicide has been registered against his wife Nikita Singhania, her mother Nisha, father Anurag and uncle Sushil, a police official said. Speaking to PTI Videos in Bangalore, Subhash's brother Bikas said, "I want my brother to get justice. I want this country to have a legal process through which even men can get justice. I want strict action against those who are sitting on a legal chair and doing corruption because if this continues then



how will people expect justice." Alleging corruption in the system, he said justice can be expected only when it is corrup-

tion-free, when every party is heard equally and arguments are done based on facts. "... can expect justice only when decisions are made on the basis of facts and if it does not happen, then people will slowly start losing faith in judicial system. It may lead to a situation where people may get afraid to get married. Men may start feeling that if they get married, they will just end up being an ATM machine for vending money," he alleged.

Subhash's body was found hanging at his residence in the Manjunath Layout area, which

falls under the Marathahalli police station limits, Monday. A placard reading "Justice is due" was found in the room where he allegedly ended his life. Before taking the extreme step, he recorded an over 80-minute video on Rumble, explaining the circumstances behind his decision.

Meanwhile, legal experts Wednesday flagged the "gross misuse" of laws related to domestic violence and dowry harassment, while calling for a "correct filtration mechanism". new gender neutral legislations and sensitising the police to curb filing of false cases.

The TMC member alleged non-cooperation by the central government during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai countered it, saying it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who helped all the states and successfully handled the crisis by taking everyone along.

Rai also alleged that the West Bengal government tried to put hurdles in the trans portation of Covid vaccines through its territory

Scindia stood up and sup ported Rai, saying that India had emerged as a "Vishwa Bandhu" during the pandemic and helped all the needy countries across the world Following this, Banerjee attacked Scindia and made certain remarks against the minister which were expunged by Speaker Om Birla.

# Much needs to be done to eradicate manual sewer cleaning: SC

#### **TROUBLE DOWN UNDER**

Observing a large segment of India's population, involved in manual scavenging, had remained unheard and muted, in bondage and systematically trapped in inhumane conditions, the top court in 2023 directed the Centre and states to take appropriate measures, frame policies and issue directions to ensure that manual sewer cleaning was completely eradicated in a phased manner



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: Observing much needed to be done. the Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Centre to file an action taken report on the compliance of its direction for ensuring manual sewer cleaning was completely eradicated in a phased manner.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar asked additional solicitor general Aishwarva Bhati. appearing for the Centre, to call a meeting of the central monitoring committee with all the stakeholders within two weeks. The committee reviews the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabil-

itation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013).

"The order passed by the court (in 2023) said that considering the development of technology, it was entirely possible to eradicate manual scavenging and employment of labour for sewer cleaning. This has not been done. From the report, it appears that much needs to be done," the bench said.

Senior advocate K Parameshwar, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae, submitted 40 deaths occurred due to sewer cleaning and cleaning septic tanks in 2024 but no FIR was filed.

He flagged most of the committees as mandated under the Act were not in place and pointed out noncompliance of the laws.The matter would come

up in January, 2025. Observing a large segment of India's population, involved in manual scavenging, had remained unheard and muted, in bondage and systematically trapped in inhumane conditions, the top court in 2023 directed the Centre and states to take appropriate measures, frame policies and issue directions to ensure that manual sewer cleaning was completely eradicated in a phased manner.

The top court had asked the Centre to issue guidelines and directions that any sewer-cleaning work outsourced or required to be done by or through contractors or agencies, did not require individuals to enter sewers. Issuing a slew of directions, the court

previously asked the central and state governments to pay ₹30 lakh compensation to the next of kin of those who died while cleaning sewers.

It directed all the states and union territories to make sure all departments, agencies and corporations ensured the guidelines and directions framed by the Centre were incorporated in their own guidelines. The apex court had further directed in the case of sewer victims suffering from any disability, the minimum compensation won't be less than ₹10 lakh.

If the disability was permanent and rendered the victim economically helpless, the compensation should not be less than ₹20 lakh, it said.

# Orissapc THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR international



**Developments in Syria** demonstrate that countries with a strategic partnership with Russia can rely on Moscow only as long as they are of use to President Vladimir Putin BORIS PISTORIUS

DEFENCE MINISTER, GERMANY

#### PAK BLOCKS 80K SIM CARDS FOR SPREADING FAKE NEWS

Pakistan authorities have blocked approximately 80,000 SIM cards for spreading fake news amid concerns regarding the social media propelled misinformation, the government said Wednesday





An estimated 35 per cent to 50 per cent of all sub-Sa haran African populations eithe prefer or accept

cousin marriage, and it is extreme ly common in the Middle East and South Asia

IOBAL MOHAMED MP, ENGLAND

I don't think this investigation will b fair. Even if they say there is an investigation, from the very beginning they already decided to file cases SARA DUTERTE VICE PRESIDENT, THE PHILIPPINES

South Africa will use its **G20** Presiden cy to secure urgent

progress on shared goals through several priority actions

RONALD LAMOLA | MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, SOUTH AFRICA

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Indian-origin PhD student suspended

New York: An Indian-origin student pursuing PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been suspended until January 2026 following his pro-Palestinian activism and is currently appealing the university's decision. Prahlad Iyengar, also a National Science Foundation fellow, has been "suspended until January 2026," according to a post on X by a group called 'MIT Coalition Against Apartheid'. This suspension effectively terminates lyengar's five-year NSF fellowship and severely disrupts his academic career, the organisation said in the post.

