



**KANGANA'S WISH LIST**

Actor Kangana Ranaut says she wants less of FIRs and more of love letters in 2022

LEISURE P2



**GERMANY SHUTS N-PLANTS**

Germany pulls the plug on 3 of its last 6 nuclear power stations as it moves towards completing its withdrawal from N-power

INTERNATIONAL P10



**CITY EXTEND LEAD**

Manchester City extend their lead at the top of the Premier League after beating a 10-man Arsenal 2-1

SPORTS P12



**Stampede at Vaishno Devi claims 12**

Jammu: Twelve people lost their lives and over a dozen others were injured in a stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir in the early hours of Saturday. This is the first such tragedy at the shrine, located atop the Trikuta hills - about 50 km from here - that attracts lakhs of people every year. The incident occurred between 2:30am and 2:45am Saturday near a relatively narrow passage at Gate Number 3 outside the sanctum sanctorum of the hilltop shrine where devotees usually arrive round the clock after trekking from the Katra base camp, a distance of nearly 13 km. A high-level inquiry was ordered into the stampede by Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha.

MORE P9



**Brajarajnagar bypoll in 6 months**

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Assembly has notified the vacancy of one seat due to demise of Brajarajnagar MLA Kishore Mohanty. "After receiving a report from the district administration of Jharsuguda, we have notified the vacancy of one seat in the Assembly," Speaker SN Patro told reporters here Saturday. The Assembly Secretariat has also informed the Election Commission of India and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha about the demise of Mohanty, Patro said. Mohanty, a four-time MLA and former Speaker of the Assembly, died December 30 due to cardiac arrest. His last rites were performed at Jhadeswar crematorium Friday.

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**e-Gazettes in state from Feb**

Bhubaneswar, Jan 1: The state government has decided not to print its gazettes and books as part of its efforts to ensure paperless office works. Now, QR codes will be created for government gazettes. The Commerce and Transport department has initiated the process in this direction. Various departments will use e-Gazette codes but can opt for printing in case of necessity. E-gazette can be easily accessible to all through digital platforms. As per the decision, e-Gazette system will come into effect in February. Appreciating the initiative of the Commerce and Transport department, Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik said, "E-gazette will make official works paperless and eco-friendly. It will be helpful for people and the departments in ensuring transparency in service delivery. People will not have to frequent to the departments for their works." The state government, for the first time, had presented the Budget for 2020-21 financial year through



electronic mode. Presenting the paperless Budget, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari had said, "E-Budget could help us save nearly 2,000 trees and Rs 1.5 crore towards paper use." All kinds of official communications are being accomplished on electronic mode, said sources at the government. Moreover, question-answer process of the state Assembly, reports of various house committees and annual reports are being made through electronic mode.



**NEW YEAR PRAYERS**



Hundreds of devotees congregate outside Srimandir in Puri, Saturday, to offer prayers on the New Year's Day as the 12th century shrine remains shut owing to Covid-19 restrictions

**Ghastly murder in City on NYD**

Bhubaneswar, Jan 1: The Capital city witnessed yet another ghastly murder within 24 hours of the killing of a youth by his brother-in-law Thursday night. The deceased was identified as Deepak Kumar Routray, 55, a resident of Nua Sahi of Sundarapada area under Airfield police limits. Sources claimed that the prime accused Vicky Malia along with some of his friends, who belong to the neighbouring Kapileswar village, engaged in a verbal duel over the site for a year-end feast near Haja Pokhari Friday evening. Though the accused youths returned to their village following the tiff, they came back again to take revenge at around 1am. They spotted Routray sleeping at the club near the village pond and attacked him with sharp weapons. Upon hearing Routray's scream, locals reached the spot and rushed him to Capital Hospital where he later succumbed to the injuries. Subsequently, the aggrieved villagers blocked the traffic on Sundarapada Road demanding immediate arrest of the accused persons.



Locals block Sundarapada Road demanding immediate arrest of the accused persons. (Inset: Victim Deepak Kumar Routray)

sions and compensation to the kin of the deceased. The agitating locals also reportedly set a shop on fire. The police have launched a manhunt to arrest the accused after registering a case (01/22) in this regard. The case was registered against four persons including Malia. Speaking to media persons, Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash said, "Our first priority would be to identify the persons present at the spot and nab them. We have

**Cop suspended for stealing goat**

Bolangir, Jan 1: Stealing a goat for a New Year's eve feast proved too costly for a policeman at Sindhekela, about 100 km from the district headquarters as he was suspended from duty for the offence. Suman Mallick, an ASI of Sindhekela police station, was suspended after Bolangir SP Nitin Kushalkar intervened in the matter, Saturday. The incident occurred when a goat strayed into the police station premises while grazing, Friday. Some police officials including Mallick stole the goat and killed it for a feast Friday night. Owner of the goat Sankirtan Guru went inside the police station and searched for his goat. He found the police officials feasting. Enraged, Mallick caught hold of Guru and kicked him for calling the police thieves. Residents gheraoed the PS and demanded exemplary action against Mallick and other officials.

