



HARNAAZ HAILS PRIYANKA

Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu recently revealed that she would love to feature in a biopic of Priyanka Chopra

LEISURE P2



'OMICRON'LL DISPLACE DELTA

Omicron infection enhances neutralising immunity against the Delta variant, as per a new research

INTERNATIONAL P10



SHAMI STEALS SHOW

Mohammed Shami bags a five-wicket haul against South Africa in Centurion to reach 200-wicket milestone in Tests

SPORTS P12



₹103CR FOR EKAMRA DEVELOPMENT

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 13 developmental projects worth ₹103 crore in Ekamra area of Bhubaneswar through virtual mode.



'YELLOW ALERT' IN DELHI AMID COVID FLARE-UP

NEW DELHI: Restrictions under Level 1 of the Graded Action Response Plan (GRAP) will be imposed in Delhi as its Covid-19 positivity rate continues to be over 0.5 per cent for the past few days.

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The world famous Sun Temple at Konark witnessed heavy footfall Tuesday. A scuffle ensued at the entrance as many could not avail tickets due to technical glitches

Classes for I to V from Jan 3

Online classes will continue while students can attend offline classes in consultation with their parents/guardians



all government, aided and private educational institutions, Dash said. The department has prepared a fresh Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed while conducting classroom teaching for these students, he added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 28: After re-opening of schools for Class VI to Class XII students, the state government Tuesday decided to resume classroom teaching for students of Class I to Class V from January 3, 2022.

The first summative assessment of Class X students would start January 5 and continue till January 8 at 3,093 centres. Therefore, teaching in these schools having Class I to Class X standard students will begin from January 10, he said.



Oh! I panicked.. thought we landed in Lucknow instead of Chandigarh! All were talking AAP, AAP, AAP.

BOOSTER FOR 60+ SANS DOC REPORT

Beneficiaries just need to avail advice from their doctors before availing the precaution dose



are not mandated to be produced at the center for administration of the precaution dose.

Precaution dose for polling staff

NEW DELHI: Personnel to be deployed on election duty in the five poll-bound states will be included in the category of frontline workers and would be entitled to the precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine, amid growing indications that the elections may be held on time.

The CoWIN will send reminder messages to all those eligible for the precaution dose and the dose will be reflected in the digital vaccination certificates, he added.

The states and UTs have been exhorted to undertake proper planning in advance for distribution of Covaxin to identified session sites for the 15-18 age group. To avoid the mixing-up of vaccines during administration, the ministry has advised states to manage separate arrangements including separate session sites and queue in case adult vaccination is going at the same place.

NEW DELHI, Dec 28: The Union health ministry Tuesday said no doctor certificates would be required for persons aged 60 and above with comorbidities to be produced at the time of administration of precaution doses. Such persons are expected to obtain the advice of their doctors before deciding to avail of the precaution dose, said the ministry.

AGENCIES

MARKET WATCH table with columns for INDEX and VARIATION, including SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, SILVER.

WEATHER table with columns for Bhub and CTK, including Max, Min, Humidity, Rainfall.

Corbevax, Covovax, Molnupiravir get nod

With this approval, the number of Covid vaccines that have received emergency use authorisation in the country has gone up to 8

COVID-19, CDSO, @MoHFW INDIA has given 3 approvals in a single day for - CORBEVAX vaccine - COVOVAX vaccine - Anti-viral drug Molnupiravir

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, Dec 28: Expanding India's vaccine basket, the Central Drug Authority has approved the Serum Institute of India's COVID-19 vaccine Covovax, Biological E's jab Corbevax and anti-Covid pill Molnupiravir for restricted use in emergency situation.

Six COVID-19 vaccines - Serum Institute's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D, Russia's Sputnik V and the US-made Moderna and Johnson and Johnson - had already received EUA from the Indian drug regulator earlier.

The nanoparticle vaccine, Covovax, will be manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute of India, he said. "Molnupiravir, an antiviral drug, will now be manufactured in the country by 13 companies for restricted use under emergency situation for treatment of adult patients with COVID-19 and who have high risk of progression of the disease."

AGENCIES

Minor's gangrape: POCSO court acquits 2 for lack of evidence

Cuttack, Dec 28: A special POCSO court here Tuesday acquitted two persons who had been charged with raping a teenager for over 22 days at a poultry farm under Chauhaganj police limits in the city in October last year, citing lack of evidence.



The incident has exposed the poor investigation by the police. While addressing a recent conference of senior police officers, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had expressed concern over the large number of acquittals in courts and exhorted police officials to make all-out efforts to improve the dismal conviction rate in the state.

Mukesh Ambani mulls leadership change at Reliance

I've no doubt Akash, Isha and Anant as the next-gen leaders will lead Reliance to greater heights, says RIL chief at Reliance Family Day



Ambani, 64, who has previously not spoken about succession plans at the country's most valuable company, said Reliance is "now in the process of effecting a momentous leadership transition."

petent, extremely committed, and incredibly promising young leadership talent at Reliance," Ambani said. "We should guide them, enable them, encourage them and empower them... and sit back and applaud as they perform better than us."

greater heights." In them, he saw "the same spark and potential" that legendary industrialist and his father had "for making a difference to millions of lives and contributing to India's growth."

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 28: Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani Tuesday mentioned about leadership transition at his energy-to-retail conglomerate, saying he wants the process to be accelerated with seniors, including him, yielding to the younger generation.

On October 12, the girl was rescued when the farm was raided after locals tipped-off the police suspecting some wrongdoing in the compound. A day later, Chauhaganj police registered a case under relevant Sections of IPC and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on the basis of a complaint filed by district Child Welfare Committee's Narayan Shukla.

leisure



JESSICA SAYS PROSTHETICS GAVE HER 'ENERGY' TO PERFORM

Hollywood star Jessica Chastain found wearing prosthetics in her new movie *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* made her bring 'more energy' to her performance. Also, she shared that it's very helpful because you look so much like the character.