#### 📕 Israeli strikes kill **38 Palestinians**

Cairo: Israeli air attacks across the Gaza Strip killed at least 38 Palestinians Wednesday, most of them in a strike on a house in Beit Lahiya on the northern edge of the



Farmer's daughter Millie Goodwin, 18, whose father runs SW Attwoods and Partners on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, stands on a tractor parked on Whitehall during a protest by farmers in Westminster, London, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

# SK cops try to raid President's office

#### REUTERS

Seoul, Dec 11: South Korean police tried to search President Yoon Suk Yeol's office Wednesday but have not been able to enter the main building, Yonhap news reported as an investigation into the US ally's decision to declare martial law widened.

The attempt to UNCLEAR WHAT HAS PREVENTED POLICE search the presidential office INVESTIGATORS FROM significantly **ENTERING YOON'S OFFICE** escalates the TEMPT TO RAID THE OFFICE MARKS investiga-ESCALATING PROBE INTO DEC 3 tion against FAILED MARTIAL LAW Yoon and **EX-DEFENCE MINISTER SEEN AS** top police LEADING MARTIAL LAW ATTEMPTS and military SUICIDE, OFFICIAL SAYS officers over **OPPOSITION TO INTRODUCE** the Dec 3 mar-

tial law declara-OTE ON SATURDAY tion that plunged the country with Asia's fourth-largest economy into a constitutional crisis. Yoon is now the subject of a criminal investigation into insurrection allegations and is banned from leaving the country, but he has not been arrested or questioned by authorities. A presidential security service official said earlier Wednesday that the police raid of Yoon's office was under way, confirming media reports at the time. Yonhap later said investigators at the presidential com-

pound had not yet entered the main building.

Yonhap said police had not managed to agree with the Secret Service on the method of the seizure and search. Police declined to comment.

"We are responding based on the law and past government cases," a presidential office official said denied that

the office was opposing the search. Former Defence Minister Kim Yonghvun, a close confidant of Yoon, and two senior police officers including the national police LL TO IMPEACH YOON FO chief have been arrested on charges

of insurrection as part of the investigation. Kim attempted suicide using a shirt and underwear late Tuesday night at a detention centre where he is being held, a Justice Ministry official told parliament.

Damascus, Dec 11: The main commander of the rebels who toppled Bashar al-Assad said Wednesday that anyone involved in the torture or killing of detainees during the ousted president's rule would be hunted down and pardons were out of the question.

REUTERS

"We will pursue them in Syria, and we ask countries to hand over those who fled so we can achieve justice," Abu Mohammed al-Golani said in a statement published on the Svrian state TV's Telegram channel.

The world is carefully watching to see if Syria's new rulers can stabilise the country after a 13-year civil war fought along sectarian and



#### **IRAN BLAMES US, ISRAEL FOR ASSAD'S FALL**

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says the recent events in Syria, including the fall of its government, were part of a joint plan by the in Syria in the second beneficial with the second beneficial to the second beneficial with the second beneficial with the second beneficial with the second beneficial to the second benerical to the second beneficial to th speech in Tehran Wednesday that was broadcast on state TV. "We have evidence, and this evidence leaves no room for doubt." The Supreme leader added, "A neighbouring state of Syria has played a clear role in this matter, and it continues to do so. Everyone can see this." Khamenei also rejected speculation by analysts who have said that Iran will be weakened by the fall of Syrian Presi-dent Bashar Assad's government. "Those ignorant analysts are unaware of the meaning of resistance. They think that if resistance weakens, Islamic Iran will also weaken. But I say, with the help and power of God - by the will of Almighty Allah - Iran is powerful and it will become even more powerful," he said

# Georgia cracks down on pro-EU protests

#### REUTERS

Tbilisi, Dec 11: Seventy-five year-old Marina Terishvili's teenage son Mamuka was shot dead at a nationalist rally in Georgia in 1992. Now her other son, Giorgi, has been arrested for his role in protests against perceived Russian influence in their homeland.

Seven police cars pulled up at her house in the capital Tbilisi Friday and took Giorgi, a 52-year-old taxi driver, into custody, she said.

He was placed in pre-trial detention for two months for "participating in group violence" according to a rights group and local media, and faces up to six years in prison if convicted, part of a broad crackdown on demonstrators who have clashed nightly with police for almost two weeks.

The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association rights group said he had not yet entered a plea and Marina Terishvili said she did not know why he had been detained.



"I can't deny that he went to the rallies, because he has a brother who died Feb. 2, 1992, and he went there in honour of his soul," Marina said, adding that Giorgi could not tolerate the idea that his younger brother had died in vain.

Giorgi is among more than 400 people who authorities and rights groups say have been ar rested during protests against government moves to delay the South Caucasus country's longstanding bid to join the European Union.

Around 30 face criminal charges, mostly relating to al legations of "group violence" aimed at overthrowing the government. Among those jailed are two leaders of the country's pro-EU Opposition.

#### **B'desh court rejects** bail plea of Hindu monk in sedition case

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Dec 11: A Bangladesh court Wednesday rejected a plea to advance the hearing of arrested Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das' bail petition in a sedition case, ruling that it would be heard as previously fixed January 2.

Court officials said Chattogram Metropolitan Session Judge Saiful Islam rejected the plea as the lawyer who filed the petition seeking the advanced hearing did not have the power of attorney from the monk.

"Advocate Rabindra Ghose sought the advanced hearing when another lawyer informed the judge that he (Ghose) did not have any pow er of attorney to represent the monk. The judge then rejected the plea," a court official said.