**IIT-Delhi, Jamia among 6K lose FCRA licence**

These entities either did not apply for renewal of their FCRA licence or the Union Home Ministry rejected their applications

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 1: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia, Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library are among nearly 6,000 entities whose Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration deemed to have ceased Saturday. These entities either did not apply for renewal of their FCRA licence or the Union Home Ministry rejected their applications, officials said. According to the official website related to the FCRA, among organisations and entities whose registration under the FCRA ceased or validity expired include the Indira Gandhi National Centre For Arts, Indian Institute Of Public Administration, Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi College of Engineering and Oxfam India. The officials of the Union Home Ministry, which regulates the activities of the NGOs and associates registered under the FCRA, said that registration under the act is deemed to have ceased Saturday (January 1). FCRA registration is mandatory for any association and NGO to receive foreign funding. There were 22,762 FCRA-registered NGOs till Friday. On Saturday, it came down to 16,829 as 5,933 NGOs ceased to operate. Among those organisations whose FCRA registration ceased were Medical Council of India, Emmanuel Hospital Association, which runs over a dozen hospitals across India, Tuberculosis Association Of India, Vishwa Dharamayatan, Maharishi Ayurveda Pratishthan, National Federation Of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd

Delhi School of Social Work Society, Bhartiya Sanskriti Parishad, DAV College Trust and Management Society, India Islamic Cultural Centre, Godrej Memorial Trust, The Delhi Public School Society, Nuclear Science Centre in JNU, India Habitat Centre, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi College of Engineering and All India Marwari Yuva Manch are also among these entities. As per sources, these developments come after the Home Ministry cited "adverse inputs" to not renew the FCRA licence of the Missionaries of Charity, leaving the group - which operate orphanages and shelters for the poor, sick, and destitute across India - without access to foreign funds in over 250 accounts. This was weeks after a police complaint was registered in Gujarat against the Director of a children's home run by the Missionaries of Charity for allegedly attempting to convert young girls. The Home Ministry also said it had not received a request to review its decision.

**Over half of crimes against women from UP: NCW**

There was a 30% rise in crimes against women in 2021 as compared to 2020 when 23,722 complaints were received

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 1: Nearly 31,000 complaints of crimes committed against women were received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) last year, the highest since 2014, with over half of them from Uttar Pradesh.

There was a 30 per cent rise in complaints of crimes against women in 2021 as compared to 2020 when 23,722 complaints were received. Of the 30,864 complaints, a maximum of 11,013 were related to the right to live with dignity that takes into account the emotional abuse of women, followed by those related to domestic violence at 6,633 and dowry harassment at 4,589,

according to official NCW data. The most populous state of Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of complaints of crimes against women at 15,828, followed by Delhi at 3,336, Maharashtra at 1,504, Haryana at 1,460 and Bihar at 1,456 complaints. According to the data, the highest number of complaints related to the right to live with dignity and domestic violence were received from Uttar Pradesh. The number of complaints received by the NCW has been highest since 2014. In 2014, a total of 33,906 complaints were received. NCW chief Rekha Sharma had earlier said there has been a rise in the complaints because the commission has been making people more aware about its work. "Also, the commission has always made it a point to launch new initiatives to help women. Keeping in line with this, we have launched a round-the-clock helpline

- The highest number of complaints related to right to live with dignity and domestic violence were received from Uttar Pradesh
- The most populous state of Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of complaints of crimes against women at 15,828, followed by Delhi at 3,336, Maharashtra at 1,504, Haryana at 1,460 and Bihar at 1,456 complaints

number as well to provide support services to women in need where they can also register a complaint," Sharma said. From July to September this year, over 3,100 complaints were received every month, the last when over 3,000 complaints were received was in November, 2018 when India's #MeToo movement was at its peak. As many as 1,819 complaints have been received regarding the



offence of outraging modesty of women or molestation, 1,675 complaints of rape and attempt to rape, 1,537 of police apathy against women and 858 complaints of cyber crimes, according to NCW data. Akancha Srivastava, the founder of Akancha Srivastava Foundation, a non-profit organisation that works towards imparting cyber safety knowledge, said when complaints rise it is a good thing because it means more women have the courage to speak up and there are platforms in place now and they are aware of where to report. "People are reaching out now. Earlier women might not be coming forward to lodge their complaint... They didn't know what they are going through is harassment but now they do, and they are coming forward to report which is a good thing," she told PTI.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



No, yesterday I was making a list of my New Year resolutions. This list is that of resolutions that I have broken!