SINGER BECKY HILL WANTS TO WORK WITH DJ CALVIN

British singer-songwriter Becky Hill wants to work with 'amazing' Scottish DJ Calvin Harris because he's always been a big influence on her. She said the *Acceptable in the 80s* hitmaker has been a big influence on her career so she'd jump at the chance to get into the studio with him.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you may set out to please your beloved, and maybe even woo him/her all over again. There may be a bit of dissatisfaction regarding friends and relatives, but you can look forward to partying and new friendships this evening, says Ganesh.

TAURUS

Today, Ganesh sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with someone close to you. You are likely to be swayed and influenced by the other in course of this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind of dispute or controversy. Confrontation is most likely to have adverse consequences.

GEMINI

If you have children, they will be a pampered lot today, says Ganesh. Your affection, however, may not have its desired impact. Children are known to be unpredictable, but keep an eye on their activities, especially today. You may entertain your loved ones with a sumptuous dinner tonight.

CANCER

At work, your ability to forge great partnerships will see to the success of one of your ambitious projects. However, you need to be careful before signing the contract. It's always important to go through the finer details of a deal before closing it.

LEO

Friendships are supposed to last forever. But it all depends on whether or not the friend is around when most needed. Today, your pals may turn to you for help, and sure enough, you will be there to extend all the support you can, says Ganesh. Get ready to make new acquaintances today, some of whom may go on to become life-long friends.

VIRGO

Achievement and accomplishment will be the highlights of the day, notes Ganesh. You will be recognised for your devotion to work and determination to succeed at your workplace. Much awaited promotions may come and financial arrears may also reach your hands.

LIBRA

Call it two sides of the same coin, but today, you shall have the uncanny desire to be your own master and servant. But this day is all set to be animated and eventful and full of life. Expect a few run-ins with the opposite sex, as you are bound to attract quite a few of them, mainly because of your killer good looks.

SCORPIO

You go on a shopping spree and that too with your beloved. This may be quite therapeutic for your relationship. You may be just happy to use your bargaining skills to the optimum. Spending lavishly, first on shopping and then on sumptuous dinner to treat your taste buds. What more one wants in life!

SAGITTARIUS

Someone from the opposite sex is likely to get attracted towards you. Enjoy being in the limelight. Today, your main activity becomes hanging around with friends and cherishing their company.

CAPRICORN

Pain and fun, both are the two sides of a coin and today, you will experience both of them in equal amount. You may have to slog yourself to earn money, but be careful and don't drain yourself out, advises Ganesh. You will get what you have wished for, however, you need not try your luck too much. Spend money for the happiness of others.

AQUARIUS

You will receive some good news today. Whatever has been in the pipe line may come out in the open and you'll see the desired output, feels Ganesh. Courageous and patient, you can deal with the toughest of challenges with an ease and Ganesh gives a pat on your back for that.

PISCES

A day filled with socialising awaits you, says Ganesh. You will likely make contact with near and dear ones you haven't met in a while. New associations and friendships could also occur. It is a pleasant and joyous day, so make the most of it.

Harnaaz

'would love to' star in PC's biopic

Mumbai: Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu who has been all praises for Priyanka Chopra, recently revealed that she would love to feature in a biopic of the global icon.

Recently a news portal asked Harnaaz to pick a celebrity, whose biopic she would like to star in. Without thinking much, the diva took PeeCee's name and said that the actress' journey has always inspired her. She also went on to add that Priyanka 'will keep inspiring millions' just like herself.

Talking about inspiration, Harnaaz had previously told the portal, "I got inspiration from Lara Dutta, Sushmita Sen and Priyanka Chopra, through them I realised that I want to inspire people the way they have been doing."

When quizzed about her major strength that helped her during her journey, Sandhu added, "I think it's just the way you perceive things, it's not about winning or losing but about the challenges that come along. I have always focused on what next rather than looking behind at what could've happened. One needs to live in the present because that's how you can change your future."

Harnaaz Sandhu from Punjab, represented India at the 70th Miss Universe 2021, held in Eilat, Israel, brought home the crown, 21 years after Lara Dutta won the title in 2000. Previously, the same title was bagged by Sushmita Sen.



RELEASE OF SHAHID-STARRER JERSEY POSTPONED

The makers of the Shahid Kapoor sports drama *Jersey* have decided to postpone the theatrical release of the film after civil restrictions were reimposed due to fears over the Omicron variant.

The makers issued a statement saying, "In view of the current circumstances and new Covid guidelines we have decided to postpone the theatrical release of our film *Jersey*. We have received immense love from you all so far and want to thank you all for everything. Until then everyone please stay safe and healthy, and wishing you all the best for the new year ahead (sic)!!"

The film that was supposed to be released December 31, tells the story of a middle-aged cricketer, who gets back into the game for the love of his son. In addition to Shahid, the film directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, also stars Mrunal Thakur, and is a remake of a 2019 Telugu film of the same name.



Ananya Panday is in wonderland in her new pics

Mumbai: More often than not, Ananya Panday often treats her fans with endearing photoshoots complemented with quirky captions. Having said that, the *Khaali Peeli* actress recently dropped a bundle of breathtaking pictures from one of her recent photoshoots.

In the pictures, Ananya kept it chic and elegant in an all-white ensemble consisting of a threaded cutout shirt and knee-length shorts. Minimalist makeup, dainty accessories, along her hair tied to a messy bun. Fans and well-wishers have been showering her posts with lots of love.

Meanwhile, Ananya's best friend Suhana Khan too, acknowledged the post by calling it 'perfect'. Earlier when Suhana had shared a couple of close-up selfies, Ananya too showered love for her bestie and wrote, 'glowin' in the comments.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Ananya will next be seen in Shakun Batra's *Gehraiyaan*. She will be seen sharing screen space with Deepika Padukone, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Dhairya Karwa.

The film has been slated for an OTT release January 25, 2022.