In his plea, Goshe said Das was arrested in a "false and fabricated case" while he had been suffering from diabetes, asthma and other issues.

# **REBUILDING TASK** Syria's new leader faces cash crunch

Rebel leader says those involved in torturing detainees will not be pardoned

"We have no foreign curren-

cy and as for loans and bonds

we are still collecting data. So

yes, financially we are very

bad," said Bashir, who ran a

rebel-led administration in a

pocket of northwestern Syria

before the lightning offensive

swept into Damascus and top-

pled President Bashar al-Assad.

task following a civil war that

killed hundreds of thousands

of people. Cities have been

bombed to ruins, swathes of

countryside depopulated and

the economy gutted by inter-

Rebuilding Syria is a colossal

enclave, medics said. The Beit Lahiya strike killed at least 22 people, including women and children, health officials said. Relatives listed the names of the dead on social media. More than 30 people were living in the multi-storey building before it was struck, and several family members remained missing as rescue operations continued through the morning, the Palestinian WAFA news agency said.

#### Brazil's Lula remains under intensive care

Rio de Janeiro: Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva remains in intensive care in a Sao Paulo hospital but is getting better, doctors said in a statement Wednesday. The 79-year-old leader underwent an unplanned surgery for a brain bleed in the early hours of Tuesday, after suffering from complications resulting from a fall at home in October. Doctors told journalists after the operation that Lula would remain in intensive care for 48 hours. Lula "progressed well in the immediate postoperative period, with no complications, doctors from the Sirio-Libanes hospital said Wednesday.

REUTERS

Tuesday.

Washington, Dec 11: Pres-

ident Joe Biden is pushing

US national security agen-

cies ahead of Donald Trump's

inauguration to devise new

strategies to tackle the risky,

deepening ties among Russia,

Iran, North Korea and China,

with the Russian war effort

in Ukraine, Moscow is giving

its ally fighter aircraft, missile

defense and space technology,

Biden concluded in a national

security memorandum issued

In exchange for Iran's help

according to US officials.

#### Communal attacks kill more than 40 people

Congo: More than 40 people have been killed over the last week in a flare-up of violence between two feuding communities in western Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congolese army and local authorities said. The bloodshed is among the most significant for the Teke and Yaka groups since the brokering of an April peace agreement that was meant to ease tensions.

He was now under observation and his life was not in danger, the official added

Kim has resigned and apologised for his part in the shortlived imposition of emergency rule, saying he alone was responsible.



ethnic lines destroyed the country. Syria ran one of the most oppressive police states in the Middle East during five decades

of Assad family rule. Golani, whose former al Qaeda affiliate Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is now the country's most powerful force, must balance demands for justice from victims with the need to prevent violence and secure international aid.

The new interim prime minister said he aimed to bring back millions of Syrian refugees, create unity and provide basic services, but rebuilding would be daunting.

"In the coffers there are only Syrian pounds worth little or nothing. One US dollar buys 35,000 of our coins," Mohammed al-Bashir told Italian newspaper Il Corriere della Sera.

national sanctions.

US Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer said Washington was still working out how it will engage with the former rebels. But Washington remains cautious. "We have seen over the years any number of militant groups who have seized power, who have promised that they would respect minorities, who have promised that they would respect religious freedom, promised that they would govern in an inclusive way, and then see them fail to meet those promises," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

The lawyer, however, admitted that he did not go to the prison to obtain a signed power of attorney from Das. "I will visit Chinmov in the prison now and obtain the Vakalatnama (power of attorney)," he said.

The hearing was due to be held December 3 when the court deferred the date to January 2, 2025, on a prosecution side suggestion as no lawyer appeared on his behalf.

An associate of Das in his Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, Sawtantra Gauranga Das earlier said no lawyer stood for the monk, fearing threats and pressure from a "politically motivated lawyers' group"

Das, a former ISKCON lead er, was arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka November 25.

Biden pushes new Russia, Iran, Korea, China effort before Trump term **BIDEN'S NEW DOCUMENT ORDERS VARIOUS ARMS OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO RESTRUCTURE GROUPS CURRENTLY** 

ORGANIZED BY REGION TO BETTER FOCUS ON ISSUES LINKING THE FOUR COUNTRIES THAT SPAN EUROPE AND ASIA

fuel, money and technology, and is recognizing it as a de facto nuclear state. Russia is conducting joint patrols with China in the Arctic, the administration said.

The classified document was described in general terms to reporters, but has not independently been reviewed by Reuters. Russia, China, Iran and North Korea have disputed similar assessments in the past and accused Washington

various arms of the US government to restructure groups currently organized by region to better focus on issues linking the four countries that span Eu-



office Jan 20.

When the new team sort of looks at it, I don't think they will see anything in it that is trying to box them in or tilt them toward one policy option or another," said one of the senior administration officials, who declined to be

named.

**BIDEN'S** MEMO URGES The officials said RESTRUCTURING OF US AGENCIES FOR the challenges ahead include GLOBAL STRATEGY

ensuring that RUSSIA, IRAN, NORTH KOREA, any sanctions and ex-INA COOPERATION POSES CHALLENGES FOR US port controls imposed on the IEW STRATEGIES AIM TO four countries

PREVENT BLOWBACK are applied in a FROM SANCTIONS coordinated way PORT CONTROLS that doesn't risk

blowback from those countries and enabling the United States to better handle simultaneous crises involving several of the countries. North Korean troops are now serving in Russia, for instance.