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	27.7°C	26.0°C
TEMP MIN	15.4°C	15.0°C
Humidity	89%	94%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky

# leisure



## EMMA WANTED TO LEAVE HARRY POTTER FRANCHISE

Actress Emma Watson, who played the part of Hermione Granger in the *Harry Potter* films, once considered leaving the franchise. Emma revealed this when she appeared on *Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts* special.

## WHEN NICOLAS CAGE FELT 'MARGINALISED'

Academy Award winner Nicolas Cage, revealed about the attitude of some movie studios after his films didn't fare well. Cage said: "I knew after a couple of flops that I had been marginalised in the studio system and I wasn't going to get invited by them."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today you will feel like displaying your power. If you find that people are awestruck when you pass by, take it that your labours are doing the trick. Otherwise, take it that you have to get things in better order. Ganesh says either ways you have more work to do.

**TAURUS**  
This is not a day when you should be fooling around with your health. Do not take your health and fitness for granted, warns Ganesh. You will be feeling lazy and listless all day long. Chances are that you could fall ill on account of carelessness. Both physical exertion as well as mental stress should be meticulously avoided.

**GEMINI**  
Interactions with member of the opposite sex may yield positive and pleasurable results today. Public servants will get the much-needed encouragement and moral support from bosses and family members.

**CANCER**  
Today, you are likely to remain open-minded while dealing with others. However, it doesn't mean that you will always be soft on others. Later in the day, your approach may be different and stubborn. In the evening, you will enjoy the company of family and friends.

**LEO**  
Pack your bags, and don't forget the sunscreen and the shades. Look at the stars today – Ganesh foresees for you a strong prospect of going on a tour. If not an individual backpacking adventure, then an elaborate family holiday, but travel you shall.

**VIRGO**  
Reflect on past glories and assemble the machinery for accomplishing more in the future. New relationships will mark the road to progress. You easy-going nature will help you get along famously with people.

**LIBRA**  
Today might be a good day to invest in that body armour you saw on the telly last night. At least find one that will shield you from being at the receiving end of your seniors and the daily grind of life. If you happen to be a job aspirant, be prepared to slog it out for your success. Put off auction bids and sealed tenders for a luckier day.

**SCORPIO**  
House renovation is in the offing. You may furnish it with portraits and artefacts. Today, you may also feel like playing the stock market game and stake your bets, says Ganesh. Have a great time at home by hosting friends over.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A paradigm shift in your temperament and your looks is on the cards today. Your personality will get better as you do some chic attire, jewellery and a rather loud perfume today. You're a magnet today, says Ganesh, and will charm your way through a crowd of admirers who will clamour for your attention.

**CAPRICORN**  
Money will flow in from various quarters today, but it will also find its way out of your pockets. Keep a tab on your income and more on your expenses, says Ganesh. Situation at work may get a little trying, but you will overcome all problems by means of your innate and acquired skills, and past experience.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are ambitious, and quite unapologetic about the way you pursue your goals! You will work hard and push your way through if you have to. Not just that, you will see to it that you have all the skills and competency required to make it big.

**PISCES**  
For those in the creative, marketing or advertising fields, today will likely bring about an important milestone on their path to progress, says Ganesh. Your creativity and ingenuity will be at their peak. Remembering that confidence is the key to success will keep you from shying away from challenges, which when surmounted will bring you substantial gains.

# Taapsee in no hurry to marry

**Mumbai:** Actress Taapsee Pannu who had a fabulous year with her twin towering achievements—*Haseen Dillruba* and *Rashmi Rocket*, has no immediate plans of tying the knot with her boyfriend former badminton player Mathias Boe.

When I ask her about marriage in 2022, she retorts, "Just because weddings are the flavour of the season? No no. Not really. I have no immediate wedding plans. I have quite a few assignments on hand. I don't want to do a rush-rush wedding."

Taapsee, one of the busiest actors in India wants to get married when she has the time. "Whenever I get married it will happen in a relaxed atmosphere. I am in no hurry to get married. Nothing much will change after marriage so I am not feeling any great need to take the plunge right now."

She hopes for a more organised 2022 than 2021. "Because of the lockdown the last two years have been a little crushed and cluttered for me. I have been literally running in and out of sets trying to find time for myself and my family. This has taken a toll on my physical and mental health. I am hoping 2022 will be more peaceful."