Biopic on Rajesh Khanna to be directed by Farah, produced by Nikhil

THE ACTOR IS KNOWN FOR DELIVERING 17 MAMMOTH BLOCKBUSTERS IN SUCCESSION, WHICH RESULTED IN MASS HYSTERIA, AMONG HIS FEMALE FOLLOWERS, BACK IN THE 1970S

Mumbai: Producer-actor Nikhil Dwivedi is all set to bankroll a film based on the life of superstar Rajesh Khanna.

The producer has acquired the rights to Gautam Chintamani's book *Dark Star: The Loneliness of Being Rajesh Khanna*. The screen adaptation will be directed by Farah Khan, who will also script the film along with Gautam Chintamani. However, the casting of the film is underway.

Shedding light on the development, Nikhil Dwivedi said: "Yes, I've acquired the rights to Gautam Chintamani's book, *Dark Star*, and I'm in talks with Farah Khan to make the film. That's all I can say for now. As and when any major development happens, I'll be happy to share because I'm



really very excited about bringing Rajesh Khanna's story to the big screen."

Born as Jatin Khanna, and affectionately called 'Kaka' by his industry friends, he was quite a complex personality, and unfortunately, misunderstood by many. The actor is known for delivering 17 mammoth blockbusters in succession, which resulted in mass hysteria, especially among his female followers, back in the 1970s.

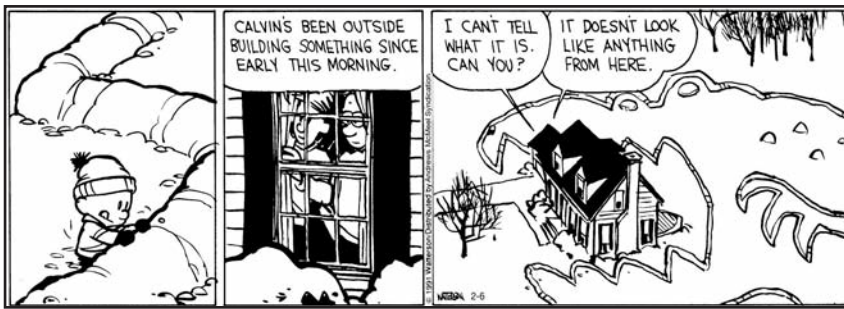
Talking about the project, Farah Khan said: "Yes I have read Gautam's book and it's very fascinating. It's definitely an exciting story."

However, she declined to enlist the details of the project, saying, "We are in a conversation over this but I cannot comment more" IANS

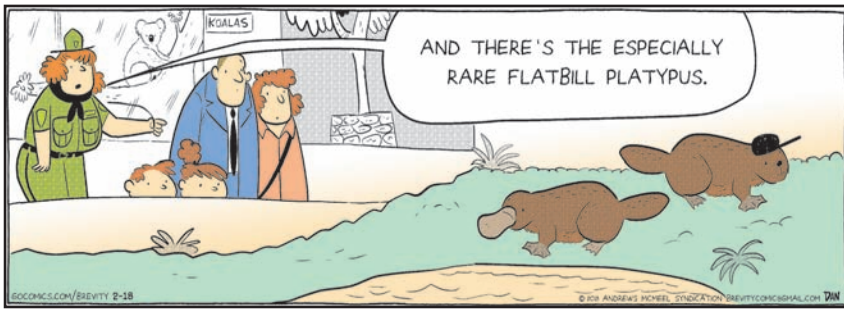
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

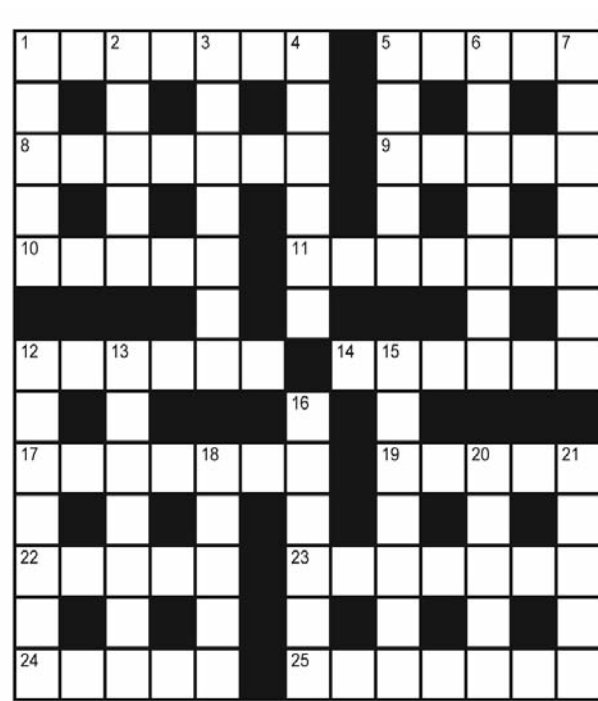


BREVITY



FUN post

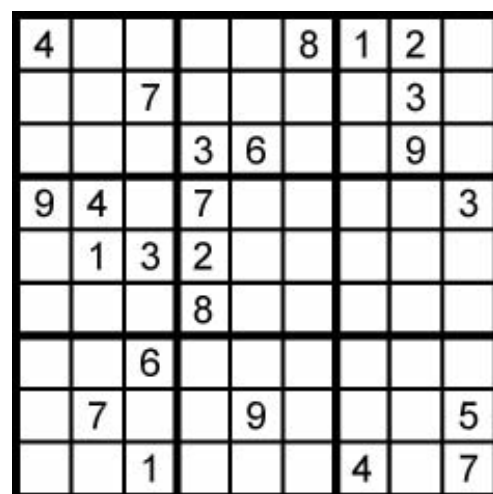
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Figuring out
 - 5 Riding horses
 - 8 In one group (2,5)
 - 9 Public persona
 - 10 Kitchen appliance
 - 11 Blown away
 - 12 Well-being
 - 14 Kind of sauce
 - 17 Refuse
 - 19 Damp
 - 22 Vocally
 - 23 Two-wheeler
 - 24 "Likewise"
 - 25 Buttercup family member
 - 4 Oleaginous
 - 5 Gallic goodbye
 - 6 Opposed to
 - 7 Slight
 - 12 Gaunt
 - 13 Landing zone
 - 15 Humerus, e.g. (3-4)
 - 16 Iran, once
 - 18 Part of a TV feed
- Down**
- 1 Primitive weapon
 - 2 Citrus fruit
 - 3 Check out
 - 20 Preface
 - 21 Brusque

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.