> But there are limits to the countries' cooperation, another of the officials said, including Russia and Iran's failing to

assist their ally Bashar al-Assad the former Syrian president who was toppled over the weekend.

"This realignment sort of raises for Chi-

na the question about what kind of future it wants to see and if it really wants to be all-in with this grouping, the person said.

of destabilizing behavior. rope and Asia The document's strategies and policy suggestions could be implemented - or rejected

Russian President Vladimir Putin is giving North Korea

Biden's new document orders

altogether - by President-elect Trump, a Republican who takes















With the global blue economy projected to reach \$6 trillion by 2030, India's maritime sector stands poised to play a transformative role in our emergence as the world's third-largest economy

IAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT

#### **INOXGFL ENTERS SOLAR MFG**

INOXGFL Group Wednesday announced its foray into solar manufacturing through Inox Solar -- a privately held entity by the promoters. Inox Solar is targeting an initial capacity of 5 GW of solar modules and 2.5 GW of solar cell manufacturing capacity by 2026, at an outlined capex of ₹1,500 crore, a company statement said





India's data centre market has attracted investment commitment of \$60 billion

in the last six years and the cumulative inflow is estimated to surpass \$100 billion by 2027-end

ANSHUMAN MAGAZINE CHAIRMAN & CEO INDIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA, CBRE

Supply chains will have to be restored but you would have to reset

it, realign it, you will have to make sure that it is spread so much that no geopolitical or strategic risks will threaten our wellbeina NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

Presently our logis tics cost is 14-16 per cent. I assure you that within

two vears. our logistics cost will be 9 per cent. So we will be more competitive in the international market

NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Adani opts out of US funding for SL project

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group has pulled out of a loan deal with a US agency to fund a port terminal in Sri Lanka, saying it will use its own resources for the project. In an exchange filing late Tuesday, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) said the project "is on track for commissioning by early next year". "The project will be financed through the company's internal accruals and capital management plan," the firm said. "We have withdrawn our request for financing from the International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)". The US IDF had in November last year agreed to provide a

# **ADB lowers India's GDP growth forecast**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Wednesday lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the current financial year from its earlier estimate of 7 per cent due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand.

The multilateral development bank has also lowered India's growth forecast for 2025-26 financial year.

Changes in US trade, fiscal, and immigration policies could dent growth and add to inflation in developing Asia and the Pacific, according to the latest edition of Asian Development Outlook (ADO).

The report also said Asia and the Pacific's economies are projected to grow 4.9 per cent in 2024, slightly below ADB's September forecast of 5 per cent. "India's outlook is adjust-

ed downward from 7 per cent to 6.5 per cent for this year. and from 7.2 per cent to 7 per cent next year, due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand," ADB said.

Last week, the Reserve Bank also significantly lowered the growth projection for current fiscal year to 6.6 per cent from 7.2 per cent earlier and hiked the inflation forecast to 4.8 per cent in view of slowdown in economic activity as well as

stubborn food prices. India's growth will remain robust, with the economy

GDP GROWTH FELL TO 7-QUAR-**TER LOW OF 5.4% IN JULY-SEPT** PERIOD OF FY 2024-25 AS AGAINST **RBI'S OWN PROJECTION OF 7%** 

**>> RBI ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY LOW-ERED THE GROWTH PROJECTION** FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TO 6.6% FROM 7.2% EARLIER

**>>** THE REPORT ALSO SAID ASIA AND THE PACIFIC'S ECONOMIES **ARE PROJECTED TO GROW 4.9%** IN 2024, SLIGHTLY BELOW ADB'S SEPTEMBER FORECAST OF 5%

supported by higher agriculture output resulting from the summer (or kharif) crop season (which will also put downward pressure on food prices); continued resilience of the services sector; and lower-than-expected Brent crude

prices in 2024 and 2025, ADB added. It further said strong forward-looking and labour market indicators, such as PMI for industry and services, urban labour force participation and Reserve Bank of India's industrial outlook, suggest that economic momentum will recover

in the coming quarters. The report further said Southeast Asia's growth outlook has been raised to 4.7 per cent this year from a previous forecast of 4.5 per cent, driven by stronger manufacturing exports and public capital spending.

The forecast for next year is unchanged at 4.7 per cent. The Manila-headquartered bank has kept the growth forecast for China unchanged at 4.8 per cent this year and 4.5 per cent next vear.

According to the report, Asia and the Pacific's economic growth will remain steady this year and next, but expected US policy changes under the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump are likely to affect the region's long-term outlook.

#### **Snapping losing run,** benchmarks edge up in restricted trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 11: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nif ty closed higher in restricted trade Wednesday as investors awaited key US inflation data for further cues

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 16.09 points or 0.02 per cent to close at 81,526.14 even as 17 of its constituents declined and 13 advanced

Snapping its three-day losing run, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 31.75 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 24,641.80.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Infosys, Maruti, Bharti Airtel and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers.

JSW Steel, Adani Ports, NTPC, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Titan and HDFC Bank were the laggards. The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.35 per cent and the midcap index gained 0.25 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Consumer Durables rose 0.59 per cent, Industrials by 0.40 per cent, Auto by 0.37 per cent, IT and Teck by 0.35 per cent each and FMCG by 0.34 per cent.

As many as 2,146 stocks advanced, 1.840 declined and 110 remained unchanged on the BSE. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms climbed by ₹91,110.2 crore to ₹4,60,46,637.96 (\$5.43 trillion).