AGENCIES



### WISHLIST FOR 2022

## Kangana wants fewer FIRs, more love letters

**Mumbai:** Actress Kangana Ranaut shared what she wishes for 2022. She says this year she wants less of police complaints and FIRs and more of love letters.

The actress, who is known for speaking her mind, took to Instagram, where she shared a motley of pictures praying at a temple, very close to Tirupati Balaji. She even performed some rituals.

Kangana captioned the images: "There is only one Rahu Ketu temple in the world... It's very close to Tirupati Balaji... performed some rituals there ... Out of five elemental Lingas, Vayo (air element) Linda is also situated here ... Quite a remarkable place."

She added: "I went there to have the

mercy of my beloved enemies, in this year I want less Police complaints / FIRs and more love letters.... Jai Rahu Ketu ji ki."

Speaking about her work, Kangana is gearing up for her next *Dhaakad*, an action thriller, which was slated for an April 8, 2022 release. It has now been pushed to May 2022.

AIANS



## The Golden Girls star Betty White no more

The actress, who played Sue-Ann Nivens on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* in the 1970s and Rose on *The Golden Girls* from 1985-92, was a staple on TV for more than 60 years

1985-92, was a staple on TV for more than 60 years, having started as the sidekick on a local Los Angeles daytime show that kept her on live TV five hours a day, five days a week.

In her 80s, White was still stealing scenes in film comedies such as *The Proposal*, *You Again* and *Bringing Down the House*, as well as making regular appearances on late night talk shows, where she delighted audiences with her quickfire repartee with Jay Leno, Craig Ferguson and other hosts.

She was a television phenomenon in the 2000s, guesting as herself on *Ugly Betty*. She also recurred on soap *The Bold and the Beautiful* from 2006-09, on *That '70s Show* and as Catherine Piper both on *The Practice* and on *Boston Legal*.

In 2010 she became the oldest person ever to host *Saturday Night Live*.

White hosted and produced the hidden-camera reality show *Off Their Rockers* in 2012-13, earning two more Emmy nominations.

AIANS

**Los Angeles:** Betty White, the Emmy-winning TV star who had a remarkable later-career resurgence in films, TV commercials and the hit series *The Golden Girls* and *Hot in Cleveland*, has passed away aged 99, reports *variety.com*.

White would have celebrated her 100th birthday January 17. White is believed to have died Thursday night at her Brentwood home.

White's agent and close friend Jeff Witjas confirmed her death.

White, who played Sue-Ann Nivens on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* in the 1970s and Rose on *The Golden Girls* from

## 'Started 2022 with all things positive except for Covid'

**Mumbai:** Actor Akshay Kumar has started 2022 on a positive note by greeting his 'oldest friend' – the sun.

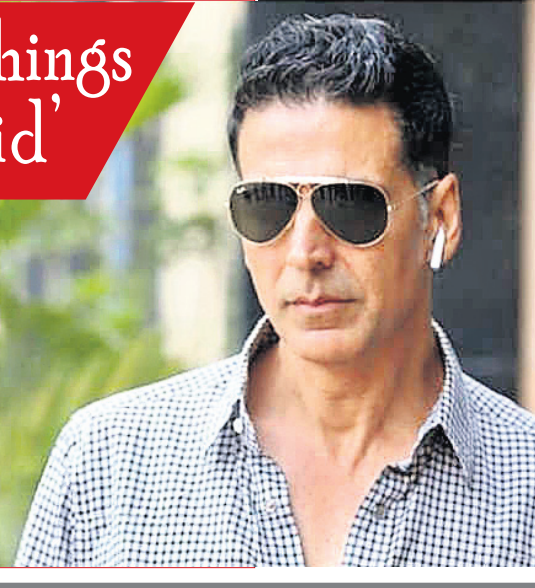
Akshay, who is currently holidaying with his family, posted a video staring at the sun with him chanting the Gayatri Mantra.

"New Year, same me. Woke up and greeted my old friend, the sun and started my 2022

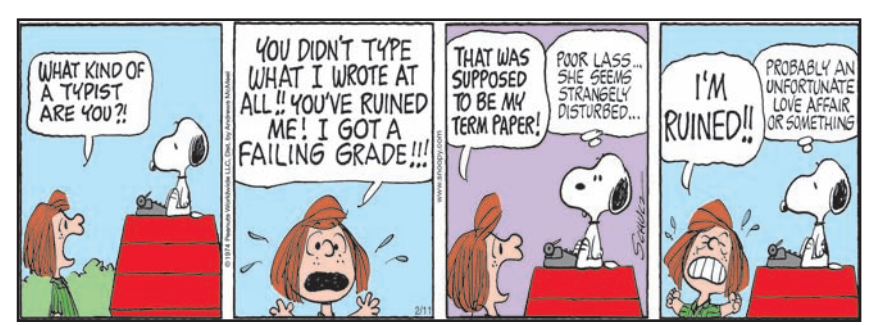
with all things positive except for Covid. Praying for everyone's good health and happiness. Happy New Year!" Akshay wrote as the caption.