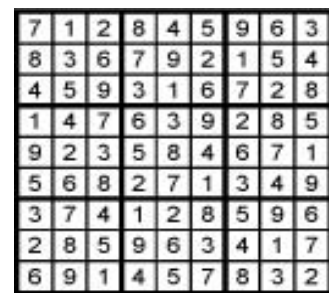


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

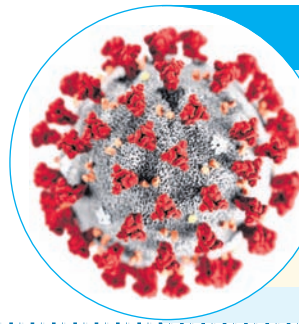


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



MEDICOS' STIR
Medical students of SCBMCH in Cuttack take out a rally to protest against delay in NEET PG counselling, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	28,20,67,247	25,14,94,045	54,26,092
India	3,47,99,691	3,42,43,945	4,80,290
Odisha	10,54,160	10,44,278	8,455

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Denial of entry tickets at Sun Temple rued

Konark, Dec 28: The world famous Sun Temple here was shut for visitors for a brief period Tuesday due to heavy rush and jostling at the entrance. The 13th century marvel has been witnessing huge footfall for last several days as 2021 draws to a close. However, things went out of hand Tuesday afternoon when hundreds of visitors, mainly from outside Odisha, could not get the entry tickets from the counters of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) due to some technical glitches, sources said. Livid over the shortage of tickets, many visitors tried to enter the temple compound forcefully. Even, some of them tried to scale the boundary walls. They also scuffled with the security personnel when the latter tried to prevent



Heavy rush at the Konark Sun Temple, Tuesday
standing in the queues for hours. We were forced to return home without visiting the Black Pagoda. The authorities should introduce some alternative measures to deal with the situation

THE 13TH CENTURY MARVEL HAS BEEN WITNESSING HUGE FOOTFALL FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS AS 2021 DRAWS TO A CLOSE
However, things went out of hand Tuesday afternoon when hundreds of visitors, mainly from outside Odisha, could not get the entry tickets from the counters of ASI due to some technical glitches
Livid over the shortage of tickets, many visitors even tried to forcefully enter the temple compound during rush days," rued a tourist from West Bengal while boarding his bus. When contacted, ASI official Neeraj Singh said, "We could not meet the high demand for tickets as our server was down for several hours."

Over 2cr in state fully vaccinated

Bhubaneswar, Dec 28: More than two crore adults in Odisha are now fully vaccinated against Covid-19, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Tuesday. Odisha has achieved yet another significant milestone in the fight against Covid-19 as more than 2 crore people have received the second dose of vaccine, Patnaik said in a tweet. "Commend the hard work of our healthcare workers in ensuring swift immunisation to save precious lives," he said. As per statistics available on CoWIN portal, over 4.92 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the state so far. As many as 2,01,74,795 people in the state have been administered two doses of vaccine while another 2,90,35,201 have received at least one dose. Data suggests that 2.83 crore people of Odisha in the age group of 18-44 years have received the jab till now while 1.27 crore population in the 45-60 age group and 80.87 lakh beneficiaries aged above 60 years have also been covered under the vaccination programme. Moreover, 4.37 crore doses of Covishield and 54.58 lakh Covaxin doses have been administered in the state till date.



Meanwhile, director of health services Bijay Mohapatra said all required steps have been taken to ensure sufficient beds, oxygen and medicine to tackle possible third wave of Covid-19.

"We have not faced any health infrastructure issues during the first and second surge of Covid-19. As experts have predicted that the paediatric population is at risk after the second wave, we are strengthening our paediatric care infrastructure," he said. Odisha was an oxygen surplus state during the second wave of pandemic and now oxygen plants are being installed in various parts of the state, Mohapatra said. Besides, the state has stored an adequate amount of the required eight medicines identified by the Union government, the director added.

156 new cases, 2 deaths

Odisha Tuesday logged 156 new Covid-19 cases, 33 more than the previous day, with the tally rising to 10,54,160, a Health department bulletin said. Twenty children were among the new patients, it added. The death toll rose to 8,455 as two women, aged 40 and 72, succumbed to the disease, it said. The two fresh fatalities were reported from Khurda and Ganjam districts, the bulletin added. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients died due to comorbidities so far in the state. The coastal state now has 1,559 active cases, and 167 people recuperated from the disease Monday, taking the total number of recoveries to 10,44,093. PTI

Uninterrupted quality service delivery state's motto: Naveen

Bhubaneswar, Dec 28: Not only public satisfaction, but delivery of uninterrupted quality service is also the state government's motto, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik told the administrative officials as he reviewed the ambitious Mo Sarkar initiative Tuesday. Launched two years ago, Mo Sarkar has been instrumental in strengthening people's confidence on the government, he said. Responsible and humanitarian approach of the government officials towards the public speaks about the success of state's continuous effort to inculcate professionalism among the public servants, Naveen said expressing satisfaction over the positive feed-

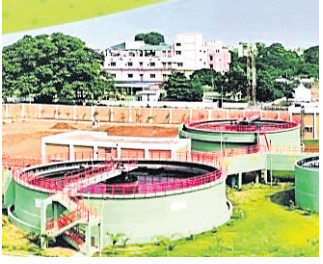
back from Mo Sarkar about various departments. "It's high time to ensure all initiatives of the state government meet the highest standards in accordance with Mo Sarkar. To serve the purpose, it's essential that the state should update its citizens' database regularly. This will bolster our zero tolerance policy towards corruption," the CM said. It was learnt that as many as 222 services of 28 departments have been included under the Mo Sarkar. And feedback on the services has been collected from the public on regular intervals. Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian analysed the reports presented in the meeting and advised officials to make the programme more effective.