On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex edged up 1.59 points to close at 81.510.05. Falling for the third day, the NSE Nifty dropped by 8.95 points to settle at 24.610.05.

# Rupee hovers near all-time low

REUTERS

earlier this year.

Tesla decided to sack 10% of its

Tesla which had paused its

search for a showroom in India

in recent months, is now in ear-

ly-stage talks with DLF to help

secure space in the capital re-

gion, said the two sources, who

have direct knowledge of the

A third source said it is not

certain that Tesla's talks with

oper will lead to a deal and the

electric vehicle giant is also in

Tesla and DLF did not re-

One of the sources said Tes-

spond to requests for comment.

la is looking for 3,000 to 5,000

discussions with others.

India's biggest property devel-

staff amid falling sales.

Rupee just shy of all-time low with gain of 2 paise at 84.83 against US dollar. *A* bounce back in the

greenback from earlier lows also weighed on the Indian currency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Indian rupee touched a fresh all-time low of 86.87 in intraday trade

#### **Rupee settled higher by** just 1 paisa at 84.85 against \$ Tuesday

serve Bank of India (RBI) in its

February meeting. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at an all-time low of 84.87 against the greenback. The USD/INR pair traded in a tight range and ended the session at 84.83 against the dollar, higher by just 2 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee settled on a flat note, higher by just 1 paisa at 84.85 against the

#### US dollar.

The government Monday appointed revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He takes guard at a time when the Indian economy is faced with the dual challenge of slowing growth rate and high inflation.

While Shaktikanta Das kept benchmark interest rates unchanged for almost two years in a bid to control inflation, the incoming governor is said to be a team player who believes prices cannot be managed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) alone and the task needs government help as well.

**THREE-WEEK HIGH GOLD RECLAIMS** ₹80,000-MARK **GOLD & SILVER** 



**Traders attributed** the rise to increased demand from iewellers and retailers in local markets PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

prices rallied to reclaim the

₹80,000-level in the national

capital Wednesday driven by

increased buying from jew-

ellers and stockists, amid a

strong global trend, as per the

The precious metal of 99.9

per cent purity jumped ₹620

to touch nearly a three-week

high of ₹80,400 per 10

grams. It settled at

₹79,780 per 10 grams

for the third straight

day, silver surged

₹1.450 to hit a one-

month high of ₹96,300

per kg. The white met-

al closed at ₹94,850 per

Price of gold of

99.5 per cent puri-

tv climbed ₹620 to

₹80,000 per 10 grams

Wednesday. The yellow met-

al finished at ₹79,380 per 10

grams in the previous trading

In futures trade on the Multi

Commodity Exchange (MCX),

gold contracts for February

delivery rose ₹112, or 0.14 per

cent, to trade at ₹78,450 per 10

"Gold traded with mi-

nor gains as Comex pric-

es once again approached

kg Tuesday.

session.

Extending the rally

Tuesday.

All India Sarafa Association.

79,250, with volatility likely to remain elevated ahead of the data release." Jateen Trivedi VP Research Analyst -- Commodity and Currency at LKP New Delhi, Dec 11: Gold Securities, said.

Silver, however, declined ₹396, or 0.41 per cent, to ₹95,129 per kg Wednesday.

the \$2,700-mark, recovering

strongly from the \$2,600 sup-

port range seen a week ago.

In MCX, gold is expected to

trade within a range of ₹77,400

Comex gold futures rose \$10.20 per ounce, or 0.38 per cent, to \$2,728.60 per ounce in the international markets.

"Gold prices jumped breach ing \$2,700 once again, extending recent gains as heightened

**GDP GROWTH FELL** 

**TO 7-QUARTER LOW** 

OF 5.4% IN JULY-SEPT

**PERIOD OF FY 2024-25** 

AS AGAINST RBI'S OWN

**RBI ALSO** 

SIGNIFICANTLY

**PROJECTION FOR** 

EARLIER

**PROJECTION OF 7%** 

geopolitical tensions in Syria, firm dollar index and rising rate cut ex-

pectations

is support ing prices, Manav Mo-**LOWERED THE GROWTH** di, Analyst Commodity **CURRENT FISCAL YEAR** Research at TO 6.6% FROM 7.2% Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd

said. However, silver quoted 0.33 per cent lower in the Asian market hours.

The US Federal Reserve is likely to cut interest rates for the third time in next week's monetary policy meeting,' Saumil Gandhi, Senior Ana lyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

\$553 million loan to support the development, construction, and operation of a deep-water container terminal called the Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) at the Port of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Mumbai, Dec 11: The rupee settled for the day higher by 2 paise at 84.83 against the US dollar Wednesday, a tad above its all-time low level, amid rising expectations of a shift in the Reserve Bank's monetary policy stance post the appoint-

ment of Sanjay Malhotra as the new RBI governor.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee touched a fresh alltime low of 86.87 in intraday trade as change of guard at the Reserve Bank of India raised odds of a rate cut by the Regrams.

During the day, the yellow Lower interest rates are favourable for non-yielding metmetal bounced ₹640, or 0.82 per cent, to hit a high of ₹78,978 per als like gold. 10 grams.

Markets will also keep a close watch on Consumer Price Index (CPI) and unemployment claims data Thursday.