Akshay has his diaries full for next year. The 54-year-old star has several back-to-back releases such as *Prithviraj*, *Bachchan Pandey*, *Raksha Bandhan*, *Ram Setu* and *Oh My God!*

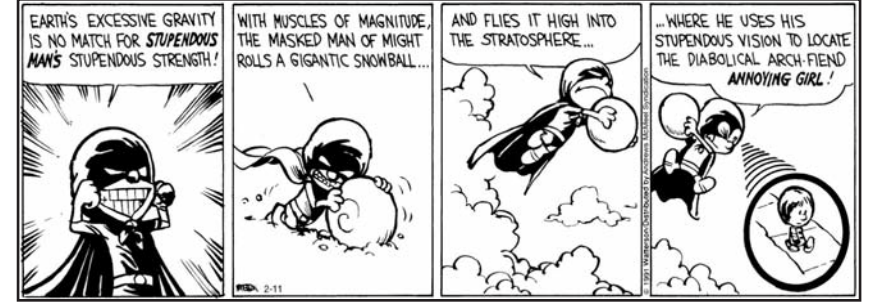
AIANS



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

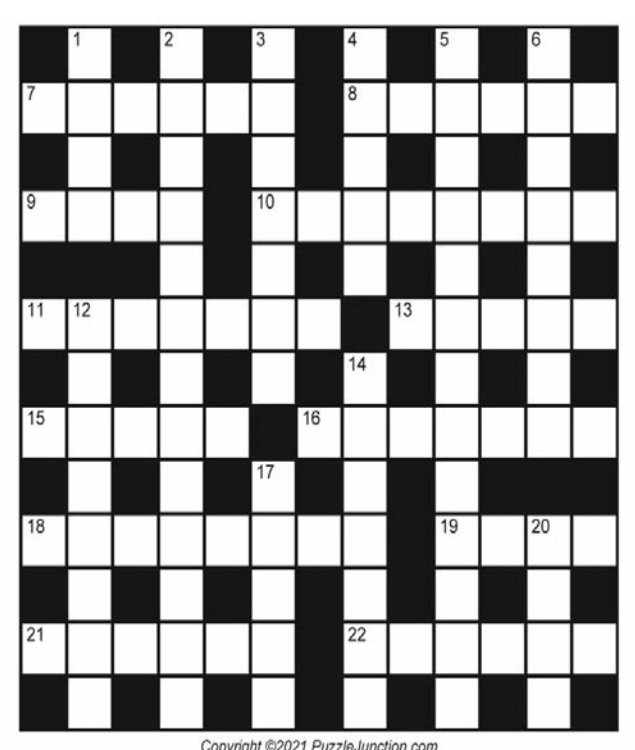


### BREVITY



### FUN post

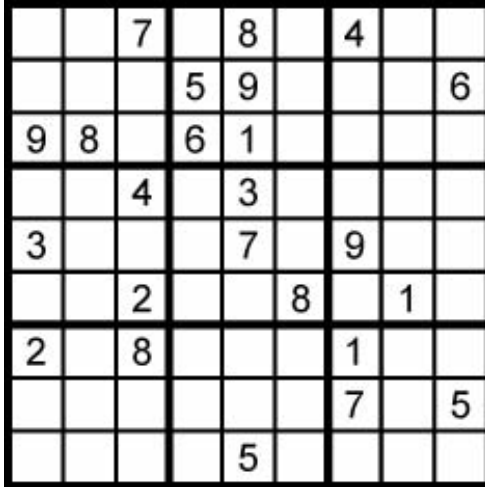
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Part of BLT
  - 8 Shoot for
  - 9 Declare untrue
  - 10 Momentary
  - 11 Completely enveloping, like light
  - 13 Outbreak
  - 15 Critical
  - 16 Get ready
  - 18 Working in the garden
  - 19 Light source
  - 21 Christmas drink
  - 22 Lose
- Down**
- 1 Cast a ballot
  - 2 Music genre (4,9)
  - 3 Coop up
  - 4 Salaries
  - 5 Military cleanliness (4,3,6)
  - 6 Magnificence
  - 12 Glue
  - 14 Japanese paper craft
  - 17 Door part
  - 20 Bellyache

### 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





















# BUMRAH'S ELEVATION RAISES EYEBROWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 1:** It was a decision that not many saw coming but once it did, Jasprit Bumrah's elevation as India's ODI vice-captain, albeit as a stop-gap arrangement, seemed a perfectly justified reward for his terrific all-format consistency.