CM asks officials to prepare for 3rd wave

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed officials to make preparations on a war-footing to deal with a possible third wave of Covid-19 with at least eight omicron cases detected in the state. In a meeting Monday, where he took stock of the state's preparedness to deal with the pandemic, Patnaik issued a series of directives to government departments, calling for the same level of readiness as was there during the first and second waves. The Chief Minister said that though only eight omicron cases have so far been detected in the state, there could be a surge in the coming days. He directed officials to ensure that all eligible persons are provided with the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) smart health cards within a week. He also told district collectors and superintendents of police to ensure its success, and especially monitor private hospitals to make sure they treat the beneficiaries of BSKY. Hospitals should have adequate oxygen supplies, he said. He also instructed the Health Department to ensure adequate facilities to treat children. The chief minister directed the police to enforce Covid-19 protocols among the people and take action against violators.

Faecal sludge mgmt gets digital boost

Bhubaneswar, Dec 28: As the first milestone towards its mission 'Zero Untreated Waste in 1,000 Habitats in 1,000 Days', the eGov Foundation recently launched the nation's first DIGIT-powered sanitation platform in the urban local bodies (ULBs) of Dhenkanal, Berhampur and Balasore. The DIGIT (Digital Infrastructure for Governance, Impact and Transformation) platform attempts to bring digital transformation in all the aspects of faecal sludge management (FSM) service delivery, from on-site containment of the faecal waste to its transport, safe treatment and disposal. It allows ULB administration to keep track of requests raised by citizens and deliver timely services.



CEO of eGov Foundation Viraj Tyagi said, "It's heartening to see the platform being piloted in Odisha and with this, we have achieved the first milestone towards our journey of bringing digital transformation in sanitation space. This is yet another example of technological innovation at work to address the problems around urban governance." The launch of the FSM application has also been positively received by the Desludging Operators (DSOs) and the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant operators in the state.

OPF flays decision to reopen schools

Bhubaneswar, Dec 28: The Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) Tuesday strongly objected to the state government's decision of reopening schools for Class I to V students from January 3, 2022. Federation co-chairman Prasanna Bisoi asked, "When the Union government has decided to start vaccination of adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years from January 3, why has the state government taken the decision so randomly?"



The state government could have waited a little longer to take a call on resuming physical teaching for Class I to V students as the Health dept has said that February may see the peak of the third wave

Covid-19 cases and detection of Omicron variant that has been categorised 'Variant of Concern', the state government could have taken the decision after thorough consultation with parents. Outfit's chairman Basudev Bhatt said the state government could have waited a little longer to take a call on resuming physical teaching for Class I to V students as the Health department has said that February may see the peak of the third wave.

SOA ASST PROF WINS BEAUTY PAGEANT



Bhubaneswar, Dec 28: Manisha Praharaj, assistant professor at SUM Nursing College of SOA, has been crowned 'Mrs India One in Million-Odisha' at a beauty pageant held recently. The national-level contest, which continued for four days at New Delhi, had attracted 70 participants from across the country. The Grand Finale was held December 24 in which eight contestants including Praharaj entered the finale. Praharaj was crowned 'Mrs India One in Million-Odisha'. Similarly, Asit Kumar Samal, a third year student of BSc (Ag), Institute of Agricultural Sciences, SOA's faculty of agricultural sciences, has won the Mister Odisha title at the 'Miss and Mister Odisha 2021' contest held here recently.

Decongestion of jails ordered

Bhubaneswar: The Prisons Directorate Tuesday issued a circular instructing the jail superintendents in the state to take proactive steps as per Odisha Model Jail Manual for decongestion of prisons. The superintendents have been asked to instruct the prison welfare officers to approach the concerned courts in their area for arranging bail for under-trials. The directorate ordered the officers to approach the Inspector General of Prisons to shift inmates from overcrowding prisons with prior permission of the court for decongestion.

CM inaugurates Sisir Saras-2021

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday virtually inaugurated the national-level fair 'Sisir Saras-2021' at Idco Exhibition Ground here. The fair will continue till January 6, 2022. "The fair provides a big platform for sale and display of products made by SHGs. This aims at creating market linkage for rural producers among urban consumers," said Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pratap Jena. This year, more than 300 stalls have been installed at the fair ground showcasing artisans from rural areas of Orissa and 20 other states.

Ayush docs seek job regularisation

Bhubaneswar: A group of Ayush doctors Tuesday swept the road at Lower PMG here as part of their agitation seeking job regularisation. The agitating Ayush doctors claimed that their job regularisation will boost healthcare system in rural Odisha. Around 1,150 Ayush doctors, who have been working in the primary health centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) on a contractual basis for last 14 years, had earlier written to the Chief Minister for regularisation of their jobs. They launched an agitation in the city December 2 as the state government gave a deaf ear to their pleas, sources said. The monthly salary of Ayush doctors was Rs 8,000 in 2007 while the same for contractual MBBS doctors was Rs 12,000. Now, the MBBS doctors are getting Rs 70,000 for month while the Ayush doctors are getting only Rs 29,000, the agitators said.

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THE HIGH & MIGHTY

It isn't just wealth. And it isn't just control over people or resources. True power is a potent combination of money and influence that enables people to help shape the world. Only a select group of people really possesses the economic and political clout to effect global change. In a year when a virus locked down the world and touched all aspects of its daily life, it was the process of recovery and fightback that tested how the levers of power moved. **Orissa POST** has compiled a list of the world's most powerful people - heads of state, billionaires, CEOs, and entertainers in 2021