#### TPCODL launches 'Bill Pay and Win Scheme'

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has introduced the 'Bill Pay and Win Scheme' to encourage timely and digital electricity bill payments. The scheme rewards customers who settle their bills on time and digitally, offering them a chance to win exciting prizes through a lucky draw. As part of the initiative, customers who maintain a zero-arrear status are eligible to participate, with 56 winners already receiving prizes in Bhubaneswar. TPCODL also offers additional benefits, including a 4% digital payment rebate and a 10 paise/unit discount for timely bill payments.

#### Equirus Wealth crosses ₹10K-cr AUM

New Delhi: Wealth

management firm Equirus Wealth Wednesday said it has surpassed ₹10,000 crore in assets under management (AUM). The firm achieved this feat in just 18 months, and highlighted its ability to provide innovative investment solutions that cater to the diverse needs of **High-Net-Worth Individuals** (HNIs) and Ultra HNIs, Equirus Wealth said in a statement.

#### **IPO FRENZY**

IPO market is booming, \$17.5 bln raised so far in 2024

#### MobiKwik's IPO overbought on first day

Mumbai: The initial public offering (IPO) of fintech company One MobiKwik Systems got subscribed 7.3 times, receiving an overwhelming response from retail investors.



on the first day of sale Wednesday. This is the second attempt by the Gurugram-based firm for the public issue following its first attempt in July 2021. Earlier, the company shelved its IPO plans and withdrew the draft papers due to unfavourable market conditions. The share sale received bids for 8,68,26,031 shares, as against 1,18,71,696 shares on offer, as per data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) part got subscribed 26.71 times, while non-institutional investors category received 8.97 times subscription, and the quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received a mere 2 per cent subscription. Mobikwik has reduced its IPO size from its earlier plans of ₹1,900 crore in 2021 to ₹700 crore in January this year to ₹572 crore now.

#### Vishal Mega Mart IPO gets subscribed 51%



offering (IPO) of supermarket chain Vishal Mega Mart received 51 per cent subscription on the first day of the share sale Wednesday. The initial share sale received bids for 38.59 crore shares against 75.67 crore shares on offer.

as per NSE data. The portion for non-institutional investors (NIIs) fetched 1.11 times subscription, while the category for retail individual investors (RIIs) got subscribed 53 per cent. The qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) part received a mere 3 per cent subscription. Vishal Mega Mart Tuesday said it has mopped up ₹2,400-crore from anchor investors. The ₹8,000-crore IPO of Vishal Mega Mart will end December 13. Shares are available in the price range of ₹74-78 apiece.

# Musk unable to let go of Indian dream

Tesla restarts search for New Delhi showroom with DLF



#### MUSK IN APRIL CALLED OFF PLANS TO VISIT INDIA, MEET MODI **BILLIONAIRE ALSO WANTS TO LAUNCH STARLINK IN THE COUNTRY**

square feet (280-465 square metres) to create a consumer experience centre as well as a space three times larger for its deliv ery and service operations.

Tesla is evaluating multiple locations including DLF's Avenue Mall in southern Delhi and the Cyber Hub office and retail complex in nearby Gurugram city, the source added.

Foreign retailers including Japan's Uniqlo, Spain's Mango and Britain's Marks and Spencer also have outlets in the Avenue Mall, where Tesla

is looking to secure an 8,000 square feet showroom space, the second source said.

Tesla's search is still "exploratory" and nothing has been finalised, the first source said. It was not immediately

clear whether Tesla will consider importing cars at the tax rate of as high as 100% or if it will make investment commitments under India's new policy, which would allow it to import certain EVs at a lower rate of 15%.

After Tesla did not deliver

on earlier investment plans India's government is trying to relax certain provisions of its policy to attract automakers such as Hyundai Motor and Toyota which have expressed initial interest.

India's EV market is small, making up about 2% of total car sales of 4 million last year, but the government wants to increase the share to 30% by 2030.

Tesla's showroom hunt comes as Musk's Starlink is also considering entering India after winning a lobbying battle against billionaire Mukesh Ambani over how New Delhi should allocate spectrum for the service.







situation.







#### Orissapos THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

# PORTS

Earlier, Australia survived

Arundhati Reddy to post a chal-

lenging total in the final match

of what has been a one-side se-

ries dominated thoroughly by

Sutherland led Australia's

recovery after Reddy struck

four times in quick succession

for career-best figures in limit

Having already lost the series, India opted to bowl at

the iconic WACA ground but

did not get the required break

throughs in the first powerplay

with Phoebe Litchfield (25 off

33) and Georgia Voll (26 off 30)

ed-overs cricket.

going strong.

the formidable home team.

#### WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

**Deadlock of draws** 



#### **GUKESH DRAWS AGAINST LIREN IN 13TH GAME**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Dec 11: Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh tried his best but could not break past a resilient defending champion Ding Liren of China and had to settle for a draw after 68 moves in the 13th and penultimate game of the World Chess championship here Wednesday.

With the scores tied at 6.5-6.5 and only one game of classical chess to go, it is only likely that the match will be extended to the tie-break stage where games of shorter duration will decide the winner. As was expected and predicted, the 18-year-old

#### Gukesh went for the King pawn on his opening move and yet again faced Liren's first-choice opening in French defense. The Chinese yet again spent a

lot of time in the opening phase of the game when Gukesh came out with a novel idea early, but it was clear right from the beginning that there was little for the white.

The middle game saw the exchange of a couple of minor pieces that gave Gukesh's white only a small advantage optically. And as the game progressed. it was clear that the exchange of pawns on the queen side will only lead to an equal endgame.