It won't be surprising if the Chetan Sharma-led selection panel felt inspired by Pat Cummins' recent elevation as Australia's captain while making this choice, a very interesting one considering that two proven IPL captains - Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant - were in the mix to become KL Rahul's deputy for the bilateral series against South Africa.

If sources close to the selection committee are to be believed, Bumrah being elevated as vice-captain is a message to both Pant and Iyer to show supreme all-format consistency, something that the Gujarat fast bowler has mastered ever since he burst into the international scene back in 2016.

"Look, this is just for one series as Rohit (out injured) is almost certain to come back during the home leg against West Indies and Sri Lanka. Then KL will again become the deputy," a BCCI source privy to selection matters told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"However, the selectors wanted to reward Jassi (Bumrah's nickname) for his consistency as well as cricket brain. That's why he was picked ahead of Pant and

Iyer," he said.

Former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad said that since this was vice-captaincy for just one series, it was an easy decision for selectors.

"Jasprit is a very sensible young man with a lot of rationality. So why not reward him? I like this decision as why can't we make a fast bowler captain, if he is doing well in all formats?" Prasad said, when asked how he viewed the decision.

"Unless you give him an opportunity to be a part of the leadership group, you won't know what to expect of Jasprit. But having said that, I would also say that possibly since it was a decision on vice-captaincy for one series, it was an easy call.

"Had it been for captaincy with both Rohit and Rahul unavailable, it could have been different," the former India keeper-batter added.

While Iyer guided Delhi Capitals to its maiden IPL final in 2020, Pant, who was his deputy, took over the reins in 2021 and lost in the second Qualifiers after finishing on top during the round robin stage.

According to Prasad, the IPL leadership is different from leading the national side and being successful in one isn't an indicator that the player will be successful in the other.

"In IPL, a team might have four to five guaranteed superstars with different drifts and pulls. Then

you need to manage at least a couple of domestic players, who may or may not withstand the pressures of franchise cricket.

"In the Indian team, you have at least 12-13 top class talented fellows, who know their exact roles at the biggest stage. Captaining India is at times easier," Prasad said.

So why does he think that Pant and Iyer were overlooked even if it was for one series? "I think it's got a lot to do with the fact that Iyer is now coming in after surgery and also Pant needs to be a bit more consistent in the white ball format," he pointed out.

"Also this my assumption that since till 2023, Rohit will remain the captain and KL will be his deputy, making Pant or Iyer vice-captain now means that you give them an idea that they are in leadership mix which might not be the case," he said.

“THE SELECTORS WANTED TO REWARD JASSI (BUMRAH'S NICKNAME) FOR HIS CONSISTENCY AS WELL AS CRICKET BRAIN. THAT'S WHY HE WAS PICKED AHEAD OF PANT AND IYER  
SOURCE CLOSE TO SELECTION COMMITTEE



## Chetan Sharma backs Rituraj to do wonders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 1:** Chief selector Chetan Sharma has heaped praise on in-form opener Rituraj Gaikwad, who has been selected for the upcoming ODIs against South Africa, saying that the Maharashtra batter would "do wonders" for the national team.

The Indian team is scheduled to play three one-day internationals against South Africa January 19, 21 and 23 at Paarl and Cape Town respectively. The team for the same was picked Friday by the Sharma-led selection panel.

"Look, absolutely (he has) got the opportunity at the right time. He was in the T20 team and also now he is in the ODI team, wherever his place can be made, selectors are thinking he will go and do wonders for the country," Sharma said

at the team selection press conference.

The 24-year-old Rituraj, who hails from Pune, was the leading scorer in the 2021 Indian Premier League, after he amassed a staggering 635 runs and played a key role in Chennai Super Kings winning the title.

According to Sharma, Rituraj was rewarded for his stellar performance. "We have selected him (Rituraj). Now it is up to the (team) management to see when he can play in the XI, when he is required and how to go about the combination, these things we will coordinate.

"But, at present, he (Rituraj) was in the T20 side also against New Zealand and he is in ODI now. He is doing well and he is rewarded for that," added Sharma, himself a former India pacer.