STATE



NAVEEN PATNAIK
CHIEF MINISTER



VK PANDIAN
5T SECRETARY



DHARMENDRA PRADHAN
UNION MINISTER



PRANAB PRAKASH DAS
BJD ORGANISATIONAL GS



DS KUTHEY
SPECIAL SECRETARY TO CM



PRADEEP KUMAR JENA
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER



SURESH CHANDRA MAHAPATRA
CHIEF SECRETARY



ASHWINI VAISHNAW
UNION MINISTER

NATIONAL



RAKESH TIKAIT
FARMER LEADER



NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER



NV RAMANA
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA



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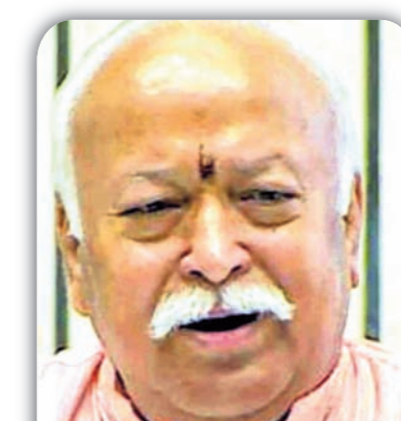
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national

Students in Goa's rural areas are losing interest in the science stream after matriculation. There is a need to create a curiosity among students in villages in the field of science

PLAY INDIAN MUSIC: GOVT The Ministry of Civil Aviation Tuesday asked all airlines and airports to consider playing Indian music in their flights and terminal premises



of the day quote We are not concerned about political parties which are outsiders... DIGAMBAR KAMAT | FORMER GOA CM

RISE IN COVID CASES Yellow alert in Delhi

Press Trust of India New Delhi, Dec 28: Amid a spike in COVID-19 cases following the emergence of Omicron variant, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday declared a 'yellow alert'...



A health official takes swab sample at a market for Covid test in New Delhi

According to data shared by the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday there were 67 Omicron cases in the national capital on Friday. Addressing an online press conference, Kejriwal said cases were rising fast in Delhi...

- Shops of non-essential goods and services in markets and malls can open based on odd-even formula from 10 am to 8 pm... Restaurants will be permitted with 50 per cent of capacity from 8 am to 10 pm... In accordance with 'Level-1' alert under the graded response action plan (GRAP), there would be night curfew between 10 pm and 5 am...

LUDHIANA COURT BLAST

Key conspirator arrested in Germany



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 28: Jaswinder Singh Multan, a top member of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), has been arrested in Germany for allegedly being the main conspirator of the December 23 blast in the Ludhiana district court complex which killed one person and injured five others...

The dedicated service of health workers and the government's policy that focuses on strengthening the public health system have helped the state emerge as the best performing large state in the NITI Aayog's Health Index for the fourth consecutive time

SHORT TAKES

Tiger captured

Kulitali (WB): A Royal Bengal tiger, which strayed into a locality in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, was captured on Tuesday after nearly a week-long chase...

Two arrested

Pune: Continuing its action against alleged irregularities in various recruitment exams, the police in Maharashtra's Pune have arrested two people and registered a fresh case in connection with the paper leak in the Group C recruitment examination of the health department...

Man found dead

Bijnor: Shahbaz Jhojha, a resident of Kalyanpuri in New Delhi, was found dead in a hotel room in Najibabad in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district. His throat was slit and a part of his hand was chopped off.

Sonia takes veiled dig at BJP



Congress party's flag falls off the pole while being hoisted by Sonia Gandhi on the party's 137th Foundation Day in New Delhi

India. In a message to Congress workers on the party's 137th Foundation Day, Sonia Gandhi said history was being falsified and detestable efforts were being made to erase the 'Ganga-Jamuni' heritage of the country.

country is feeling insecure and afraid. There is reign of dictatorship in the country, bypassing democracy and constitution...

Her remarks come at a time a section of fringe Hindu religious leaders have hurled abuses at Mahatma Gandhi and hailed his assassin Nathuram Godse as the symbol of truth and religion.

Telangana achieves 100% first-dose Covid vaccine coverage

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Dec 28: Telangana Tuesday achieved 100 per cent coverage of the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine. Health Minister T. Harish Rao announced a news conference that Telangana is the first among states with large population to give first dose of the vaccine...

WOMAN GETS DAUGHTER KILLED

Hardoi (Uttar Pradesh): In a shocking incident, a woman provoked her husband to kill their daughter after the latter saw her with her paramour. The accused, Kamla, apparently panicked after her daughter Pratibha saw her with her lover Ram Naresh...

Is it end of the road for some in G-23 or revival ahead?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 28: The members of the G-23 group, who wrote the letter of dissent to Sonia Gandhi seeking sweeping reforms in the Congress party, are fighting for survival as team Rahul is taking key party decisions and have full say in the appointments and nominations.

have been adjusted within the party or have brought down their opposition and one of the signatory Veerappa Moily had openly said that 'there is no G-23', while one of the signatories Jitin Prasad has left Congress to join the BJP.

former Jammu Kashmir Chief Minister is addressing rallies in his home state while his supporters have resigned from the party to push him as CM candidate in the state.

Nominated Authority 120, 'F' Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. NOTICE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS IN RELATION TO SCHEDULE I COAL MINES. In accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Rule 15 of The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014, claims are invited afresh from the Central Government, State Government and local authorities...

দৌর বরিশত কার্যালয়, কছাপা, ফুলবাণী Office of the Municipal Council, Phulbani. TENDER NOTICE No.C-1701:- Bid documents consisting of 34 (Thirty four) only Nos. of civil works with estimated cost (Work value), cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions applicable for the contract and required necessary documents available in Phulbani Municipality.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, CUTTACK e-mail- eeolic_ctc@yahoo.in e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.14/OLIC (CTC) / Dt.24.12.2021 No.CAD-2539 - The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Cuttack on behalf of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage Rate bids in online mode for Drilling & Installation of 150 mm dia Cluster Shallow Tube Wells in different Blocks of Cuttack & Jagatsinghpur Districts from reputed drilling Contractors having OWN RIG & experience in similar nature of works...