As close as the match gets, it only gets exciting. Quite excited (about the 14th game), but of course, it's an important game. I will try to do my best

Gukesh, knowing fully well that this could be his last chance with the favourable colour, left no stone unturned as he kept looking for more but Liren kept his cool and traded pieces when necessary to reach a queen-plus-rook endgame that was just level.

The players nevertheless fought on for a long time. The pieces changed hands and eventually it was a gueen and rook plus pawns on the board. Much as he tried, Gukesh did

everything in the book to keep pushing for more even in the theoretical drawn endgame but

D GUKESH | GRANDMASTER

With the scores tied at 6.5-6.5 and only one game of classical chess to go, it is only likely that the match will be extended to the tie-break stage where games of shorter duration will decide the winner

Liren was up to the task. The game was eventually drawn to a two versus three rook-and-pawns endgame, and Gukesh played on till there was no life left in the position. Liren held fort till the very end and will go into the last game of the match as favourite

# SERIES WHITEWASH FOR WOMEN IN BLUE

Mandhana's century goes in vain as India loses to Australia in third ODI

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

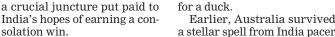
Perth, Dec 11: Opener Smriti Mandhana's elegant century went in vain as India lost to Australia by 83 runs in the third Women's ODI to suffer a 0-3 series whitewash here Wednesday.

Opting to field after winning the toss, India had Australia on the ropes at 78 for four before middle-order batter Annabel Sutherland's scintillating 95-ball 110, and brisk half centuries from Ashleigh Gardner (50) and skipper Tahlia McGrath (56 not out). lifted the hosts to a competitive 298 for six in the allotted 50 overs at WACA.

In reply, India were bowled out for 215 in 45.1 overs.

In pursuit of a stiff target of 299, the stylish Mandhana anchored the innings beautifully during her 105 off 109 balls and as long as the southpaw was at the crease, the visitors were in with a chance.

However, her dismissal at



The problem with the Indian innings was that the senior batter lacked support from the others after Alana King ended a 118-run partnership between Mandhana and Harleen Deol (39 off 64 balls) by dismissing the latter.

During her stay in the middle, Mandhana found the fence 14 times and cleared it once, leading the team's recovery after the swashbuckling Richa Ghosh's (2) early departure.

Spin bowling all-rounder Gardner completed a fine match by taking five wickets for 30 runs after her contribution with the willow.

However, Reddy, playing only her fifth ODI, changed the Besides Ghosh, captain Harmanpreet Kaur (12 off 22 balls) course of the game in one over by removing the openers in a and Jemimah Rodrigues (16 off 11 balls) failed with the bat, and space of four balls. it did not help India's cause. India's catching left a lot to

be desired as they grassed three Senior all-rounder Deepti Sharma too flopped, getting out tough chances.



#### SHORT TAKES

#### **BOA notice to IOA chief**

New Delhi: Terming it an act of "administrative overreach", the Bihar Olympic Association (BOA) has sent a legal notice to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha over the appointment of a single-member fact-finding commission to probe the governance structure of some states including Bihar. Acting on alleged complaints about governance and election irregularities in several state Olympic associations, the IOA chief had through an office order appointed an external panel each December 2 for Telangana, Bihar, and Rajasthan respectively. Hemanta Kumar Kalita, secretary general of the Boxing Federation of India, was named as the

### **NZ BATTER RECALLS FALL FROM GRACE** 'In India, I was dragged into fixing world'

A decade after he was banned by the **ECB.** Vincent has healed and made peace with his past PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wellington, Dec 11: Former New Zealand batter Lou Vincent has opened up on how he was drawn to the world of match-fixing during his time at the now defunct Indian Cricket League in the late 2000s, saying being part of a gang at that time gave him a sense of belonging as he battled depression. Vincent, who represented New Zealand in 23 Tests and 108 ODI, was handed 11 life-bans by the England and Wales Cricket Board in 2014 for match-fixing. Last year, the ban was revised allowing him to be involved in domestic cricket.



"I think that's how most bike gangs work with young kids. Yeah, they sort of groom young kids into 'we'll look after you but go drive that car through the shop and smash it up'

Having grown up in a dys functional family, Vincent was always looking for emotional support around him and he ended up finding that in the murky world of corruption. He is currently involved in the anti-corruption education initiatives of New Zealand players' body.

### PCB faces losses, lawsuits, alienation if it withdraws from Champions Trophy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

with the ICC," the administrator explained.

"It is only after a member nation signs the MPA for playing in an ICC event that it is eligible to get a share of reve nues earned from ICC events Most importantly when the ICC signed a broadcasting deal for all its events rights it has given a guarantee to them that all ICC members are available to play in their events including the Champions Trophy," he said.

fact-finding commissioner for Bihar. By December 10, he was expected to deliver his conclusions, observations, and suggestions to the president of the IOA.

#### Madrid beat Atalanta

Madrid: Real Madrid's big stars turned on the style to revive the Spanish giant's faltering Champions League title defense. Galacticos Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham all scored in a thrilling 3-2 win at Italian league leader Atalanta. But Madrid still had to ride its luck as Mateo Retequi fired over from in front of goal in stoppage time when handed a golden chance to level the game. It was only Madrid's third win in the competition's revamped league phase and leaves the 15 time champion in the unseeded playoff positions in 18th place. Sixtime champion Liverpool leads the way after maintaining its perfect record in Europe this season with a 1-0 win against Girona.