After his IPL high, the opener continued his dazzling form in the Vijay Hazare Trophy too and was the leading scorer there, aggregating 603 runs from five matches with 168 as his highest score. He made his T20I debut against Sri Lanka last July at Colombo.



## Experience was the difference between India and SA: Amla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Johannesburg, Jan 1:** Legendary South Africa batter Hashim Amla says more "collective experience" in the Indian side was one of the key factors in the visiting side's comfortable victory in the series-opener at Centurion.

"It was a fair result," said Amla in Cricket South Africa website. "They (India) have been a strong unit over the last two years or so. They have more experience collectively and it always makes a huge difference when you have runs on the board to back you up."

South Africa did not have many experienced players in their ranks with only skipper Dean Elgar, Quinton de Kock, Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi having some decent exposure in traditional format while India had all top players in the line-up.

Amla said India's big lead in the first innings made all the difference in the outcome of the match. "Centurion is notorious for becoming more difficult to bat as the days progress. So once India won the toss, batted and scored in excess of 300 it was game on for the Protea batters to match that score at the very least," Amla said. "Being 130 runs behind is what really hurt them, and it ended up being the difference."

The batting legend praised the Indian batters for their top-class show on the first day of the Test. "Day one, the pitch looked best for batting and credit to the Indians for playing disciplined cricket," he said. "It's obvious when teams come to SA that their batsman talk about leaving well outside off stump and that's probably were the Proteas let themselves down."

Amla felt the South Africa bowlers fought back well after that tough opening day. He acknowledged there is work to do for the South Africans, although he still believes they can bounce back and defend their proud record of having never lost a home series to India.

The batting legend wants Temba Bavuma to bat higher in the order now that Quinton de Kock has retired from Test cricket. "Be it three or four, allow him time to play a solidifying role as opposed to a recovery one."

The second Test will be played from January 3-7 at Wanderers in Johannesburg.

# ATP Cup: Spain, Argentina sail on Rodri helps City extend lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

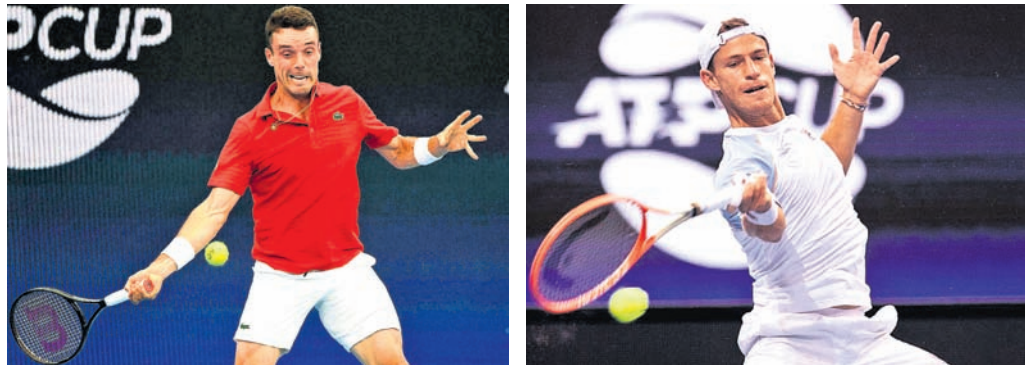
**Sydney, Jan 1:** Argentina's Diego Schwartzman and Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut led their respective teams to comfortable victories Saturday on the opening day of the 16-team ATP Cup tournament.

Argentina beat Georgia 3-0, while Spain easily accounted for Chile by the same margin in the opening ties of the team-based tournament being played across two Sydney stadiums.

World No.13 Schwartzman defeated Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-1, 6-2, after compatriot Federico Delbonis won by the same score against Aleksandre Metreveli to give Argentina an unassailable 2-0 lead from the singles matches.

Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni then gave the Argentines a clean sweep defeating Georgian pair Saba Pertseladze and Zura Tkemaladze 6-1, 6-2 in the doubles tie to give Argentina a 3-0 win.

In the day's other tie, World No.20 Pablo Carreno Busta gave Spain an



early lead as he rallied from being a break down in both sets to defeat Chile's Alejandro Tabilo 6-4, 7-6(7-4).

Roberto Bautista Agut appeared in excellent form as he disposed of Chile's world No.17 Cristian Garin 6-0, 6-3 to seal the tie for Spain.

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina and Pedro Martinez clinched a clean sweep for Spain with a 7-6(7-3), 4-6, 10-7 win over Chile's Tomas Barrios Vera and Tabilo.