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international

of the day quote

We will continue to monitor the data carefully, but there will be no new restrictions introduced in England before the New Year

There are enough vaccines for everyone. It is vital to be vaccinated, because it is related to people's life and death. Those who do not get vaccinated have a greater chance of falling into critical (care) units and dying

The situation on the border with Afghanistan now causes some alarm and concern

SHORT TAKES

Plane clips another aircraft at airport

Punta Gorda: The wingtip of a plane loaded with passengers clipped the auxiliary power unit of a parked empty aircraft nearby as it pushed back from the gate at a small Florida airport Monday. Both planes at Punta Gorda Airport are owned by Allegiant Air, according to a statement from the airline, which said there were no injuries.

Israeli missile attack targets Syrian seaport

Damascus: A fresh Israeli missile attack targeted the commercial seaport of Syria's coastal city of Latakia Tuesday, state media reported. The Israelis fired their missiles from the Mediterranean against the commercial port of Latakia, hitting the container terminal and igniting a fire, Xinhua news agency quoted the state media report as saying.

Japan's jobless rate rises to 2.8%

Tokyo: Japan's jobless rate in November increased slightly to 2.8 per cent compared to the previous month, as people were encouraged to leave their jobs in search of better ones during the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the government said.

Gas leak kills 6 in Pakistan

Islamabad: Six people, including three children, were killed due to a gas leak in Hangu district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, local media reported Tuesday. According to the reports, the incident took place in a house at Gulshan Colony due to gas leakage from a heater, reports said.

Snow freezes Pacific NW

Washington: Thousands of people in the US' Pacific Northwest were without power after a massive winter storm slammed the region, dumping nearly 30 inches of snow in the Sierra Nevada region and leading to road closures in Northern California.

6 killed in Nepal road accident

Kathmandu: A speeding vehicle bearing an Indian registration number skidded off the road near the Indian border in Southern Nepal Tuesday, leaving at least six people dead, including two children, and wounding three, a senior police officer said.

China slams Musk over near satellite collision in space

Beijing, Dec 28: Chinese web users slammed Tesla founder Elon Musk's space ambitions after China complained that its space station was forced to take evasive action to avoid collision with satellites launched by Musk's Starlink programme. "A close encounter occurred between the Starlink-1095 satellite and the China Space Station 1 July 2021. For safety reasons, the China Space Station took the initiative to conduct an evasive ma-

noeuve in the evening of that day to avoid a potential collision between the two spacecraft," China said in a document published on the website of the UN space agency. According to a document submitted by China earlier this month to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the satellites from Starlink Internet Services, a division of Elon Musk's SpaceX aerospace company, had two "close encounters" with the Chinese space station July 1 and October 21, reports BBC. After the complaint was made



SPACE X HAS ALREADY LAUNCHED ALMOST 1,900 SATELLITES AS PART OF THE STARLINK NETWORK, AND IT IS PLANNING TO DEPLOY MORE SOON

space warfare weapons" and "Musk is a new 'weapon' created by the US government and military", others said. Another posted: "The risks of Starlink are being gradually exposed, the whole human race will pay for their business activities." SpaceX has already launched almost 1,900 satellites as part of the Starlink network, and it is planning to deploy more soon. China began constructing the space station in April with the launch of Tianhe, the largest of its three modules and it is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

'Omicron could displace Delta'

Cape Town, Dec 28: Research by South African scientists suggests that Omicron could displace the Delta variant of the coronavirus because infection with the new variant boosts immunity to the older one. The study only covered a small group of people and has not been peer-reviewed, but it found that people who were infected with Omicron, especially those who were vaccinated, developed enhanced immunity to the Delta variant. The analysis enrolled 33 vaccinated and unvaccinated people who were infected with the Omicron variant in South Africa. While the authors found that neutralisation of Omicron increased 14-fold over 14 days after the enrolment, they also found that there was a 4.4-fold increase in neutralisation of the Delta variant.

CHINA SHUTS DOWN 2ND CITY

Beijing: In the wake of a worsening outbreak of Covid-19, China Tuesday shut down another city Yan'an, about 300 km from Xi'an - the first city to go under lock down, the media reported. Authorities in Yan'an ordered the closure of businesses and told hundreds of thousands of people in one district to stay indoors, The Guardian reported. China has followed a "zero-Covid" strategy as Beijing prepares to welcome thousands of overseas visitors to February's Winter Olympics.

South Africa, said on Twitter Monday that if Omicron was less pathogenic as it looked to be from the South African experience, "this will help push Delta out". According to an earlier South African study, there is reduced risk of hospitalisation and severe disease in people infected with Omicron compared with the Delta variant, though the authors say some of that is likely due to high population immunity. The Omicron variant, first detected in southern Africa and Hong Kong in November, has since spread worldwide and threatened to overwhelm hospitals in some countries. The WHO warned Tuesday that the Omicron coronavirus variant could lead to overwhelmed healthcare systems even though early studies suggest it leads to milder disease, as China and Germany brought back tough restrictions to stamp out new infection surges.



REUTERS

DEMANDING THEIR RIGHTS



Afghan women chant during a protest in Kabul. Around 20 members of Afghanistan Women Political Participation Network protest holding signs asking the country's new Taliban leadership for education, food, jobs, security, political participation and equality with men

Indonesia to lift ban on Boeing 737 MAX

Jakarta, Dec 28: Indonesia will lift a ban on the Boeing 737 MAX, the Southeast Asian country's transportation ministry said Tuesday, three years after local carrier Lion Air lost one of the planes in a fatal crash during a routine domestic flight. 189 people were killed when the flight plunged into the Java Sea shortly after take off in October, 2018. A similarly deadly incident with an Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX the following March prompted aviation authorities around the world to ground the aircraft. The approval for its return comes months after the model returned to service in the United States and Europe, and follows more recent lifting of grounding orders in other countries, including Australia, Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore and Ethiopia. Indonesia will follow other countries in lifting the ban after an evaluation of changes to the aircraft's system, its transportation ministry said in a statement.