#### Chavan breaks record

Bhubaneswar: Gujarat's Sakshi Chavan erased a seven-year long meet record in the women's 200m race on the final day of the 39th National Junior Athletics Championships at Kalinga Stadium Wednesday. Sakshi's gold-medal winning time of 24.14 seconds was better than the previous meet record of 24.24 seconds set by Jisna Mathew in 2017. It was double delight for Sakshi as she was also declared the best female athlete in the women's U20 category, while Delhi's 400m sprinter Jay Kumar walked away with the best athlete award in the men's U20 group. Haryana won the overall title with 303 points. Tamil Nadu was second with 269 points.

The 46-year-old had started his career with a Test hundred on debut against the mighty Australian side of 2000s. As he fought depression and got involved in match-fixing, his promising international career came to a premature end at the age of 29.

In an interview, Vincent nar-

#### **2034 WORLD CUP HOST**

**During the bid** campaign, FIFA has accepted limited scrutiny of Saudi Arabia's human rights record that was widely criticised this year at the United Nations

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zurich, Dec 11: Saudi Arabia has been officially confirmed by FIFA as host of the 2034 World Cup in men's soccer.

The Saudi bid was the only candidate and was acclaimed by the applause of more than 200 FIFA member federations. They took part remotely in an online meeting hosted in Zurich Wednesday by the soccer

Even if you've completed the fixing, they own ou. It's hard to get out, and the only way to get out was literally the way I did (confess) LOU VINCENT | FORMER BATTER, NEW ZEALAND

rated how his early upbringing impacted his personality and career.

"So I didn't have the mental package to be a professional sports player. So at 28 I was deeply in depression and then went to India, and was dragged, sucked into that fixing world. It was pretty easy to

see how it happened," a candid Vincent admitted.

"I felt like I was part of a gang. It almost made me feel better, because I am thinking: 'I am part of a match-fixing gang, I am with a group that's going to have my back and nobody knows our little secret.

'I literally raised myself from the age of 12, so I was always quite malleable to people around me. Because I wanted to be loved, you're easily led astray," he conceded.

"And, you know, that contributed massively towards my professional career of just wanting to be liked, wanting to be loved, and sort of sharing how I was feeling on tour. If I was a little bit homesick or not scoring enough runs. I would tell the coach, the captain and then all of a sudden you get dropped because they think he's not going to give 100 per cent for New Zealand tomorrow, because he's a little bit lonely," he said.

However, it did not take long for Vincent to realise the dangers of being part of the "gang".

risk alienation from the cricket world if it decides to withdraw from the ICC Champions Trophy as deadlock persists with governing body ICC over the mode of organising the 50-over event scheduled in February-March.

Karachi, Dec 11: The Pakistan

Cricket Board (PCB) could face

revenue losses, lawsuits and

A senior cricket administrator who is well versed with the organisation ICC events told PTI on Wednesday that it would not be a easy decision for the PCB to not play in the Champions Trophy if their Hybrid Model formula is not accepted in entirety by the ICC and Board of Control for Cricket in India. "Pakistan has not only signed

a host agreement with the ICC but like all other participating nations in the event it has also signed a mandatory members participation agreement (MPA)

Last week, the ICC reached a consensus to conduct next vear's Champions Trophy in a hybrid model, allowing India to play its share of matches in Dubai while agreeing "in principle" to a similar arrangement in multi-lateral events till 2027. However, a formal announce ment is awaited.

As part of the broadcasting deal, at least one Pakistan and India match has to be scheduled in all ICC events, said the administrator.

# FIFA gives Saudi its biggest sports win yet



body's president Gianni Infantino.

The decision was combined with approving the only candidate to host the 2030 World Cup. Spain, Portugal and Morocco will co-host in a six-nation project, with Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay each getting one of the 104 games.

The South American connection will mark the centenary of Uruguay hosting the first World Cup in 1930.

FIFA and Saudi officials say hosting the 2034 tournament can accelerate change, including more freedoms and rights for women.

It will kick off a decade of

scrutiny on Saudi labor laws and treatment of workers mostlv from South Asia needed to help build and upgrade 15 stadiums, plus hotels and transport networks ahead of the 104-game tournament.

One of the stadiums is planned to be 350 meters (yards) above the ground in Neom — a

futuristic city that does not yet exist - and another named for the crown prince is designed to be atop a 200-meter cliff near Rivadh.

Saudi and international rights groups and activists warned FIFA it has not learned the lessons of Qatar's much-criticized preparations to host the 2022 World Cup. The kingdom plans to spend tens of billion of dollars on projects re lated to the World Cup as part of the crown prince's sweeping Vision 2030 project that aims to modernize Saudi society and economy. At its core is spend ing on sports by the \$900 billion sovereign wealth operation the Public Investment Fund which he oversees. Critics have called it "sportswashing" of the kingdom's reputation.

#### 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil

Zurich: The 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil will be played from June 24 to July 25. FIFA, soccer's international governing body, announced the dates Tuesday. Thirty-two teams will participate in the Women's World Cup, which is being played in South America for the first time. Brazil has one of CONMEBOL's three spots as host. UEFA has the largest number of slots with 11, followed by AFC with six, CAF and CONCACAF with four apiece and OFC with one. The other spots will be determined via playoff. Spain is the defending champion, having won the 2023 Women's World Cup jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand FIFA is expected to announce the Brazilian host cities and stadiums for the tour nament next year. Twelve bids were submitted, including many of the stadiums that hosted games for the men's World Cup in 2014.

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