Even without Rafael Nadal, who's preparation for the Australian Open has been disrupted by a positive test for coronavirus, Spain showed why they are among the favored teams at the tournament.

"Today was a good start for me, a very solid game, really happy. I like these conditions," World No.19 Bautista Agut said.

Serbia, which is without World No.1 Novak Djokovic, begins its

AGENCIES

**London, Jan 1:** A stoppage-time goal from Rodri gave English Premier League leaders Manchester City a 2-1 win at Arsenal on New Year's Day as the home side finished a thrilling encounter with 10 men following the sending-off of defender Gabriel.

Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta missed the game due to a positive COVID-19 test, but his side cast aside any lingering memories of their 0-5 thrashing at the hands of City in August as they pressed high up the pitch from the first whistle.

The Gunners eventually took a deserved lead in the 31st minute when Bukayo Saka finished a sweeping move by rifling home Kieran Tierney's pass, and they closed out the first half without allowing City a single shot on target.

Seeking their 11th Premier League win in a row, City were not prepared to give up and they flipped the script in the second half to claw their way back into the game. The visitors levelled from the spot through



Riyad Mahrez early in the second half when Granit Xhaka was adjudged to have fouled Bernardo Silva in the box after a VAR review.

Gabriel Martinelli missed a glorious chance to put Arsenal back in the lead moments later before Gabriel was sent off for his second yellow card, picked up for a foul on Gabriel Jesus.

Arsenal held their shape but they failed to deal with a high ball into the box in stoppage time and it fell to Rodri, who drilled it home to grab all three points with only their second effort on target in the game.

The win extends City's lead over Chelsea, who take on third-placed Liverpool Sunday, to 11 points, while Arsenal are fourth on 35 points.

# Sports in 2022: Here's what to look forward to

The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over but the world seems to be adapting to a life with the dreaded virus and as this churning continues, sports is set to be a major source of joy in 2022 with several big events lined up. Here is a look at some of the extravaganzas that will be keenly anticipated in India and across the world apart from the usual roster of annual tournaments like the tennis Grand Slams and the badminton calendar...

**CRICKET:** India's tour of South Africa (December 26 to January 23): An engrossing Test series is currently underway in which India have made a winning start. The three-match rubber will be followed by as many ODIs.

ICC U-19 Men's ODI World Cup in the West Indies (January 15 to February 5): Yash Dhull would be leading the Indian Colts as they look to add a fifth title to the nation's kitty. A total of 16 teams will fight it out over 48 matches in the premier age group showpiece.

ICC Women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand (March 4 to

April 3): India would be a contender in the mega-event which was postponed for a year because of the pandemic. It would be a swansong for 39-year-old India skipper Mithali Raj, who would be aiming to leave the big stage with a bang after a stellar career.



ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia (October 16 to November 13): Just a year after Australia were crowned World Champions for the first time in this format, they would be defending the crown on home turf.

MULTISPORTS: Winter Olympics in Beijing, China (February 4-20): Mired in political controversies due to China's not so flattering human rights image, the Games have already been diplomatically boycotted by superpowers like the US and Britain among others. For India, who have never won a medal at the winter ex-

travaganza, skier Arif Khan would be the one to watch out for having become the first from the country to qualify in two events - Slalom and Giant Slalom.

Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England (July 28 to August 8): A happy hunting ground for Indian athletes, the CWG would be a shade less joyful for the contingent this time with shooting not



part of the competition roster.

Asian Games in Hangzhou, China (September 10 to 25): India registered its best ever Games performance in the previous edition in 2018 and would be expected to only do better in the backdrop of a stellar Olympic performance.

FOOTBALL: AFC Asian Women's Cup in India (January 20 to February 6): It would be a huge step forward for women's football as the country hosts the premier regional tournament for the first time since 1979. The Indians have decent history to inspire themselves as they have been runners-up twice in the event, in 1979 and 1983.

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India (October 11 to 30): Another ground-breaking tournament for women's football in

the country, which was originally planned for 2021 but had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

FIFA Men's World Cup in Qatar (November 21 to December 18): The first World Cup to be played in the Arab world is set to be a winter event with Qatar's punishing summer making it impossible for matches to be held during the usual June-July window.

ATHLETICS: IAAF World Championships in USA (July 15-24): Another marquee



World Athletics Championships Oregon 22 competition that was postponed to this year because of the pandemic. Focus will be on Olympic gold-grabber Neeraj Chopra's javelin.

HOCKEY: FIH Women's World Cup in Spain and The Netherlands (July 1-24): The Indian women's hockey team have raised the bar significantly with a gutsy fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics. Their best at a World Cup was a fourth-place finish at the 1974 edition.