5 dead after shooting spree in Denver area

Denver (US), Dec 28: A gunman killed four people and injured an officer in the Denver area, police said Monday. The suspect also died Monday, Lakewood police said. Officers had exchanged gunfire with the suspect, KDVR reported. The shootings started shortly after 5 pm in central Denver, where two women were killed and a man was injured, Denver Police Chief Paul Pazen said at a news conference. A short time later, a man was fatally shot several blocks away, Pazen said. During that pursuit police officers exchanged gunfire with a suspect. The suspect then fled to the nearby city of Lakewood, Pazen said. Just before 6 pm the Lakewood Police Department received a report of shots fired at a business said John Romero, a spokesman for that department. A gunshot victim was later found and pronounced dead at the scene, Romero said. Police of-



Officers identified the car and the shooting suspect, Romero said. The suspect was not identified at the joint news conference. Romero said that when the officers found the car, the gunman opened fire and officers shot back. The gunman then fled on foot to a Hyatt hotel, where he is believed to have shot a clerk. He also shot and wounded a Lakewood police officer after he left the hotel. The suspect was later shot in Lakewood and pronounced dead at the scene, Romero said. It was not immediately clear if police officers had shot him. "This one individual was responsible for this very violent crime spree that took place this evening," Pazen said.

Nepal trying to reset bilateral ties with India

The bilateral ties had seen new lows in 2020 after Nepal released a new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories, prompting India to caution Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it

Kathmandu, Dec 28: In a year fraught with political turbulence and the coronavirus pandemic tightening its grip in Nepal, 2021 saw Kathmandu making efforts to reset its bilateral ties with India with high-profile talks and visits, amidst a change in guard in the top leadership in the Himalayan nation. Coming out from the shadow of the border row that engulfed the Indo-Nepal bilateral ties in 2020, the year 2021 opened with India gifting one million domestically manufactured Covishield vaccines to Nepal in January as it struggled to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The deadly virus has so far infected over 825,000 people and claimed nearly 12,000 deaths in Nepal.

In the same month, India provided a grant assistance of NRs 30.66 crore (INR 19.21 cr) to Nepal as part of its commitment towards reconstruction of educational institutions damaged during the devastating 2015 earthquake, which claimed nearly 9,000 lives and wounded nearly 22,000. With this, India reimbursed NRs 81.98 crore (INR 51.37 cr) to Nepal towards educational sector reconstruction projects. The bilateral ties had seen new lows in 2020 after Nepal released a new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories, prompting India to caution Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it. On the domestic political front, Nepal in 2021 saw a change in top leadership with Nepali Congress



(NC) chief Sher Bahadur Deuba becoming the prime minister for a record fifth time in July, following a months-long high-voltage drama. In a landmark verdict July 12, the Supreme Court directed President Bidya Devi Bhandari to appoint Opposition leader Deuba as prime



minister and dismissed her "unconstitutional" move to dissolve the House of Representatives that plunged the country into a major political crisis. President Bhandari dissolved the 275-member lower house for the second time in five months on

May 22 at the recommendation of embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and announced snap elections on November 12 and November 19. On July 13, Deuba formally became Nepal's prime minister. However, just four days after on July 18, the 75-year-old new premier sprang a surprise by seeking a vote of confidence in the re-instated lower House of Representatives and comfortably won it, averting a general election in the Himalayan nation amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. A day after, on July 19 Deuba, during a telephone conversation with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, shared his views on further strengthening the bilateral ties, founded on the age-old connection of history, culture, tradition and religion. The year also saw the main

Yemen's Houthis temporarily resume UN flights into Sanaa

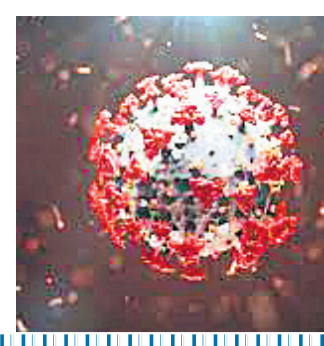
Cairo, Dec 28: The Iran-backed rebels in Yemen said Tuesday they are temporarily allowing UN humanitarian flights to land at the airport in the capital, Sanaa, following a weeklong halt in flights into the northern, rebel-held territory. The rebel Houthis, who control Sanaa and much of Yemen's north, had barred UN and other humanitarian flights from landing at the airport amid heavy airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition on the capital and Houthis' cross-border missile and drone attacks on the kingdom. At the time, the UN food programme said the Houthis claimed the airport had become "unserviceable due to technical issue". The rebels accused the Saudi-led coalition of blocking the arrival of new air traffic control equipment. The coalition has been fighting to restore Yemen's internationally recognised government to power and maintains an air, land and sea blockade of Sanaa and the north. The Sanaa airport "is ready to receive flights" from the UN and other international humanitarian agencies, the Houthis said Tuesday. They also urged the United Nations to help facilitate the arrival of the air control equipment from Djibouti. Yemen's war erupted in 2014, when the Houthis seized Sana and forced the government into exile in Saudi Arabia. The coalition entered the conflict in March 2015. The UN envoy to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, denounced the latest uptick in fighting in Yemen, particularly the continued Houthi offensive on the government-held city of Marib.

Pakistan unveils first-ever national security policy

Islamabad, Dec 28: Pakistan's Cabinet Tuesday endorsed the country's first-ever National Security Policy that emphasised that economic progress should be at the center of national security, a move criticised by the Opposition parties who accused the government of ignoring the parliament while formulating the new policy. In a series of Tweets, National Security Adviser Dr. Moeed Yusuf called it a "historic moment" for the country, saying the Cabinet has adopted the document which was approved by the high-powered National Security Committee (NSC) Monday. "It is a truly historic achievement; a citizen-centric comprehensive National Security Policy with economic security at the core will now be pursued in earnest. This umbrella document will, over time, help guide sectoral policies for the fulfillment of our national security objectives," he said. Yusuf thanked the civil and military leadership for all their support and input in preparing the Policy which, he said, "would not have seen the light of day without the Prime Minister's constant leadership and encouragement".

SHOCKING REPORT

A team of international researchers have shown that SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, infects the kidneys and contributes to tissue scarring, possibly impacting kidney outcomes in the long term



Covid-19 continues to demonstrate how quickly an infectious disease can sweep across the world, pushing health systems to the brink and upending daily life for all of humanity

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

